Gary Westerman | State Manager, Veteran Employment Services/Registered Apprenticeship Program, Kansas Department of Commerce

Gary has been with Commerce for over five years, starting as a Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) consultant then moved to the Local Veteran Employment Representative (LVER) where he desired to assist our veterans by bridging the gap between them and local and national employers located in the American Job Center in Junction City, Kansas. Throughout his tenure Gary assisted over 200 service members/veterans achieve their employment goals, assisting them with their transition from the military to the civilian job market. In November 2016, Gary moved from the LVER role; accepting the position as Kansas’ State Manager for both Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG) and the Registered Apprenticeship Program. Gary has utilized his skills and passion attained through his military training and JVSG experience to not only assist our veterans but assist the American Job Center staff across Kansas in the areas of staff training and new concepts to better serve veterans and clients.

Tobias D. Wood | Associate Director, Career Technical Education, Kansas Board of Regents

Tobias Wood is an Associate Director for Career Technical Education in his fifth year at the Kansas Board of Regents. He coordinates Perkins grant administration with Kansas community and technical colleges and works with the Office of Civil Rights to ensure postsecondary institutions maintain administrative and physical accessibility. Tobias also serves in the Army Reserve with the 312th Army Band in Lawrence, Kansas.

Dr. Steve Wyckoff | Chief Innovation Officer, ESSDACK

Steve has been in public education since 1972. He has taught at the middle and high school levels, and served as a building level administrator for over a decade. He has worked in school improvement and school reform since 1992. In addition he has taught at the university level in educational administration and lead superintendents in their study of the future. Steve has been at ESSDACK since 1991. Beginning as the School Improvement Specialist, Steve worked with ESSDACK schools as they began the accreditation process through QPA. Today Steve’s duties center around Schools Of The Future working with ESSDACK staff, educators, board members, and other policy makers on the transition of schools in the information age. Steve officially retired September 1, 2005 but is still employed at ESSDACK on a part-time basis. He serves as an observer/liaison between ESSDACK and KSDE helping coordinate activities and interactions between the two agencies.

Connie Zienkewicz | Executive Director, Families Together, Inc

Connie Zienkewicz has been the Executive Director of Families Together, Inc. for 21 years. She and her husband are the parents of six children and have 22 grandchildren. One of their children is an adult daughter with disabilities. Inclusion and employment of persons with disabilities are two of her passions and Families Together has offered a way for her to share strategies for inclusion in communities including employment. Today’s presentation will provide information on helping families improve the employment outcomes for their sons and daughters and the “up side” of employing persons with disabilities in YOUR company.
**Monday October 8**

9:15 – 10:00 a.m.  BREAKOUT SESSIONS (choose one)

**Eagle Ballroom B**

**BREAKOUT 3: Adult Education Update**

Chris Lemon, Kansas Board of Regents

This session will provide an update on Title II – Adult Education activities in Kansas, including an overview of Fiscal Year 2018 performance.

**Eagle Ballroom D**

**BREAKOUT 4: Carl Perkins Grant Managers Update**

Connie Beene, Kansas Board of Regents

Updates on Perkins grant management will be provided as well as discussion around the new Perkins V legislation.

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.  BREAK

10:15 – 11:00 a.m.  GENERAL SESSION: WIDA Funding 101

Chris Lemon, Kansas Board of Regents

This session will provide a brief overview of the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act, its titles, and the funding available under each.

10:15 – 11:00 a.m.  WIOA Board Orientation: What Every Board Member Should Know

Dennis Cooper, Kansas Department of Commerce

James Lambert, U.S. Department of Labor

11:00 – 11:30 a.m.  BREAKOUT SESSIONS (choose one)

**Eagle Ballroom C**

**BREAKOUT 5: Kansas Council for Workforce Education Association Update**

This session will talk about the services provided by KCWE, including practical professional development for educators in career and technical programs. Offerings include New Instructor Seminars with lesson plans that can be replicated for all of the course they teach; one-day workshops offered statewide and a Fall Conference with a variety of learning opportunities and recognition for statewide excellence.

**Eagle Ballroom D**

**BREAKOUT 6: Kansas Adult Education Update**

Christopher Stanyer, Goodwill Industries of Kansas

Christopher Stanyer, President of the Kansas Adult Education Association, will provide an update on recent adult education advocacy efforts and the upcoming 2019 KAEA Conference.

END OF PRE-CONFERENCE

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**Biographies**

**Sheree Utash** | President, WSU Tech and Vice President, Workforce Development, Wichita State University

Dr. Sheree Utash has served as President of WSU Tech, formerly Wichita Area Technical College, since 2015. Prior to that, she served eight years as vice president of academic affairs. Dr. Utash offers a unique blend of teaching, administrative and leadership experience in both higher-Ed and private industry. She has provided administrative oversight for the College’s academic programs, with emphases in manufacturing, aviation, design, IT, specialized trades, healthcare and general education. Her role involved the formation and leadership of the lead institution for the National Aviation Consortium, a $15 million grant project with direct working relationships with two-year colleges in five states. Additionally, Utash has managed and facilitated the College’s last Self-Study with its major accrediting body, the Higher Learning Commission. North-Central Association. Utash earned her Ed.D. Community College Leadership from Wichita State University and a Bachelor of Science in Journalism/Marketing from Kansas State University.

**Daniel White** | Organizational Development Consultant, Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, L.C.

Daniel White assists organizations with their organizational development needs, including strategic and operational planning, family business advising, business coaching, leadership development, and employee engagement efforts. He has worked with a wide range of industries, including construction, manufacturing, banking, not-for-profits, and government organizations. He has also worked internationally as an organizational development consultant. Prior to advising organizations, Daniel worked in not-for-profit leadership and operations, directing projects with clients such as the US Department of State and the United Nations Population Fund. Daniel is on the Board of Trustees of Young Professionals of Wichita (YPW) and is a certified Family Business Advisor and facilitator of Appreciation at Work™ and of the Hay Group’s Emotional and Social Competency Inventory. A Wichita native, Daniel received a Bachelor’s degree in communications from Wheaton College in Chicago and a Master’s degree in organizational development from Friends University. He currently teaches organizational development at Friends University.

**Dr. Randy Watson** | Kansas Commissioner of Education, Kansas State Department of Education

Known for his visionary leadership, Dr. Randy Watson’s roots run deep in public education. As a former history teacher, school principal and superintendent, Dr. Watson has dedicated more than 35 years of his life working in public education settings across the state and ensuring every child receives a world class education. The Kansas State Board of Education named Watson Kansas Education Commissioner in November 2014. In his role as the state’s chief education officer, Dr. Watson provides leadership to the Kansas State Department of Education in carrying out the policies and programs set by the State Board of Education. Fueled by the state board’s vision for education crafted in partnership with the citizens of Kansas, Watson is leading statewide initiatives designed to achieve this new vision that Kansas leads the world in the success of each student. A native of Coffeyville Kansas, Dr. Watson attended Kansas State University, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in history and a master’s degree in science in secondary administration, staff supervision and staff development, building level certification. Additionally, he received his doctorate of education in secondary administration, school law, curriculum development and instructional leadership and district level certification.
Biographies

Ashla Stowe | Program Manager, Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program and Federal Bonding Program, Kansas Department of Commerce

Ashla Stowe, born and raised in Topeka, Kansas, is the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) Program Manager for the Kansas Department of Commerce. Ashla began her career at the Kansas Department of Commerce in 2004 as an Administrative Specialist. In 2009, she became part of the Work Opportunity Tax Credit team as a Certification Officer. In October of 2015, Ashla was promoted to the Program Manager Administrator for both WOTC and the Federal Bonding programs. Ashla graduated from Allen County Community College with an Associate Degree in General Studies in 1997 and in 2003, she graduated from Friends University with a Bachelor Degree of Science Organizational, Management and Leadership. Ashla has been married for five years and enjoys music festivals, theater, watching movies, dining out, traveling, bowling, family time, decorating her home and Jazzercise in her free time.

Eric Tincher | Associate Director, Adult Education, Kansas Board of Regents

Having worked in higher education for over 23 years, Eric feels very lucky to have been with the Kansas Board of Regents since 2015. Originally he worked for the Career and Technical Education side of the institution, but came to Adult Education in July of 2017. He handles a variety of projects at the state level including professional development, career pathways, and other duties as assigned.

Chastity Troxel | Registered Apprenticeship Assistant Program Manager, Kansas Department of Commerce

Chastity started her career in the workforce industry as a Career Advisor working with the young adult, adult and dislocated worker programs, she was assigned the team lead for the H1B grant for a local area during the duration of the grant. Chastity gained a strong understanding of WIOA funded programs, how they work, when they are suitable and who they may be suitable for. Chastity worked her way to Business Service Representative serving local employers, posting positions, holding job fairs, screening applicants, developing OJT’s and many other business-related services. Chastity Troxel currently is an Assistant Program Manager for the Registered Apprenticeship program for Kansas Department of Commerce. Chastity promotes Registered Apprenticeship opportunities, assists with the development and registration of apprenticeship programs, as well as providing ongoing program maintenance and assistance, covering 2 local areas in Kansas.

Stephanie Trumpp | HR Director, PrairieLand Partners

As the HR Director Stephanie has started working more directly with secondary and post-secondary schools within the Prairie Land Partner network. Stephanie is in the beginning stages of implementing the apprenticeship program within the network. With her experience as an attorney she has a wealth of working knowledge and experience to bring to the panel.

Dave Unruh | County Commissioner, Sedgwick County

Dave Unruh was first elected to the Board of County Commissioners in 2002 and began his first term as the 1st District Commissioner in January 2003. Mr. Unruh serves on Envision Board of Director and was elected by the BOCC to serve as the Chairman of the Board for 2005, 2007 and 2011, 2014 & 2017. Mr. Unruh is a lifelong resident of Wichita and Sedgwick County and a graduate of East High. He is a graduate of Kansas State University, with a degree in Business Administration. Mr. Unruh has 40 years of business experience, working in and managing the family automotive repair business. Prior to his election as a County Commissioner, Mr. Unruh was actively involved in the Wichita Independent Business Association (WIBA), and served as Chairman of the Board of Directors in 2001. Mr. Unruh has served on the Sedgwick County Technical Education & Training Authority Board of Directors, the Goodwill Board of Directors, the Board of Trustees of the Sedgwick County Zoological Society and Envision Board of Directors. Some of the issues that Commissioner Unruh is focusing on as commissioner include solutions to overcrowding in the Sedgwick County Jail, the improvement of inter-municipal communications in our county, the development of the Sedgwick County Health Department, economic development through the works of the Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP), solutions for technical education and training, and job creation and retention through the Workforce Alliance.
Keely Schneider | Executive Director, Workforce Partnership
Keely J. Schneider is the Executive Director for Workforce Partnership, the local workforce development board for Johnson, Wyandotte and Leavenworth counties in Kansas. She directs federal and state funds for workforce development programs for adults and youth including classroom training, on-the-job training and other work-based learning experiences. In addition, she assists the Workforce Partnership Board in its strategic and fiscal oversight of the comprehensive workforce system under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Prior to assuming the role of Executive Director in October 2016, Ms. Schneider was Associate Director for the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City. There she directed all human capital development initiatives, including both higher education and workforce, as well as directed the Civic Council’s “Kansas City Tomorrow” leadership program.

Suzanne Scott | Global Human Resources Director, Spirit
Scott Smathers | Vice President for Workforce Development, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers serves as the Vice President of Workforce Development for the Kansas Board of Regents and provides executive leadership for the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority. In this role, he is the State lead for issues involving the postsecondary education and training system in the development of an educated workforce that aligns with the needs of the Kansas economy. Prior to serving in his current role, Mr. Smathers worked as Vice President of GO Topeka where he led the economic development efforts for Topeka/Shawnee County, as Vice President of Business Development for the City of Denison, Texas and served in multiple positions at a retail analysis and consulting company in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Mr. Smathers’ responsibilities have included workforce development, client services, sales, product development, operations, systems management and training. Mr. Smathers has a bachelor’s degree from Texas A&M, an MBA from Oklahoma City University and is recognized as a Certified Economic Developer by the International Economic Development Council.

Christopher Stanyer | Vice President of Career Services, Goodwill Industries of Kansas
Christopher Stanyer found his true passion in the world of Adult Education as a leader, trainer and advocate for out-of-school youth and adults. Creation of the Workforce Alliance Business Skills Series computer training workshops for unemployed and underemployed adults led him to the world of Adult Education (AE) where he served as the AE liaison for the Workforce Alliance providing training and team-building opportunities to out-of-school youth and adults throughout South-Central Kansas. In 2013, Chris joined the GED preparation partnership between Wichita Area Technical College and Goodwill Industries, known as NexStep Alliance. Chris is currently the Director of NexStep Alliance Adult Education and a national instructor for World Education, as well as a city councilman in his hometown of Towanda, KS and a member of the Workforce Alliance One-Stop Advisory Board.

Clark Stevens | Senior Director of Rehabilitation Services, Envision
Clark Stevens joined Envision Team as the senior director of rehabilitation services in January 2017. With a unique background in clinical practice management, fiscal administration, health insurance and managed care, Stevens plays a key role in the execution of strategic goals for the Envision Vision Rehabilitation Center. In his 20-year-plus career, Stevens has held a variety positions with executive-level responsibilities in the healthcare industry. Previously, Stevens was the provider relations director and then network management manager at Aetna Coventry Healthcare of Kansas, administrator at Wichita Urology Group, and director of managed care at Via Christi Health System. Clark has a bachelor’s degree in accounting and finance from Southern Methodist University in Dallas and is a certified medical practice executive (CPME). He is a member of the Medical Group Management Association.
**Shelly Prichard** | President & CEO, Wichita Community Foundation

Shelly Prichard is the President & CEO of the Wichita Community Foundation, a position she has had since 2012. At the Foundation, she manages more than $80 million in assets. Shelly interacts with donors to help them direct their charitable giving. She also works with prospective fund holders, and non-profits, and works to connect funders with organizations doing good work in Wichita. Prior to the community foundation, Shelly was the CEO of the Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland, serving 80 counties in Kansas, and managing the business merger of seven Girl Scout councils. Shelly grew up on a farm outside of Newton, Kansas, and earned a degree in Journalism and Mass Communications from K-State. She spent several years working for a variety of companies, all with ties to marketing and communications. Some stops included The Indianapolis Zoo, the Illinois Board of Regents, and Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina. Shelly returned home in 1994 to work in public affairs at Koch Industries. Her job at Koch led to a position as the Executive Director of Youth Entrepreneurs of Kansas.

**Amanda Ramsey** | Workforce Innovation Fund Program Manager, Kansas Department of Commerce

Amanda Ramsey has worked for the Kansas Department of Commerce for two years as the Program Manager for the Workforce Innovation Fund Grant. Her knowledge of many of the Core WIOA partners—including Adult Education, the Department of Children and Families, TANF Work Programs—and a variety community-based organizations, has been valuable to help improve coordination and collaboration of services, organized around individual job seekers who experience multiple challenges to employment. For 17 years she has been engaged in a variety of settings to support adults and youth who aspire to gain skills, credentials, and work experience in order to obtain living wage jobs.

**Dr. Dennis C. Rittle** | President, Cowley College

Dr. Dennis C. Rittle was the first in his family to attend college and to earn a two-year technical degree while serving as a meteorologist in the United States Air Force. He continued his pursuit of higher education, culminating in a Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership at the esteemed Regent University. His passion for both academic and applied learning is evidenced by his dozen scholarly publications, his service on peer-review journal boards and dissertation committees, and his numerous professional and community presentations, to include being a guest lecturer in Oxford, UK and guest presenter at Harvard University. In 1995, Dr. Rittle began serving in post-secondary education and has provided leadership in governmental, for-profit and public educational sectors at colleges with enrollment ranging in excess of 12,000 students. As a high-achieving servant leader, Dr. Rittle has been the recipient of numerous local, state and national awards in education, business and leadership.

**Gabe Schlickau** | Chair of Local Area IV, Workforce Alliance

Gabe Schlickau is Vice President and Chief Retail Delivery Officer for Meritrust Credit Union. In this role, he is responsible for growth of the organization through its retail platforms, including the branch network, the preferred partner program and wealth management services. In addition to his work at Meritrust, Gabe is an active leader with a passion for economic growth and vitality of the region. He is Chairman of the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas, which exists to advance the competitive workforce of the region by building strategic partnerships and providing oversight for workforce development funding. He also serves on the board of directors for the Wichita Regional Chamber and was recently elected as a Director for the Sumner-Cowley Electric Cooperative, where he provides leadership to the regional electric coop serving four counties in South Central Kansas.

**Sue Grosdidier** | Kansas Board of Regents

We will cover the Compulsory Attendance Forms (KSDE and Home School) as well as the law that drives this process. Information will be given about how to handle different scenarios and situations from foster care to court orders and more. The process from receipt of forms to lifting the hold will be explained. If you have any contact with the 16 and 17-year-old population this would be helpful for you.
**Biographies**

**Ed O’Malley** | President & CEO, Kansas Leadership Center  
The titles “president” and “CEO” may conjure up traditional notions of authoritarian leadership, but Ed O’Malley, who holds those titles at the Kansas Leadership Center, doesn’t see them that way. O’Malley spent four years as a state legislator, with a ringside seat for both effective and ineffective displays of civic leadership. To him, leadership is not a title, personality trait or workshop topic. Instead, it’s an opportunity that people can grasp and choose to exercise in many different ways and venues.

**Brenda M. Perea** | Director of Education and Workforce Strategies, Credly, Inc.  
Brenda M. Perea, Director of Educational and Workforce Solutions at Credly, brings 25 years of experience spanning secondary, postsecondary and workforce educational fields to help learners identify and target workforce skills not apparent in traditional credentials. She believes identifying competencies is critical to establish career and educational pathways in conjunction with business and industry to ensure to post-secondary education and career training is relevant for today’s workforce. Brenda speaks nationally on digital badges and works with the International Open Recognition Alliance and IMS Global to shape the national conversation on digital credentials, industry and business engagement and workforce credentialing. She holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of New Mexico and a Master’s of Science degree from Shenandoah University.

**Ray Petty** | Community Integration Specialist, Great Plains ADA Center  
Ray has been with the Great Plains ADA Center since 1995 when he began as capacity-building and program evaluation subcontractor. He is currently responsible for the delivery of ADA Network services throughout the State of Kansas. In addition to provided training, technical assistance and consultation to individuals and entities in the state of Kansas, he conducts outreach and capacity building activities. He serves on the advisory boards of the Assistive Technology for Kansans and the Disability Rights Center of Kansas and the task force providing accessibility guidance to the renovation project of the Kansas Capitol in Topeka. Ray co-founded and is president of Kansas Accessible Sports, Inc, which promotes and organizes competitive wheelchair sports.

**Jennifer Pfortmiller** | Academic Program Coordinator, Kansas State University’s Global Campus  
Jennifer Pfortmiller advises students for K-State’s online degree programs. In addition, she works to build 22 partnerships between K-State and all community colleges in the state of Kansas as an option for students to remain in their home area and still complete their degree online from K-State. Jennifer’s K-State office is based 'in the field' at Barton Community College, Great Bend, Kansas. She is a thought leader in the understanding the policies, procedures and intricacies related to the community colleges and university sectors. Jennifer received her Master’s of Science degree from the University of Georgia and her Bachelor’s of Science degree from Kansas State University.

**Russell Plaschka** | Ag Business/Workforce Development Director, Kansas Department of Agriculture  
Russell Plaschka spent 25 years teaching agriculture education before coming to the KDA, he works to develop true partnerships between industry and secondary education.
Martin Loa | Customer Manager, Burlington English
Heather Martin Loa is Customer Manager for Burlington English. Prior to joining BE, he was the Vice President of Program Services for the Houston Center for Literacy, and the Mayor’s Commission on Adult Education, where he supported the literacy organizations, engaged the community to join efforts in solving Houston’s low literacy problem and connected adult learners to literacy providers. Martin was a program manager for the Harris County Department of Education Adult Education Division. HCDE is the second largest adult education provider in the state. It serves over 10,000 students annually.

Jessica Lucas | Founder and owner, J Squared Communications and Government Liaison, Cowley College
Jessica Lucas is the founder of J Squared Communications, a lobbying and public affairs company that specializes in advancing public policy measures that improve the economic health and vitality of Kansas. Ms. Lucas led the successful campaign to build a Cowley College campus in Sumner County and continues to advocate for advanced learning opportunities that give student and adult learners the ability to match their talents with tomorrow’s workforce needs.

Nancy M. McCrohan, Ph.D. | Senior Project Manager, Public Policy Associates Inc.
Nancy M. McCrohan, Ph.D., is senior project manager at Public Policy Associates Inc. Dr. McCrohan’s expertise is in workforce development, community development and public health. Dr. McCrohan has provided project management, technical support, data analysis and reporting on a variety of workforce issues during her career, including the U.S. Department of Labor’s regional workforce and economic development initiative, Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) Generations II and III. She is currently evaluating two Workforce Innovation Fund (WIF) grant projects funded by the U.S. Department of Labor. She is a member of the American Evaluation Association, served on the board of the Michigan Association for Evaluation (2009-2013) and was their 2014 service award recipient.

Mike May | Executive Director of the Workforce Innovation Center, Envision
Mike May is Executive Director of the Workforce Innovation Center at Envision in Wichita Kansas. He was previously CEO of the Lighthouse for the Blind in Seattle. He is also founder and Chairman of Sendero Group, makers of accessible navigation products. Mike May has been a pioneer in new product and business development since 1980. He worked for the Central Intelligence Agency as a Political Risk Analyst, for the Bank of California in automating wire transfers and cash machines and for TRW starting a new business area. Mike’s start-up ventures have included developing the world’s first and only Laser Turntable, inventing a portable heating cushion for sports and medical applications and starting 2 companies in adaptive technology. Mike May has a Masters’ degree from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Coker College, SC. He was a member of the White House delegation to the 2010 Paralympics and has been inducted into the US Association of the Blind Hall of Fame. He is the subject of the book, Crashing Through, by best selling author, Robert Kurson. For more information about Mike May, go to CrashingThrough.com.

Andrew Nave | Executive Vice President of Economic Development, Greater Wichita Partnership
As executive vice president of economic development, Andrew develops, leads and facilitates business retention and recruitment initiatives; oversees the Blueprint for Regional Economic Growth (BREG) initiative and markets the community to existing and prospective businesses. Andrew has over 15 years of experience in economic development, most of which has been in the state of Kansas.
Tuesday

October 9

Introduction of Panel
Connie Beene, Kansas Board of Regents

Panel: Linking the Talent Pipeline
Keith Lawing, Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas and USD 259 Wichita Public Schools
Ray R. Frederick, Jr., Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority (TEA)
Suzanne Scott, Spirit
Misty Bias, Via Christi Health

A panel of employers will discuss their perspective on how colleges, adult education and local workforce boards can work together to drive the Kansas economy and serve their industry.

9:30 - 9:45 a.m.
BREAK

9:45 - 10:45 a.m.
BREAKOUT SESSIONS (choose one)

Stimson Trail Room
BREAKOUT 17: Digital Literacy to Supply a Regional Workforce
Christopher Stanyer, Goodwill Industries of Kansas
Whether you are operating a welding torch, fixing an aircraft engine, or designing the next generation of widgets, digital skills are a key and necessary component of a competitive workforce. How does one get it if they don't have it? In this session we will discuss two no-cost approaches to building digital and technical skills for a regional labor force. Tour the Goodwill/Google Learn IT Digital Skills classroom as we discuss how these approaches integrate community resources, address employer needs, and provide career pathway options to participants.

Riverview Room
BREAKOUT 18: The Kansas Vision: Building Our Future Workforce
Joni Clark-Leiker, ESSDACK, Education Service Center
Jodi Glover, ESSDACK, Education Service Center
Come join our journey to learn what Kansas is doing to ensure the success of EACH student. This interactive session examines the Kansas Vision that has an intense focus on Individual Plans of Study, Career Development and Advising and the integration of Social Emotional Character Development and Employability Skills.

Eagle Ballroom B
BREAKOUT 19: Growing Your Own Workforce
Russell Plaschka, Kansas Department of Agriculture
Dr. Diane Debacker, Kansas Department of Commerce
Stephanie Trumpp, PrairieLand Partners
Mike Bergmeier, Shield Agricultural Equipment

This session will start with a short presentation on the importance of experiences for students and the power of partnerships. Participants will be asked to think about who they recruit and why. Panelists will share how they have developed partnerships with regional educational institutions, secondary and post-secondary, in order to attract employees and share their expertise with the school. Panelists will also discuss myths associated with giving high school students experiences in hazardous occupations.

Greg Kindle | President, Wyandotte Economic Development Council
Greg Kindle has served as the President of the Wyandotte Economic Development Council since December 2011. Greg has more than 20 years of experience in community and economic development, primarily in the Kansas City market. He served as President of the Southwest Johnson County Economic Development Corporation where he worked on the BNSF intermodal development. He brings a unique perspective having worked in management capacities for Kansas City Power and Light as Senior Manager of Economic Development & Customer Solutions for KCP&L. Roles in state government, United Way and Sprint have also contributed to his experience in business development. In his present role, he administers programs focused on business recruitment, business retention, marketing, and workforce solutions.

James Lambert | Federal Project Officer, U.S. Department of Labor
Mr. Lambert has been with the Employment and Training Administration for three years. He started as an Immigration Program Analyst with the Office of Foreign Labor Certification and is now working on the workforce development side of ETA, serving as Kansas' Federal Project Officer for just over one year. Mr. Lambert received his law degree from Rutgers University in 2009 and has a master's degree in Bioethics from the University of Pennsylvania.

Liz Lanphear | State Relationship Manager, GED® Testing Service
Liz Lanphear has been with GED Testing Service since June. She has over 10 years of experience in Adult Education including Program Director of the Flint Hills Adult Education program. State GED Administrator at the Kansas Board of Regents and Program Coordinator of ABE/GED preparation program at Johnson County Community College. She holds a Master's Degree from Kansas State University in Adult. Continuing and Occupational Education and a Master's Degree from Emporia State University in Health Education.

Keith Lawing | President & CEO, Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas, USD 259 Wichita Public Schools
Keith Lawing is the President and Chief Executive Officer for the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas, Inc., a locally operated not-for-profit corporation specializing in convening partnerships and implementing strategies to grow the regional economy. The Workforce Alliance administers the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) in the Wichita metro area and manages a number of strategic employment and training initiatives. Lawing holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from the University of Kansas and a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Wichita State University.

Laura Leite | Online Education, Business and Industry Coordinator, Cloud County Community College
Prior to working at Cloud County Community College, Laura was a Senior Associate Director with the Kansas Board of Regents for three years where her primary responsibilities revolved around the State management of Federal Perkins funds. She worked with colleges to assure compliance of federal spending regulations regarding Perkins and managed the competitive Leadership and Reserve fund grants. Before taking a job at the State level, Laura managed a Department of Labor grant at an educational institution and a Department of Education grant that helped people with disabilities find employment. Laura holds a Master's degree in Instructional Technology from Fort Hays State University.

Chris Lemon | Senior Associate Director for Adult Education, Kansas Board of Regents
Chris has been with the Board of Regents since 2016 and has worked with the adult education program funded under Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Accelerating Opportunity: Kansas (AO-K), AO-K TANF Scholarships and Special Collections. Prior to working at the Board office, he worked at a Kansas community college, where he worked in adult education and TRIO programs. He holds a Bachelor's in Business Administration and Master's in Second Language Acquisition degrees from Kansas State University and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Kansas.
Tuesday

Eagle Ballroom C

BREAKOUT 20: New Campus Development Through Local Partnerships
Dr. Dennis C. Rittle, Cowley College
Linda Coleman, TECT Aerospace
Stacy L. Davis, Sumner County Economic Development Commission
Janet Grace, Cowley College
Jessica Lucas, J Squared Communications and Cowley College

Fiscal resources seem to be on the decline while the demand for quality talent is on the rise. During this session, the college, county and industry leaders directly involved in the emergence of the new Cowley College Sumner Campus in Wellington, KS, will share their story of the powerful and vital partnerships forged to address the needs of talent, workforce and economic development through a grassroots financial model predicated upon transformative trust.

Eagle Ballroom D

BREAKOUT 21: How to Enhance Knowledge of WIOA Partner Programs
Nancy M. McRohan, Ph.D., Public Policy Associates Inc.
Amanda Ramsey, Kansas Department of Commerce

Learn about the successes and challenges of statewide training across workforce, education, human service and vocational rehabilitation staff in order to deepen knowledge of WIOA partner programs. Explore training as a foundation for multi-agency coordination of clients’ training and improvement plans, how to improve the quality and quantity of referrals and how this can be applied to your own service area.

Eagle Ballroom A

BREAKOUT 22: Registered Apprenticeship
Gary Westerman, Kansas Department of Commerce
Chastity Troxel, Kansas Department of Commerce

Registered Apprenticeship is an employer-driven, “Earn while you Learn” model that combines on-the-job learning with related technical instruction that increases an apprentice’s skill level and wages. It’s an immediate job. It is a flexible training system that can be customized to meet the needs of every business. Registered apprenticeships are cost-effective and time-tested. It’s a certification, and upon completion of a Registered Apprenticeship program, participants receive an industry-issued, nationally recognized credential that certifies occupational proficiency.

Chisholm Trail Room

BREAKOUT 23: Hire By Trial
Matt McNally, Southeast KANSASWORKS
Lacie Bohr, Southeast KANSASWORKS

The Workforce innovation and Opportunity Act provides a workforce system that is accessible to all job seekers and provides employment-driven job readiness training. Some job seekers and employers to build that pipeline of promising future employees. Nick also serves on the boards of directors for the Texoma Council of Governments, Executive Committee for the Texoma Area Paratransit System, Texoma Health Foundation, Denison Development Foundation, Sherman-Denison Metropolitan Planning Organization, Southeastern Oklahoma State University School of Business Advisory Council, and Grayson College Business Advisory Council.

Santa Fe Trail Room

BREAKOUT 24: Kansas CTE: How It Works for Kansas
Natalie Clark, Kansas State Department of Education

Please join us to see how CTE connects to the Kansas Vision for Education. We will provide an overview of Kansas Career Clusters and Pathways, samples of work-based learning models in Kansas schools, ACT WorkKeys testing for high school juniors and workforce data tools.
Tuesday October 9

11:30 a.m. Lunch
Eagle Ballroom EFGH

Introduction of Governor Colyer
Mike Beene, Kansas Department of Commerce, Workforce Services

Terry Gosh | Workforce Professional/DWDS, Workforce Centers of South Central Kansas – Wichita
Terry Gosh serves the WA in a specialized position working with re-entry and ex-offenders. Mr. Gosh is responsible for the successful partnerships and the WA has established with local and state correctional facilities and agencies, resulting in higher employment rates and earning for ex-offenders and lower recidivism rates in Wichita than state and national averages. He has been with the firm for 13 years, during which he has worked with participants in the WA/WIOA Youth, Adult, Dislocated Worker, and non-WIOA training programs, as well as working with pre- and post-release individuals with community and state correctional facilities for six years.

11:30 - 12:00 p.m.
Remarks
Governor Jeff Colyer

Scott Smathers, Kansas Board of Regents

12:00 - 1:15 p.m.
Lunch & Keynote: The Importance of a Trained Workforce for Economic Success
Jeffrey A. Finkle, International Economic Development Council

Jan Grace is a Michigan State University graduate who earned her degree in Veterinary Technology. She also attended Baker University where she earned her Bachelor’s in Business Administration and a Master’s in Science in Management. Jan Grace has more than three decades of higher education experience as a faculty member and administrator with specialty skills in agriculture, animal science studies and business. Before Cowley, she worked at Brown Mackie College as the Director of Veterinary Technology where she developed the program from its beginning to full accreditation. She has been with Cowley College since April of 2017 and has been instrumental in the opening of the Summer Campus.

1:15 - 1:30 p.m.
BREAK

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Introduction of General Session Presenters
Mike Beene, Kansas Department of Commerce, Workforce Services

The Evolving Relationship Between Economic and Workforce Development
Mike Beene, Kansas Department of Commerce, Workforce Services
Greg Kindle, Wyandotte Economic Development Council
Kelley Schneider, Workforce Partnership

Today, keeping and attracting a talent pipeline is a key concern across the country. Identifying the challenges and potential solutions for both the employer and potential employee is top of mind. This session will provide one example of the evolution and paradigm shift that has occurred in Wyandotte County between the Workforce Partnership and the Wyandotte Economic Development Council. This shift in engagement has created new partnerships, programs and metrics that may work in other parts of the state to drive economic growth.

2:30 - 2:45 p.m.
BREAK

2:45 - 3:45 p.m.
BREAKOUT SESSIONS (choose one)

Eagle Ballroom B
BREAKOUT 25: Federal Grant Management 101
Laura Leite, Cloud County Community College
Congratulations, you have received federal funds! Now you can just sit back, relax and spend the money with no strings attached. Or maybe not! Learn the basics of tracking time and effort for federal grant awards, indirect costs, purchasing regulations and SAM registration regulations. Get a general overview of federal grants.

Eagle Ballroom A
BREAKOUT 26: Employee Engagement and Retention: Hitting the Moving Target
Daniel White, Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, L.C.
With the increasingly tight labor market, companies continue to compete to attract and retain good talent. Many companies continue using the “tried and true” engagement strategies that have worked in the past, but are finding that these strategies aren’t working as they once did. This session will explore the changing desires of present and future workforce generations, as well as strategies for organizations to engage and retain the workforce of the future.

3:45 - 4:00 p.m.
BREAK

3:45 - 4:30 p.m.
BREAKOUT SESSIONS (choose one)

Eagle Ballroom B
BREAKOUT 27: New Program Alignment, New Program proposals and Program Modifications
Daniel White, Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, L.C.
With the increasingly tight labor market, companies continue to compete to attract and retain good talent. Many companies continue using the “tried and true” engagement strategies that have worked in the past, but are finding that these strategies aren’t working as they once did. This session will explore the changing desires of present and future workforce generations, as well as strategies for organizations to engage and retain the workforce of the future.

Eagle Ballroom A
BREAKOUT 28: Tiered/Non-tiered Program Alignment, New Program proposals and Program Modifications
Daniel White, Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, L.C.
With the increasingly tight labor market, companies continue to compete to attract and retain good talent. Many companies continue using the “tried and true” engagement strategies that have worked in the past, but are finding that these strategies aren’t working as they once did. This session will explore the changing desires of present and future workforce generations, as well as strategies for organizations to engage and retain the workforce of the future.

Eagle Ballroom B
BREAKOUT 29: Tiered/Non-tiered Program Alignment, New Program proposals and Program Modifications
Daniel White, Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, L.C.
With the increasingly tight labor market, companies continue to compete to attract and retain good talent. Many companies continue using the “tried and true” engagement strategies that have worked in the past, but are finding that these strategies aren’t working as they once did. This session will explore the changing desires of present and future workforce generations, as well as strategies for organizations to engage and retain the workforce of the future.

Eagle Ballroom A
BREAKOUT 30: Tiered/Non-tiered Program Alignment, New Program proposals and Program Modifications
Daniel White, Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, L.C.
With the increasingly tight labor market, companies continue to compete to attract and retain good talent. Many companies continue using the “tried and true” engagement strategies that have worked in the past, but are finding that these strategies aren’t working as they once did. This session will explore the changing desires of present and future workforce generations, as well as strategies for organizations to engage and retain the workforce of the future.

Eagle Ballroom B
BREAKOUT 31: Tiered/Non-tiered Program Alignment, New Program proposals and Program Modifications
Daniel White, Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, L.C.
With the increasingly tight labor market, companies continue to compete to attract and retain good talent. Many companies continue using the “tried and true” engagement strategies that have worked in the past, but are finding that these strategies aren’t working as they once did. This session will explore the changing desires of present and future workforce generations, as well as strategies for organizations to engage and retain the workforce of the future.

Eagle Ballroom A
BREAKOUT 32: Tiered/Non-tiered Program Alignment, New Program proposals and Program Modifications
Daniel White, Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, L.C.
With the increasingly tight labor market, companies continue to compete to attract and retain good talent. Many companies continue using the “tried and true” engagement strategies that have worked in the past, but are finding that these strategies aren’t working as they once did. This session will explore the changing desires of present and future workforce generations, as well as strategies for organizations to engage and retain the workforce of the future.

Eagle Ballroom B
BREAKOUT 33: Tiered/Non-tiered Program Alignment, New Program proposals and Program Modifications
Daniel White, Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, L.C.
With the increasingly tight labor market, companies continue to compete to attract and retain good talent. Many companies continue using the “tried and true” engagement strategies that have worked in the past, but are finding that these strategies aren’t working as they once did. This session will explore the changing desires of present and future workforce generations, as well as strategies for organizations to engage and retain the workforce of the future.

Eagle Ballroom A
BREAKOUT 34: Tiered/Non-tiered Program Alignment, New Program proposals and Program Modifications
Daniel White, Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, L.C.
With the increasingly tight labor market, companies continue to compete to attract and retain good talent. Many companies continue using the “tried and true” engagement strategies that have worked in the past, but are finding that these strategies aren’t working as they once did. This session will explore the changing desires of present and future workforce generations, as well as strategies for organizations to engage and retain the workforce of the future.

Eagle Ballroom B
BREAKOUT 35: Tiered/Non-tiered Program Alignment, New Program proposals and Program Modifications
Daniel White, Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, L.C.
With the increasingly tight labor market, companies continue to compete to attract and retain good talent. Many companies continue using the “tried and true” engagement strategies that have worked in the past, but are finding that these strategies aren’t working as they once did. This session will explore the changing desires of present and future workforce generations, as well as strategies for organizations to engage and retain the workforce of the future.

Eagle Ballroom A
BREAKOUT 36: Tiered/Non-tiered Program Alignment, New Program proposals and Program Modifications
Daniel White, Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, L.C.
With the increasingly tight labor market, companies continue to compete to attract and retain good talent. Many companies continue using the “tried and true” engagement strategies that have worked in the past, but are finding that these strategies aren’t working as they once did. This session will explore the changing desires of present and future workforce generations, as well as strategies for organizations to engage and retain the workforce of the future.

Eagle Ballroom B
BREAKOUT 37: Tiered/Non-tiered Program Alignment, New Program proposals and Program Modifications
Daniel White, Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, L.C.
With the increasingly tight labor market, companies continue to compete to attract and retain good talent. Many companies continue using the “tried and true” engagement strategies that have worked in the past, but are finding that these strategies aren’t working as they once did. This session will explore the changing desires of present and future workforce generations, as well as strategies for organizations to engage and retain the workforce of the future.

Eagle Ballroom A
BREAKOUT 38: Tiered/Non-tiered Program Alignment, New Program proposals and Program Modifications
Daniel White, Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, L.C.
With the increasingly tight labor market, companies continue to compete to attract and retain good talent. Many companies continue using the “tried and true” engagement strategies that have worked in the past, but are finding that these strategies aren’t working as they once did. This session will explore the changing desires of present and future workforce generations, as well as strategies for organizations to engage and retain the workforce of the future.

Eagle Ballroom B
BREAKOUT 39: Tiered/Non-tiered Program Alignment, New Program proposals and Program Modifications
Daniel White, Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, L.C.
With the increasingly tight labor market, companies continue to compete to attract and retain good talent. Many companies continue using the “tried and true” engagement strategies that have worked in the past, but are finding that these strategies aren’t working as they once did. This session will explore the changing desires of present and future workforce generations, as well as strategies for organizations to engage and retain the workforce of the future.

Eagle Ballroom A
BREAKOUT 40: Tiered/Non-tiered Program Alignment, New Program proposals and Program Modifications
Daniel White, Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, L.C.
With the increasingly tight labor market, companies continue to compete to attract and retain good talent. Many companies continue using the “tried and true” engagement strategies that have worked in the past, but are finding that these strategies aren’t working as they once did. This session will explore the changing desires of present and future workforce generations, as well as strategies for organizations to engage and retain the workforce of the future.
Phyllis Gish | Trade Adjustment Assistance Program Manager, Kansas Department of Commerce
Phyllis Gish, a lifetime Kansas resident, is the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program Manager for Kansas Department of Commerce. She earned a BS from Baker University. Continuing education includes an Associate of Christian Education from Perkins School of Theology. SMU. Phyllis’s work experience includes Christian Education Director, Vice President Business Operations for a staffing company and Career Consultant with Heartland Works, Inc. As a Career Consultant, she provided Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Adult, Youth and TAA services to eligible participants. Phyllis has been employed with Kansas Department of Commerce for the past eight years managing the TAA Program.

Phyllis Chaney-Profit, Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas
Corey Brock, Kansas Department of Corrections

Presenters will discuss how two entities, in this case the Workforce System and Corrections, partnered together, leveraged available resources and developed new, dynamic tools to decrease recidivism.

Sheree Utash, WSU Tech
Shelly Prichard, Wichita Community Foundation

Presenting a new idea in workforce development — bringing new employees to the community from out-of-state by recruiting across the country in high-unemployment areas. Wichita Promise MOVE is a scholarship program designed to remove the barriers that keep individuals from getting trained in high-demand career fields. The program is available exclusively to people outside of the Wichita area who are willing and able to relocate to the city and start a new career. The scholarship pays tuition and fees for eligible programs at WSU Tech and provides certifications and credentials, personal career coaching and a guaranteed job interview. MOVE will pay relocation expenses, cost of living expenses while recipients are in the program and offer a potential sign-on bonus upon program completion.

Jodi Glover | Educational Consultant, ESSDACK, Education Service Center
Jodi creates possibilities for districts as an educational consultant for ESSDACK Educational Service Center in Hutchinson, KS. As a College and Career Readiness Director at USD268 Cheney School District, Jodi forms business and industry partnerships for high school student work-based learning experiences. "Helping schools understand the vision of Kansas education and redesign while fitting the pieces together to help the whole child be successful is my passion." Specialties: Crisis Prevention and Preparedness, Social, Emotional Learning, Individual Plans of Study and Career & Technical Education.

Sue Grosdidier, Kansas Board of Regents
Liz Lanphear, GED® Testing Service

This will be a fun and informative session that will take you through the journey of the GED Website. There are so many hidden resources on the new site that you can utilize with students and staff. We will explore the resources available and how they can assist you. A breakdown also will be provided between free resources versus those that cost. Bring your computer devices and join this fun, fact-finding journey.

Sheri Gonzales Warren | Director of Workforce Programs, MARC
Sheri Gonzales Warren has been involved in economic development since 2001. She began this work at a large, public university to help develop curriculum in response to workforce needs. She then spent a series of years living and working overseas to create market-driven, community development systems that address basic human needs. She joined Mid-America Regional Council in 2015 to help spur inclusive economic opportunity in the place she calls home – Kansas City. She is MARC’s Program Director for its postsecondary attainment and workforce development efforts – known as GradForce KC. She also leads MARC’s work on human capital as part of the KC Rising initiative, a business-led economic development initiative for the Greater Kansas City region. Ms. Warren’s work involves project management for specific programs such as KC Degrees and the Talent-to-Industry Exchange (TIE) analyses. Sheri holds a Master’s in Public Administration from the University of Kansas.
Santé Fe Trail Room

**Breakout 32: Workforce Innovation Center—Envision Employment and Rehabilitation**

**Mike May, Envision**

**Clark Stevens, Envision**

Envision employs over 250 blind people in its manufacturing facilities in Wichita, Dallas and in several states. Envision’s rehabilitation and low vision programs provide a foundation for training and evaluation of people who are blind or visually impaired. The Workforce Innovation Center (WIC) has been created at Envision to facilitate tech jobs for people who are blind or visually impaired at its new facility as well as at local and national businesses in order to address the rate of 70% unemployment among people who are blind. In this presentation, we will outline the challenging problem of employment and the plans to develop tech jobs and recruit and train potential blind employees. This includes discussion of the alternative tools and techniques required for successful employment. WIC will work with local and national organizations in order to leverage its new facilities and resources with the efforts and networks of collaborators.

3:45 - 4:00 p.m.  **Break**

4:00 p.m.  **Remarks & Introduction of Closing Speaker**

**Scott Smathers, Kansas Board of Regents**

**The Elite Leader**

**Jared Johnson, Jared Johnson Leadership**

Motivating and practical, “The Elite Leader” is a high-energy presentation that captivates management team members and/or frontline staff, motivating them to strive toward their absolute best by connecting their mission with practical ways to empower an elite mindset throughout their own teams and even in their personal lives. Whether presented as a customizable keynote address or as a lunch-and-learn training session, it challenges attendees and inspires them to be passionate about their purpose as leaders who are capable of delivering elite results.

5:00 p.m.  **Conference Closing**