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GROW KC BUSINESS

KC CHAMBER DIGITAL MAGAZINE



2026 ATHENA AWARDS
Honoring Angie Long and Elaina Paige

CENTURIONS AT 50
Leadership Development at its Finest

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT
360picKC



Using a first-in-the-world clinical trial to beat cancer.

I used to think the universe could heal anything. But the powers of lymphoma were just too great. I was down to one last hope, a revolutionary cancer clinical trial few had ever tried. As it turns out, I didn’t need to turn to the stars. Some of the world’s most incredible cancer breakthroughs are happening right here.

This is what makes us who we are.

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
CANCER CENTER

CONTENTS

7
2026 ATHENA AWARDS
Angie Long & Elaina Paige

13
CENTURIONS AT 50
Five Decades of Leadership & Service

15
NEW MEMBERS
Milestone Anniversaries, President's Circle & Leadership Circle

18
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT
360picKC

22
MEMBER NEWS

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On the cover: Angie Long, recipient of the 2026 ATHENA Leadership Award, and Elaina Paige, recipient of the 2026 ATHENA Young Professional Leadership Award. Photo by Kyle Rivas Media.

IT'S TIME TO FIND OUR 2027 SMALL BUSINESS SUPERSTARS!

Across Greater Kansas City, small businesses are doing big things every day – serving their customers, strengthening their communities and helping our region thrive. Now, we need your help recognizing the businesses that deserve their moment to shine.

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT SUPERSTARS



PRESIDENT & CEO'S **POINT OF VIEW**

What makes a community truly exceptional?

It's a question worth considering as Greater Kansas City reflects on a remarkable year of international attention and opportunity. We have much to be proud of, from our strong business community and innovative industries to our thriving arts and cultural attractions. But I believe what truly sets our region apart is its people and the experiences, perspectives and traditions they bring.

Kansas City's story has never been defined by a single neighborhood, industry or culture. Generations have brought their talents, ambitions and ideas to our region, building a community that continues to grow stronger through its diversity.

We see those contributions everywhere, from immigrant-owned businesses and neighborhood restaurants to vibrant arts communities, established companies and emerging entrepreneurs. They are reflected in the traditions we celebrate, the ideas we share and the relationships we build. Together, they strengthen the economic and cultural vitality that makes Greater Kansas City a special place to live, work and do business.

This year gave us an incredible opportunity to share that story with the world. As Kansas City welcomed international visitors for FIFA World Cup 26™, attention naturally focused on the matches. But some of the most meaningful connections happened far beyond the pitch. Visitors discovered our neighborhoods and businesses, entrepreneurs reached new audiences, and business and civic leaders built relationships that could create opportunities for years to come.

Those experiences reinforced something we have long known. Kansas City's international connections, cultural richness and welcoming spirit didn't begin when the world arrived. They have been part of who we are for generations. The World Cup gave us a bigger stage to share them.

Now, our responsibility is to build on that momentum. We must continue welcoming new ideas, supporting businesses of every size and strengthening relationships across communities and borders. That takes all of us working together across industries, municipalities and state lines, with a shared commitment to our region. The decisions and partnerships we make today will help shape opportunities for future generations.

At the KC Chamber, we see the value of that collaboration every day. Our region succeeds when we work together, recognize the strengths each community brings and create opportunities for more people and businesses to share in our success.

On November 24, we'll celebrate that spirit at the KC Chamber's 139th Annual Dinner, presented by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City. Our theme, "World Class KC – The Heart Was Always Here," reflects something I believe deeply about this community. Through stories of people, businesses and cultural connections, we'll celebrate what makes Greater Kansas City special and the relationships that move us forward.

The international spotlight may have introduced Kansas City to new audiences, but the qualities that captured their attention have been here all along. Our creativity, collaboration, cultural richness and willingness to come together are what make this region special. They also give me tremendous confidence in our future.

The heart was always here.

JOE REARDON @JReardonKC @KCChamber

KC CHAMBER MEMBER DISCOUNTS

Exclusive Savings for KC Chamber Members

We've leveraged the purchasing power of our 2,000 member businesses to bring you exclusive savings and opportunities.

Kansas City

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ChamberCHOICE is a suite of hand-picked health insurance products designed exclusively for KC Chamber members with 5-99 employees. Five health insurance options to choose from, and discounts on bundled dental/vision plans. Plus, defined contributions control your business's annual costs. Learn more at **www.bluekc.com/chamberchoice.**

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The Payroll and HR technology from CBIZ will save you time and money. KC Chamber members save a minimum of 10% on Human Capital Management Services, plus unlimited hours of free HR support for the first year.



*Contact Bob Kelly, **bkelly@cbiz.com** or (816) 500-0514, for more information.*

For more information, please contact Rachel Seiffert, rseiffert@kcchamber.com or (816) 374-5451.

The KC Chamber's Cost Saving Benefits offer negotiated discounts on goods and services, based on the purchasing power of our 2,000 member businesses. Save big with these offers from our partners!



HONORING LEADERSHIP THAT LIFTS OTHERS:

THE 2026 ATHENA AWARDS

Angie Long

Investing in Possibility, Breaking Barriers

The KC Chamber's 2026 ATHENA Leadership Award recipient is redefining what's possible for women in business, sports and beyond.



"I'm so proud to be a part of what the younger generation sees as normal for women's sports."

Angie Long



For Angie Long, leadership is about more than achieving success. It's about recognizing potential, challenging expectations and creating opportunities for others. Whether navigating global financial markets or transforming women's professional sports, Long has built a career defined by bold thinking, determination and a willingness to invest in what's possible.

That commitment earned Long the KC Chamber's 2026 ATHENA Leadership Award, recognizing professional excellence, community service and a dedication to opening doors for women. Part of an international awards program honoring more than 8,200 leaders worldwide, ATHENA celebrates individuals whose achievements help create opportunities for others.

As Chief Investment Officer and Principal Owner of Palmer Square Capital Management, Long has established herself as a respected leader in the global investment industry. Her work in credit and fixed-income markets has helped advance financial innovation. Previously, she became a managing director at JPMorgan Chase at just 29, establishing herself in a traditionally male-dominated field.

But Long's influence extends far beyond finance.

Alongside her husband, Chris Long, and fellow ownership partners, she helped bring professional women's soccer to Kansas City in 2020, co-founding the Kansas City Current. What began as an ambitious vision has become a powerful example of what happens when women's sports receive the investment, resources and attention they deserve.

The Current has elevated Kansas City's national profile while challenging long-held assumptions about women's professional sports. More importantly, it has expanded opportunities for female athletes, coaches and sports professionals while inspiring young girls to envision themselves competing and leading at the highest levels.

"I'm so proud to be a part of what the younger generation sees as normal for women's sports," Long said while accepting her ATHENA Award in September.

That changing perception is central to Long's vision. What once seemed extraordinary is becoming an expectation for a new generation of athletes and fans.

Her commitment extends internationally. In 2025, she and Chris acquired HB Køge Women, a professional soccer club in Denmark. In 2026, they launched Teal Rising Academy Brazil, creating development pathways for young female athletes and expanding opportunities across borders.

Long's passion is rooted in her own experience as an athlete. A Kansas City native, she competed in soccer and rugby at Princeton University, where she earned All-American honors. Those experiences helped shape her understanding of teamwork, discipline and the transformative power of opportunity.

"I'm grateful to have made a difference for athletes," she shared during the ATHENA celebration.

Long's dedication to Greater Kansas City is equally evident in her civic leadership. She serves on the boards of Union Station and KC2026, helping strengthen the region's economic vitality and international connections. Her accomplishments have earned numerous honors, including induction into the Junior Achievement of Greater Kansas City Business Hall of Fame and recognition as UMKC's Entrepreneur of the Year.

Elaina Paige

Inspiring Talent, Empowering Dreams

The KC Chamber's 2026 ATHENA Young Professional Leadership Award recipient is helping Kansas City's creative talent turn ambition into opportunity.



"Let us create tables large enough for more voices, more ideas, and more dreams."

Elaina Paige

For Elaina Paige, leadership begins with a simple belief: Talent deserves opportunity. As a dancer, entrepreneur and advocate for the arts, she has dedicated her career to helping others discover their potential, develop their skills and pursue dreams that might otherwise seem out of reach.

That commitment earned Paige the KC Chamber's 2026 ATHENA Young Professional Leadership Award, which recognizes emerging leaders who demonstrate professional excellence, community service and a commitment to opening doors for women. As part of the international ATHENA Awards program, the honor celebrates leaders whose accomplishments match their dedication to helping others succeed.

A Kansas City native, Paige discovered the transformative power of the arts through her own journey as a performer. Trained in multiple dance disciplines, she built an accomplished career that took her from local stages to international tours in China and Italy, as well as appearances on America's Got Talent and performances alongside internationally recognized artists.

Those experiences expanded her understanding of what was possible, but they also revealed the barriers many talented performers face when trying to build sustainable careers. Paige recognized that talent alone is not always enough. Access to training, professional connections, representation and opportunity can make all the difference.

Determined to help bridge those gaps, she founded The Next Paige Talent Agency, creating a platform to connect artists and performers with professional opportunities. As Kansas City's first Black female-owned talent agency, the business also represents an important milestone for representation and entrepreneurship in the region's creative economy.

Through The Next Paige Foundation, Paige has extended that mission to aspiring artists who may lack the resources or connections needed to pursue their ambitions. By providing access to training, mentorship and professional development, the foundation helps young creatives build confidence, discover possibilities and take meaningful steps toward their goals.

For Paige, the greatest measure of success is not simply the opportunities she has created for herself, but the doors she has helped open for others.

"It's hearing that something we created gave someone else permission to dream even larger," she shared during the ATHENA celebration in September.

Her leadership reflects a broader understanding of the arts as both a creative outlet and a pathway to economic opportunity. By connecting emerging talent with industry professionals, Paige is helping strengthen Kansas City's creative community while demonstrating that investing in artists is also an investment in the region's future.

As the 2026 ATHENA Young Professional Leadership Award recipient, Elaina Paige embodies a new generation of leadership grounded in creativity, determination and service to others. Her greatest impact may be found in the artists who discover their voices, the young people who recognize their potential and the future leaders who believe their dreams deserve a chance.

ChamberCHOICE by Kansas City

BALANCE THE HEALTH OF YOUR EMPLOYEES AND YOUR BOTTOM LINE WITH **ChamberCHOICE.**

Welcome to health coverage that's small business friendly. Bottom line friendly. And employee friendly.

ChamberCHOICE is a suite of hand-picked health insurance products designed exclusively for Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce members. With this defined contribution offering, employers get to control the cost of health benefits, and employees get to choose the plan that fits their needs.

- **Designed for small businesses with 5-99 employees**
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BlueKC.com/ChamberCHOICE

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CENTURIONS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM · EST. 1976

50 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP, SERVICE AND IMPACT

Centurions celebrate a golden anniversary and five decades of shaping Greater Kansas City's future.

What began in 1976 as an investment in Kansas City's emerging leaders has grown into one of the region's most enduring leadership development programs. Fifty years and nearly 2,000 alumni later, the KC Chamber's Centurions Leadership Program continues to connect professionals across industries, backgrounds and communities through a shared commitment to making Greater Kansas City stronger.

As Centurions celebrates its golden anniversary, the milestone is about more than the passage of time. It honors the relationships formed, communities served and generations of leaders who have helped shape the region's future. With approximately 160 active members across two cohorts, Centurions continues to cultivate a network of engaged leaders whose influence reaches into businesses, nonprofit organizations, public service and neighborhoods throughout the region.

At the heart of Centurions are three guiding principles: Learn. Serve. Lead. Through a two-year, peer-led experience, participants explore the issues and opportunities shaping Greater Kansas City, from economic development and education to public policy and community well-being. Along the way, they gain a deeper understanding of the region, broaden their perspectives and build relationships that





"The relationships, experiences and lessons I gained through Centurions continue to influence both my personal and professional life today."

Gretchen FitzGerald, 50th Anniversary Committee Chair

often last well beyond graduation.

"Centurions is more than a leadership program; it's a catalyst," said KC Chamber Board Chair Jeff Simon. "It challenges you to see Kansas City more clearly, connect more deeply, and step up more boldly."

That commitment to leadership extends beyond learning and into action. Each Centurion completes at least 20 hours of service, while cohorts undertake legacy projects supporting local nonprofit organizations. These efforts contribute valuable volunteer expertise, resources and lasting improvements that strengthen neighborhoods and create opportunities for others.

During its anniversary year, Centurions has carried that tradition forward through service efforts at Spring Valley Park, supporting improvements and community engagement honoring Kansas City civil rights leader Bernard Powell. The project reflects a belief that has guided the program for five decades: Strong communities are built by people willing to invest their time, talents and leadership in something greater than themselves.

The anniversary celebration at Union Station on October 8 brought generations of Centurions together to reconnect, reflect on their experiences and celebrate a shared legacy of leadership. It also served as a reminder that the program's greatest accomplishments are not measured solely in years or numbers, but in the relationships, partnerships and contributions that continue long after graduation.

Across Greater Kansas City, Centurions alumni lead businesses and nonprofits, serve on boards, mentor emerging professionals and champion initiatives that move the region forward. Their collective impact demonstrates that leadership is not defined by a title, but by a willingness to step forward, bring people together and make a meaningful difference.

As Centurions welcomes its newest participants, including the Apex Class of 2028, its focus remains firmly on the future. The opportunities and challenges ahead will require leaders who listen, collaborate and work across traditional boundaries. Centurions is helping prepare those leaders today.

"I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have participated in Centurions. It is an exceptional program that gave me a deeper appreciation for both the successes and challenges facing Kansas City," said Gretchen FitzGerald, Centurions 50th Anniversary Committee Chair, Class of 2017 alumna and former Steering Chair.

As Centurions looks toward its next 50 years, its invitation remains as relevant as ever. Whether you're an emerging leader ready to deepen your connection to Kansas City or an organization committed to developing the next generation of civic leaders, you can help build on this remarkable legacy.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these members who recently joined the KC Chamber.

A+ Motivation
Le'Ron Barnes
(816) 469-1992

A-1 Sewer & Septic Service Inc.
Jason Sheahan
(913) 705-5913
www.a-1sewerandsepticservice.com

Academy Bank
Jennifer Hogan
(816) 472-0081
www.academybank.com

Allstate Insurance Company
Brandee Summers

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
Adriane Handy
(816) 516-5060
www.afsp.org

Amtrak
Martin Sandoval
amtrak.com

Bank of Springfield
Ashlyn Beasley
(816) 368-9922
www.bankwithbos.com/find-us

Beyond the Trees, LLC
Lisa Chandler
(816) 859-2923
www.seebeyondthetrees.com

BoysGrow
John Gordon
(816) 226-8499
www.boysgrow.com

Built Solutions, LLC
Chad Thacker
(913) 295-9904
www.builtsolutions.com

Circadia
Danelle Marsden
(913) 888-7600
www.circadia.net

City of Prairie Village, Kansas
Wes Jordan
(913) 381-6464
www.prairievillageks.gov

CLEAR
Greg Mandel
www.clearme.com

Cultura Consultants KC, LLC
Marielena Marroquin
www.culturakc.com

CVS Health
Andrew Braams

Digital Realty
Julie Sailors
www.digitalrealty.com

DLR Group
Tom Mitchell
(913) 897-7811
www.dlrgroup.com

El Café Cubano
Racquel Rodriguez
(816) 927-2233
www.elcafecubanokc.com

Equitable Advisors
Kristin Humphrey
(913) 345-2800
www.heartland.equitableadvisors.com

Flourish: A Furniture Bank
Faith McMillian
(816) 946-8600
www.flourishfurniturebank.org/

GOOGLE LLC
Mandy Nickell

Graphicmachine, Inc.
Patience Jones
(816) 384-0427
http://www.graphicmachine.com/

Greenhouse Consulting
Jamie Green
(816) 797-7122

Gus's Famous Fried Chicken
Traci Ellis
(913) 232-7091
www.gusfriedchicken.com/locations?selected=63871482

Heartland Strategic Solutions, LLC
Stephanie Jester
www.heartlandstrategicsolutions.com

Hill's Pet Nutrition
Melissa Chesnut

Jackson County COMBAT
Murray Woodard II
www.jacksoncountycombat.com

Jones Advisory Group
Lauren Stous
(877) 374-4524
www.jonesadvisory.net

KC Defense Counsel
Ian Terwilleger
(816) 287-3787
www.kcdefensecounsel.com

KC Printing Company
Jansen Penny
(816) 527-0900
www.kcblueprint.com

KCDC
Nathan Mills
www.Kcdc.info

Liberty Defense Group
Patrick Kelly
www.libertydefensegroup.com

Missouri Small Business Development Center

MMG Medical Sales & Service
Michael Giangregorio
(617) 820-8360
www.mmgmedical.com

Moving Pros
Cole Hillenbrand
(816) 988-7601
www.movingproskc.com

National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Carolyn Fischer
www.nationalmssociety.org

NestPay
Novestus Maru
(800) 674-7946
www.nestpay.com

ON DEMARC media + tech
Nick DeMarc
www.ondemarc.com

ProsperSpark
Blair Zobel
(402) 302-0762
www.prosperspark.com

Rainbow Restoration
Elaine McNamara
(816) 231-6663
www.rainbowintl.com/kansas-city

Red Machine Party Bus
Robert Galicia
(816) 582-2110
www.redmachinepartybus.com

River Market Hotel
Alanna Seto
(863) 372-4610
www.rivermarkethotel.com

NEW MEMBERS CONTINUES

Roo Champions
Colleen Finney
(803) 977-9354

Ruby Jean's Juicery
Chris Goode
www.rubyjeansjuicery.com

SOFA
Michael Lucier
(314) 504-0170
www.app.jobshadowing.io

St. Louis University School of Education Office of School and Community Partnerships
Ryan Wilson
(314) 977-2330
www.slu.edu

Sterling Bank
Emerson Jenkins
(816) 627-6600
www.sterbank.bank

Storia Strategies
Jessica Palm
(913) 293-9493
www.storiastrategies.com

TENEX.ai
Jennifer Torode
(650) 605-7865

Three Trails Behavioral Health Hospital
Mia Gonzalez
www.threetrailsbehavioral.com

University Academy Foundation
Leah Probasco-Burns
www.uafoundationkc.org/about-us

US Premier Tube Mills
Daniel Nye
(914) 621-2895
www.usptmills.com

Valentyr Technologies
Teresa Rich
www.valentyrtech.com

VCC, LLC
Andrew Hubbell
www.vccsa.com

Vulcan Metals Corp.
Tyler Reese
vulcanmetals.com

Western Governors University
Dalila Duarte
(314) 677-2302
www.wgu.edu, https://www.wgu.edu

Women's Employment Network
Erin Cole
www.kcwen.org

Working Spaces
Drew Rash
(816) 234-8778
www.wspaces.com

Yulis Cleaning Service
Seida Zeron

MILESTONES

The following companies recently celebrated membership milestones.

5 years
Bison State Bank
Bonner Springs Family YMCA
CBRE
Cleaver Family YMCA
Corporate Technologies, LLC
CyDex Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Cynergy Wellness Inc.
Della Lamb Community Services
FairWave Coffee Collective
First Interstate Bank
Fresh Karma Dispensaries
Goodwill Home Office and Donation Center
Great Western Bank - Overland Park
High Aspirations, Inc.
Integrity Capital Management
Jones Gillam Renz Architects
JVM Realty
Kirk Family YMCA
KMO Burger, LLC dba Whataburger Restaurants
Kocher + Beck
Linwood YMCA/James B. Nutter Sr. Community Center
Liquid Mobile
Midwest Recovery Centers
North Kansas City YMCA

10 years
Consulate General of Canada
Crux KC LLC
Donutology
DRAW Architecture + Urban Design, LLC
DuBois Consultants Inc
Eddie V's Prime Seafood
El Centro
HDR Engineering, Inc.
IVX Health

15 years
Atlantic Aviation
BlueScope Buildings North America
City of Olathe, Kansas
Clinical Reference Laboratory, Inc.
Connections to Success
Cornerstones of Care
Delta Dental of Kansas
gFiber
Heavy Construction Laborers Local Union 663
International Associations of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail & Transportation
Kansas City, Missouri Parks & Recreation
Kansas State University Olathe
Martin Pringle - Missouri
Mid-Continent Public Library
Panera Bread
Panera Bread - Crown Center
Parisi Cafe - Union Station
Pierpont's at Union Station
Port KC

20 years
BMO Bank, N.A.
BOK Financial
Hallmark Business Connections
Helzberg Foundation
Jason's Deli
Kansas City Board of Public Utilities
Mallin Companies, Inc.
Mid-State Aerospace, Inc.
Paris Brothers Inc.

25 years
ARMADA C.I.
BioNexus KC
Burgio, Cooney & Associates
Centerpoint Medical Center/HCA Midwest Health
ER Marketing
Fairfield Inn - Downtown Union Hill

30 years
Concrete & Masonry Restoration, Inc.
DDI Commercial, Inc.
Excelsior Springs Job Corps Center
Hoefer Welker
Jackson County Sports Complex Authority

35 years
Harvesters

40 years
Full Employment Council, Inc.

MILESTONES CONTINUES

45 years

Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development--Missouri Career Center
Americo Life, Inc.
Kenton Brothers Inc. Systems for Security
Modern Litho Kansas City
Murphy-Hoffman Company/MHC Kenworth

50+ years

Children's Mercy (50)
Enterprise Mobility (50)
QuikTrip Corporation (50)
Seigfreid Bingham P.C. (50)
KCAV (51)
Kansas City Art Institute (51)
Copaken Brooks (53)
Halls Merchandising--A Division of Hallmark Cards, Inc. (53)
JE Dunn Construction Company (59)
Bliss Associates, LLC (60)
Ozark National Life (62)
T-Mobile (62)
City of Kansas City, Missouri (63)
Kansas City Chiefs Football Club, Inc. (63)
The Miller Group (64)
MMC Contractors (67)
WDAF-TV/FOX 4 (68)
Bayer (70)
Kansas City Public Schools (72)
Rockhurst University (74)
Block Real Estate Services, LLC (77)
William Jewell College (81)
Mid-West Terminal Warehouse Co. (83)
The Salvation Army (84)
Helzberg (97)
KMBC-TV-Channel 9/Hearst Television Inc. (97)
Hallmark Cards, Inc. (99)
Black & Veatch Corporation (107)
Burns & McDonnell (109)
Kansas City Life Insurance Company (109)

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE & LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

The following companies recently joined or renewed their commitment to the KC Chamber's Leadership Circle.

A-1 Sewer & Septic Service Inc.
Academy Bank
American Royal Association
ArtsKC - Regional Arts Council
Bardavon Health Innovations
Benedictine College
Bernstein-Rein
Block & Company, Inc., Realtors
Block Real Estate Services, LLC
C2FO
CLEAR
Cleveland University - Kansas City
Community Blood Center
Cooling & Herbers, P.C.
Culinary Virtue | Restaurant Collective
Dairy Farmers of America, Inc.
Emprise Bank
Full Employment Council, Inc.
Great Wolf Lodge
HDR Engineering, Inc.
High Aspirations, Inc.
Hoefer Welker
Kansas City Area Development Council
Kansas City Board of Public Utilities
Kansas City Kansas Community College
Kansas City Marriott Downtown
Kansas City Power & Light District
Kansas City Public Schools
Kansas Fiber Network
KCTV / KSMO
KMO Burger, LLC dba Whataburger Restaurants
Langley Recycling, Inc.
Liberty Defense Group
Light Source Communications
Made in KC
Mariner
McDowell Rice Smith & Buchanan PC
MERS/Missouri Goodwill Industries
Messenger Coffee Co
MMC Contractors
Multistudio
Olathe District Schools
Olsson
Ozark National Life
QuikTrip Corporation
Rockhurst University
Rouse Frets White Goss Gentile Rhodes, P.C.
Shamrock Trading Corporation
Storia Strategies
Talon Concrete & Aggregates LLC
Telemundo Kansas City
Unbound
Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City Kansas
University of Central Missouri

The following companies recently joined or renewed their commitment to the KC Chamber's President's Circle.

AdventHealth
Airshare
Alliant
Associated Bank
Bank Midwest
Bayer
Black & Veatch Corporation
BLAQUE Kansas City
BlueScope Buildings North America
BMO Bank N.A.
BOK Financial
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP
Burns & McDonnell
CBIZ/MHM
Centric
Cerris
Children's Mercy
City of Kansas City, Missouri
Community Health Council of Wyandotte County
CommunityAmerica Credit Union
Copaken Brooks
Country Club Bank, a division of FNBO
Cristo Rey Kansas City, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth High School
Deloitte LLP
Delta Dental of Kansas
Dentons US LLP
Enterprise Mobility
Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City
First Interstate Bank
FNBO
Garmin International, Inc.
Garney
gFiber
GOOGLE LLC
Hallmark Cards, Inc.
Helzberg
Henderson Engineers, Inc.
Hill's Pet Nutrition
HOK
Housing Authority of Kansas City, Missouri
Jackson County COMBAT
JE Dunn Construction Company
Kansas City Area Transportation Authority
Kansas City Chiefs Football Club, Inc.
Kansas City Life Insurance Company
Kiewit
Kissick Construction Co., Inc.
LINC
Marion and Henry Bloch Family Foundation and The H & R Block Foundation
MarksNelson, a Springline company
McCownGordon Construction
Meta
Netsmart
Panasonic North America
Parris Communications, Inc.
Perfect Promotions
Polsinelli
Port KC
REACH Healthcare Foundation
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Kansas City, Inc.
RubinBrown LLP
Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard P.C.
She Hauled It
The Miller Group
U.S. Bank
Valentyr Technologies
VanTrust Real Estate, LLC

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

360picKC

BRINGING ENERGY, CREATIVITY, AND CONNECTION TO EVERY EVENT

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT · 360PICKC

"We pride ourselves on being high-tech, high-energy, and high touch."

Kebra Rios, Co-Owner

For Ka Lai Woods and Kebra Rios, friendship and entrepreneurship go hand in hand.

The co-owners of 360picKC have spent years building a business that transforms events into memorable, interactive experiences. What began with a single 360-degree video booth has grown into a full-service experiential event company offering eight unique photo and video activations for corporate events, nonprofit fundraisers, weddings, community celebrations, and brand activations across the Kansas City region.

Founded in 2021, 360picKC is a women-, minority-, and disadvantaged-owned business built on a shared belief that experiences matter.

That commitment to creativity and customer experience has fueled steady growth. The company joined the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce after being recognized as a Small Business Superstar. Soon after, 360picKC earned another distinction, being voted a Fan Favorite during the 2026 Small Business Celebration Candidates' Showcase.

"The KC Chamber has been on our radar since we first launched," Woods said. "We wanted to reach a point where we could contribute to the community as much as we benefited from it. Being named Fan Favorite was incredibly meaningful and reinforced our excitement about becoming more involved with the Chamber and the Kansas City business community."

For Woods and Rios, one of the best parts of doing business in Kansas City is the opportunity to serve organizations that are making a difference. The company has donated thousands of dollars in services to nonprofit organizations and community causes, viewing those partnerships as an important way to give back to a region that has supported their growth.

"We are a relationship-driven company," Woods said. "Kansas City has been generous to us, and we feel a responsibility to support the community that has helped us succeed."

While many people know 360picKC for its photo booths, the owners want prospective clients to understand that their business is about much more than capturing images.

"We are a creative partner," Rios said. "Whether it's designing a custom guest experience or integrating a company's brand into an activation, we work to ensure no two events ever look—or feel—the same."

As 360picKC continues to grow, the company remains focused on what inspired it from the beginning: creating meaningful experiences, building authentic relationships, and helping Kansas City celebrate its most memorable moments.

Learn more about 360picKC!



RIBBON CUTTINGS

Highlighting the growth of Greater Kansas City

Resolve Counseling



Congratulations to **Resolve Counseling & Wellness** on the expansion of their Parkville location this year. This KC Chamber ribbon cutting was held to salute their continued growth and expanding access to mental health services.

GolfTRK



GolfTRK celebrated the opening of its Prairie Village HQ location in the old Macy's building. This location includes nearly 10,000 sq ft of Trackman powered golf, a 2,000 sq ft Puttview short game area, with PGA-led instruction, fittings, and coaching.

Bank of Springfield



Welcome to Kansas City, **Bank of Springfield**! The ribbon cutting for "Bank with BOS" was held at the first full service location in KC at 8622 NE 85th St. The KC Chamber is thankful for this investment in our community.

Genesis of Kansas City



The new **Genesis** showroom in Merriam was the site of a KC Chamber ribbon cutting in mid-September. The location is 7220 W. Frontage Road, and you should stop by to take a test drive!

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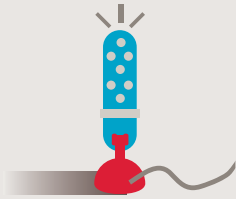
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GOOD NEWS



People

The Linda Hall: Science Library and Arboretum announced that Jacob Campbell, Ph.D., joined the institution as senior vice president of research and collections. In this new role on The Linda Hall's Executive Leadership team, Campbell will provide strategic leadership for the Library's research, scholarship, collections, and curatorial activities.

Midwest Transplant Network has named Lori Markham, RN, MSN, CCRN, CPTC as President and Chief Executive Officer. Markham brings more than 25 years of progressive leadership in organ and tissue donation to her new role. Since 2017, she served as Vice President and Chief Clinical Officer.

Henderson Companies, the parent company of Henderson Engineers and Henderson Building Solutions, welcomes Alan Sinks as corporate safety director. Sinks will lead the continued advancement of the company's safety programs to ensure regulatory compliance, mitigate risk, and support efficient project execution and the well-being of employees, clients, and partners.

SkillPath announced the appointment of Erica Jones as its first chief growth officer, a newly created executive role focused on expanding the organization's reach, strengthening revenue strategy and accelerating scalable growth.

Erin Scraper has been named Interim CEO of **Life Unlimited** while a search is conducted for the organization's next permanent CEO.

Milbank announced the promotion of Chris W. Buelow to President and Chief Executive Officer. Brad Skinner has transitioned to CEO Emeritus and retire from the company effective December 31, 2026, concluding four decades of service and leadership.

This year, 64 **Foulston Siefkin LLP** lawyers were recognized in the 2027 editions of *The Best Lawyers in America®* and *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America*. Additionally, Tara Eberline, partner-in-charge of Foulston Siefkin LLP's Kansas City office, was named as Kansas City, Kansas, "Lawyer of the Year" in the practice areas of Employment Law – Management and Litigation – Municipal. Partner Josh Hill was also recognized as Kansas City, Kansas, "Lawyer of the Year" for Banking and Finance Law. Thirteen other Kansas City-based Foulston attorneys were also highlighted in the 2027 announcements.

Enterprise Bank & Trust announced the promotion of Aaron Wiens to Senior Vice President, Director of Commercial & Industrial (C&I) Banking for the Kansas City market.

Cleveland University-Kansas City celebrates four alumni from Cleveland's College of Chiropractic nominated for the Kansas Chiropractic Association's (KCA) 2026 Doctor of the Year award. This honor recognizes a Kansas doctor of chiropractic who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to their practice, their patients, and the advancement of chiropractic care. The four alumni recognized for their outstanding work are Brian Asbury, D.C., Katie Benson, D.C., Justin Fulk, D.C., and Bradley Pyle, D.C.

The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures has named Kody McLain its new Director of Curatorial Affairs. McLain begins November 2, 2026, and will lead the Museum's curatorial, collections, and exhibition work. McLain joins the Museum from the Ronald Reagan Ranch Center in Santa Barbara, California.

KC Common Good has named Barbara Anne Washington its new CEO. Washington has already begun leading the organization and advancing its work across the region. A lifelong Kansas City resident, practicing

GOOD NEWS

Continued...

attorney and community advocate, Washington was elected to represent Missouri's 9th Senatorial District in 2020 and again in 2024 after serving three years in the Missouri House.

Sterling Bank welcomes Calahn Luster as Vice President of Commercial Lending at its Kansas City location, 300 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, MO 64112. Luster brings more than 20 years of commercial banking experience, with a focus on commercial real estate financing and banking solutions for small businesses.

Rockhurst University has announced that two alumni were elected to the Board of Trustees. Thomas Sack, Ph.D., a graduate of the class of 1980 with a degree in chemistry, and former president and CEO of **MRIGlobal**, has joined the Board. Reginald Jeffreys, a graduate of the class of 2024 with a degree in mechanical engineering, and a current project engineer for **JE Dunn**, has also been named a Trustee.

Miscellaneous

The **Kansas City Symphony** announced a generous $1 million gift from the The Stanley J. Bushman Charitable Supporting Foundation. This meaningful investment reflects Bushman's enduring love of classical music and his extraordinary legacy of philanthropy in Kansas City. The gift will provide three years of sponsorship support for the Symphony's Masterworks Classical Series.

Country Club Plaza is pleased to welcome Reformation, the sustainable womenswear brand, as the latest first-to-market brand to join its tenant lineup. The new store, located at 415 Nichols Road, is scheduled to open in winter 2026.

ALLO Fiber, provider of fiber-optic broadband services and advanced business solutions, announced it has selected Vida Global Inc., an AI agent operating system, to power a new AI agent offering for its business customers. For ALLO business customers, AI agents mean faster response times, fewer missed calls, and the ability to handle customer inquiries around the clock without adding headcount. Agents can manage inbound communications, answer common questions, route requests, and handle routine business workflows, freeing up staff to focus on higher-value work.

CornerStone Enterprise, Ltd. hosted its inaugural Health is Wealth Community Wellness Fair, a free half-day event designed to connect Kansas City residents with critical health and financial wellness resources in August at the Rockhurst University MAC. The event included onsite health screenings, financial wellness coaching, and community resource referrals.

U.S. News & World Report released its 2026-27 Best Hospitals rankings, naming **The University of Kansas Hospital** the Best Hospital in Kansas City for the 17th consecutive year. U.S. News also ranked the hospital No. 1 in Kansas for the 15th consecutive year, two distinctions no other hospital has achieved. This year, U.S. News introduced state and metropolitan specialty rankings to help patients identify high-quality care close to home. The University of Kansas Hospital earned the No. 1 ranking in Kansas and No. 1 ranking in Kansas City in all four specialties evaluated: Cancer; Cardiology, Heart & Vascular Surgery; Orthopedics; and Rehabilitation.

HCA Midwest Health announced today that Research Medical Center, Overland Park Regional Medical Center, Menorah Medical Center and Lee's Summit Medical Center have been named in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2026-2027 Best Hospitals edition for high-performing procedures and conditions. This is the highest distinction a hospital can earn as part of U.S. News' Best Hospitals Procedures & Conditions ratings.

GOOD NEWS

Continued...

NKC Health achieved High Performing ratings in seven areas of care in *U.S. News & World Report*'s 2026-2027 Best Regional Hospitals rankings. The procedures and conditions include knee replacement, hip replacement, back surgery (spinal fusion), diabetes, heart arrhythmia, pacemaker implantation, and transcatheter aortic valve replacement. The health system also received a High Performing rating in Maternity Care (Uncomplicated Pregnancy) for 2026.

Orange EV, the leading manufacturer of zero-emission terminal trucks, announced the establishment of the Orange EV Cares Scholarship at **Kansas City Kansas Community College** (KCKCC), endowed through a gift from Orange EV Co-Founder Wayne Mathisen. The scholarship deepens the relationship between Orange EV and KCKCC while providing Orange EV employees an opportunity to advance their education.

ArtsKC, **Charlotte Street**, and the **Hall Family Foundation** are transforming arts investment to honor and amplify the creative power alive in Kansas City, announcing the launch of the Creative Confluence Fund, a two-year, $1.4 million pilot grant program supporting artists and arts-engaged organizations in three key geographic areas. Creative Confluence Fund features two streams of support and prioritizes the historically divested neighborhoods of Northeast Kansas City, East Side Kansas City, and Northeastern Wyandotte County, Kansas.

The newly opened 18th & Vine Welcome Center is welcoming visitors with more than community resources and city services. Through a new partnership with **Zhou B Art Center Kansas City**, the Welcome Center now features original artwork by four accomplished Kansas City artists, creating an immersive introduction to the creativity and cultural identity that

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GOOD NEWS

Continued...

defines the Historic 18th & Vine Jazz District. Located at 1516 E. 18th Street, the Welcome Center provides access to city resources while also celebrating the artists and entrepreneurs who continue to shape Kansas City's creative community.

The University of Kansas is excited to announce the launch of its new website, **Partner with KU**, designed specifically for industry leaders, employers, and entrepreneurs. The site serves as a central gateway to KU's business-focused resources, connecting employers with world-class research, core laboratories, workforce training, and top talent.

Evergy, Inc. is the recipient of the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) Emergency Response Award. Evergy was awarded and honored for quick storm response efforts after severe weather moved through Salina, Abilene, Topeka, and parts of the Kansas City region in June. Over the course of three days, Evergy crews restored power to nearly 200,000 customers and worked more than 27,000 combined hours.

Holmes Murphy's Brainery program is equipping the next generation of insurance professionals with the knowledge, experience, and relationships needed to build successful careers in the insurance industry. This year's cohort included 25 full-time employees who participated in nine weeks and more than 1,700 hours of structured, hands-on learning across the company's Employee Benefits, Property Casualty, and PLUS family of brands business areas.

The Kansas City Chiefs announced that **Phoenix Family** has been named the next beneficiary of the Chiefs Charity Game, beginning in 2027. Founded in

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Continued...

1999, Phoenix Family is a Kansas City-based nonprofit organization dedicated to helping individuals and families exit poverty. Since its inception in 1985, the Chiefs Charity Game has raised more than $16 million, with nearly $8 million being raised in the last 15 years alone.

Foley Equipment, the Caterpillar dealer for Kansas and forty counties in Missouri for more than 85 years, announced the launch of its first Cat Compact location at its existing campus in Wichita, Kansas. Cat Compact represents the next step for Foley and Caterpillar to enhance the customer experience for small and growing businesses. In addition to expanded inventory of small equipment, the Cat Compact location will have Saturday parts, service, rental and sales hours.

Rock Island Bridge announces the grand opening of Kansas City Chess Park. Located on the bridge's West Truss, Kansas City Chess Park is the city's first dedicated outdoor chess park, featuring permanent game tables overlooking the Kansas River. Kansas City Chess Park is free and open to players of all ages and skill levels. Guests may bring their own pieces or play with the free sets available in the park.

Tenfold Security, a Kansas City-based cybersecurity company, has been named one of 25 finalists in Pepperdine Graziadio Business School's 2026 Most Fundable Companies® competition, emerging from a field of more than 2,100 participating companies.

Starlight, the oldest and largest continually operating performing arts organization in the Kansas City metropolitan area, celebrated its 39th Annual Gala with Sutton Foster in October with a black-tie event. The historic theatre announced that this year's fundraiser

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Continued...

brought in a record-breaking $1.2 million. The proceeds from this annual event directly support Starlight's community programs, venue maintenance, live events, staff and operating costs, and more.

As we approach Veterans Day, **Evergy** will host a career expo dedicated to local veterans, exiting service members and military spouses. Evergy's Mission Transition expo will be 8:30 a.m. to noon, Friday, November 6 at Evergy's Cedar Point Training Facility, 10056 Raytown Road in Kansas City, MO. Mission Transition will help attendees explore Evergy careers, meet hiring managers and make community connections. Evergy employs more than twice the national average of veterans: veterans comprise 5% of the national workforce compared to 11% of Evergy's workforce.

Anniversaries

July 20 marked the official 10th anniversary of **Great Jobs KC**, a milestone recognized following an official proclamation by Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas declaring July 20th, 2026, as "Great Jobs KC Day." Over the past decade, the organization has served as a vital engine for economic mobility and educational advancement, deeply rooted in the enduring philanthropic legacy of Ewing Marion Kauffman. Great Jobs KC has empowered over 17,000 adults and youth in the Kansas City region to secure post-secondary credentials and transition directly into high-demand, family-sustaining careers, aiding over 3,000 of them into Great Jobs.

Crux earned its fifth consecutive appearance on the Inc. 5000, the annual list of America's fastest-growing private companies, ranking No. 4,354. As Crux celebrates its 10th year in business, the company is marking

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GOOD NEWS

Continued...

a year of significant milestones. The recognition comes during a landmark year for the Kansas City-based firm, which was also inducted into the *Kansas City Business Journal's* Hall of Champions after receiving its third Champions of Business honor.

Wagner Logistics, a provider of supply chain warehousing, transportation, and fulfillment solutions, announced its 80th anniversary in business. To commemorate this milestone, the company hosted a celebratory open house in September at their corporate offices in North Kansas City, Missouri. Founded in 1946, Wagner Logistics has evolved from a local trucking operation into a premier national third-party logistics (3PL) provider.

Dennis Porter has made a living spreading joy and laughter. Porter, founder of **Happy Faces Entertainment**, celebrated the company's 25th anniversary this fall with an open house bringing together longtime clients, fellow entertainers, friends and others who have been part of the company's story. The event offered guests a look back at 25 years of Happy Faces Entertainment through photos, memorabilia, costumes, props and displays highlighting the many types of performances and programs Porter and his fellow entertainers have brought to Kansas City and national audiences.

AdventHealth South Overland Park is celebrating five years of providing patient care in the Bluhawk development at 165th Street and U.S. 69 Highway. In October 2021, AdventHealth expanded its freestanding emergency room and medical office building into an inpatient hospital with surgical services, intensive care, heart care, a medical-surgical unit and Birth Center, building upon the emergency care, imaging and laboratory services that first opened on the campus in 2017.

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