

NCRPC NEWS

North Central Regional Planning Commission
Serving Kansans Since 1972

October/November 2010
www.ncrpc.org

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Upcoming Events

Holiday Reduced Office Hours

Our offices will be closed November 11, November 25-26 and December 27-31. Thank you for letting us serve you throughout the past year.

Thursday, Dec. 2, 2 p.m.
Executive Board Meeting

ECONOMY DISCUSSED AT NCRPC BANQUET

The economy topped the discussion during the 2010 NCRPC Banquet that took place on October 26 at First Christian Church in Concordia.

Jason Henderson, vice president and Omaha Branch executive with the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City provided the keynote address.

In his presentation titled "Economic and Policy Outlook," Henderson says that when people think about an economic recession and/or recovery they often think about jobs.

"Here in the Midwest we enjoy some of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation," Henderson says. "Rural America is leading the economic recovery this time out."

Henderson noted that the economic recession could be compared to the Farm Crisis of the '80s only this time on Wall Street.



Tim Ohlde, Elk State Bank, (left) visits with Erin Redemske and Jason Henderson, both of the Federal Reserve Bank, during the social hour prior to the NCRPC Banquet in Concordia.

"The challenge we're going to be working through is how to leverage our debt," Henderson said. "It's going to take time and we need to be realistic moving forward."

A positive trend in Rural America that Henderson noted is the return of 30-40-year olds to their hometowns after getting their educations and experience elsewhere.

"The question becomes how to accentuate that and welcome these people home," Henderson says. "We need to think about how to make great communities and great investments in our communities. We also need to do a better job of telling our young people when they leave that we have opportunities for them at home."



Barb Rathbun, Lincoln County Economic Development Foundation, (left), visits with Mari Detrixhe, Clyde Economic Development Director. The banquet gave the approximately 90 in attendance the opportunity to network.



Pictured visiting from left to right are David Thurlow, Clay County Commissioner; Lyle Peterson, Kansas Department of Commerce; Vern Swanson, State Representative; and Joe Nold, Dickinson County Commissioner.



KS HUMANITIES COUNCIL GRANTS AVAILABLE



The Kansas Humanities Council (KHC) has

funds available for projects that share the humanities with others.

Projects could include a short film, museum exhibition, a plan to preserve a collection of historic photographs or quilts, a series of podcasts, or even an oral history project to capture the voices from a community's past.

In preparation for the 150th commemoration of Kansas Statehood in 2011, the KHC is especially interested in supporting projects that explore Kansas heritage, traditions, and ideas.

Grants are available in the categories of Humanities Grants, Heritage Grants, and Short Film Grants.

Humanities Grants support projects that engage the out-of-school, general public with the humanities.

Heritage Grants assist in the preservation and interpretation of local and regional cultural resources.

For more, visit kansashumanities.org or contact the Kansas Humanities Council by calling 785-357-0359.

FROM THE DIRECTOR: COLLABORATION KEY TO SUCCESSFUL LONG-TERM RESULTS

Collaboration is the willingness to work jointly with others. In many North Central Kansas communities, cooperative efforts providing long-term results have occurred in recent years. Assaria, Hunter and Tipton have new community centers. Sylvan Grove, Washington and Woodbine have new fire station/emergency service facilities.

Greenleaf is working on a large water distribution improvement project involving city staff and volunteers. It intends to reduce water loss as well as to enhance pressure for consumers to enjoy and also for firefighting availability. Regional Homeland Security Councils are charged with understanding critical infrastructure and training components necessary to enable protective actions for residents and visitors alike. Councils work together to identify vulnerabilities and means of becoming prepared to



Doug McKinney is the NCRPC Executive Director.

handle emergencies. Their collaborative efforts are meant to prevent disasters as well as respond effectively to them.

Universities in this state are quite adept at sharing novel news at their places of higher learning. An example of a hopeful and result oriented collaboration is the work of several researchers regarding cancer treatment. A research team at Kansas State University is partnered with NanoScale Corp., a Manhattan based company

that was begun by Kansas State University Research Foundation and the National Institute for Strategic Technology for Acquisition and Commercialization. It develops and commercializes advanced materials, products and applications. Researchers are refining methods to destroy cancer cells with less expensive means and more enduring results.

Results are what collaborative efforts are all about. The challenge of many of the above examples is to generate buy-in from their communities and local leadership, then seek funding support. Thereafter the teams need to realize early accomplishments and continue their focus along the path to a successful conclusion.

Perhaps you are working on a challenging endeavor in your locale. Seek outside opinions and the advice of others who have pursued similar undertakings.

HOMELAND SECURITY WORKSHOPS HELD

The North Central Kansas Regional Homeland Security Council hosted an Agriculture Movement Control Workshop in September. Three sessions took place in Republic, Jewell, and Smith counties.

The exercises were intended to provide a general overview of the state's response plan for a foreign animal disease (FAD) outbreak. Local roles



A presenter talks about local planning at the Smith Center workshop September 30.

and responsibilities were also discussed.

Sherry Angell, North Central Kansas Public

Health Initiative Regional Coordinator says the workshop locations along the Nebraska border was relevant.

"It is clear that counties will need to support cross-border screening checkpoints, but the need for further planning and guidance from the state agencies is essential," Angell says.

NEW KANSAS OPPORTUNITY INNOVATION NETWORK PROJECT TO BENEFIT REGION

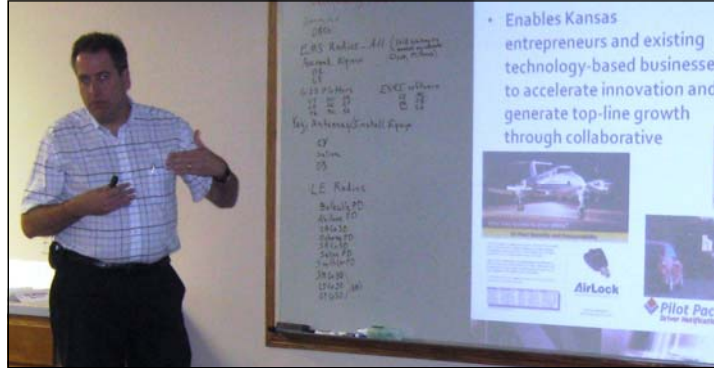
With the support of multiple state and regional partners, the Advanced Manufacturing Institute (AMI) at Kansas State University was awarded a grant to be a University Center with a Kansas Opportunity Innovation Network (KOIN) regional project.

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) awarded the project in July. The University Center grant is for three years. The North Central Kansas Rural Business Development Tax Credit (RBDTC) Program has committed \$60,000 to the KOIN regional project. Since 2004, North Central Kansas has been the incubation region for AMI to pilot business development projects.

AMI, headed by Brad Kramer, Director, and Jeff Tucker, Associate Director, is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization housed within K-State's Department of Engineering. It is dedicated to providing innovative and cost effective product and process development solutions.

"The NCRPC/NCKCN partnership with AMI enables us to move further and faster than ever before in strategic planning plus it enables us to offer access to premier business support," says John Cyr, NCRPC Special Projects Coordinator.

AMI will launch KOIN in seven regional innovation projects supported by both state and regional economic development partners. The AMI seeks to



Jeff Tucker, Advanced Manufacturing Institute Associate Director, addressed the NCRPC Executive Board in July and described the AMI partnership with NCRPC and the KOIN project.

build regional connectivity, align local resources, and accelerate technologies into the marketplace for regional economic benefit.

Each of the seven regional projects will respond to regional challenges directly defined by the KOIN and its collaborating partners.

KOIN will primarily target second-stage entrepreneurs of small and medium sized goods-producing enterprises (<500 employees or <\$7M sales) in rural or distressed regions in Kansas who strive to transcend geographic isolation and create globally competitive businesses that exploit new markets through open innovation and active collaboration.

The project planned for the 19 counties in North Central Kansas that make up the North Central RBDTC Program is "Business Profiling and Innovation Networking."

The project goal is to increase the number of globally competitive innovative products and services produced in North Central Kansas.

The KOIN proposal for the North Central Kansas project states that innovation is key to sustainable regional growth and development.

The proposal goes on to say "Successful innovation networks often consist of a critical mass of spontaneously forming collaborative teams potentially located in different places, but working together and interacting frequently. Rural regions that may lack this spontaneous critical mass need to proactively weave inter-linked networks of entrepreneurs, universities, government agencies, banks and other support institutions."

Tucker visited with NCRPC Executive Board members during a July 29 meeting and stressed the perspectives that the AMI and NCRPC share.

"We're both trying to create a stronger sense of region and trying to better access all the resources that are available across the state," Tucker says.

For more information about AMI, visit the website at www.amisuccess.com.

MEET THE BOARD



Brian Eilert

Brian was appointed as Secretary/Treasurer of the NCRPC Board of Directors in Fall 2009 and began in that capacity January 2010.

A native of Beloit, Kansas, Brian graduated from Kansas State University's College of Business Administration and earned a MBA from Wichita State University.

He is a loan officer with First National Bank in Beloit. Brian has formerly owned and operated an American Family Insurance business, worked for the Small Business Development Center and was manager of Four Rivers Development Inc.

Brian is active with the local Lion's Club, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Boy Scout Troop 98 and the Solomon Valley Cinema, Inc.

His wife, Sheri, is a teacher at St. John the Baptist Catholic School in Beloit and they have four children, Andrew, Logan, Emily and Daniel. Brian enjoys family activities such as hunting with his son, golf and various sporting events.

TAX CREDITS REMAIN AVAILABLE FOR 2010 TAX YEAR

State tax credits for the 2010 tax year remain available through the North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCRPC) and its non-profit affiliate, the North Central Kansas Community Network Co. (NCKCN). For tax payers, these credits offer a means of seeing that a portion of their state income tax is used to benefit North Central Kansas.

The credits are valued at 75% with funds donated to NCKCN in exchange for these credits being used for rural business development. A tax credit is a dollar-for-dollar credit against state income tax liability. For example, assuming a \$1,000 donation, donors automatically reduce their state tax obligation by \$750. In addition, some tax payers can claim the donation as a Federal income tax deduction.

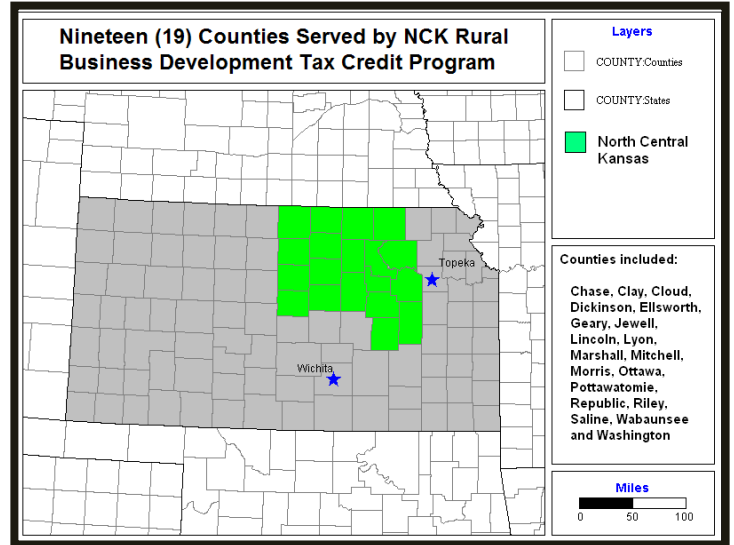
The 2010 allocation for North Central Kansas Rural Business Development Tax

Credit Program (RBDTC) was \$257,142 in credits. As of early November, \$94,392 is available through the end of 2010. All donations must be received before December 31, 2010.

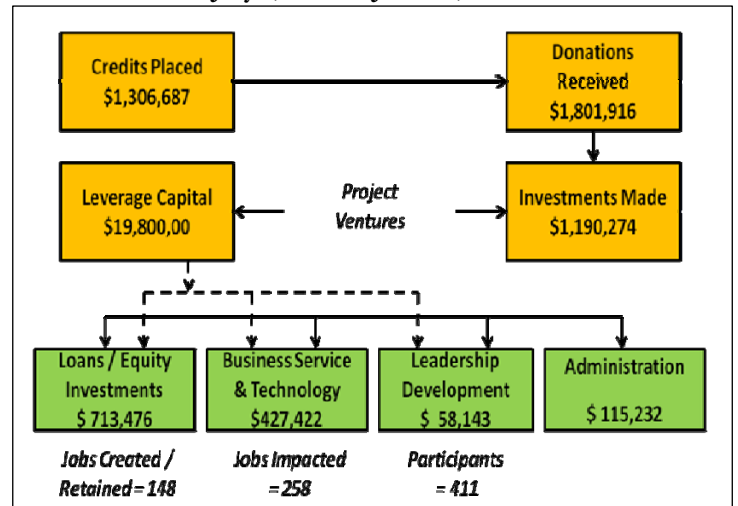
The NCRPC has administered this program since 2004, raising more than \$1.8 million through donations for projects falling under one or more of these categories: Leadership Development, Business Services, Technology Acquisition, and Job Creation. To date, the North Central program has invested more than \$1.0 million, which has helped area businesses create 148 jobs while supporting business initiatives that have impacted 258 others.

This program is made possible by the Kansas Department of Commerce and the 2004 Kansas Rural Business Development Act.

For more information about this program, visit www.ncrpc.org.



North Central Kansas RBDTC History
July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2010



Interested in rural and community development? Visit our sister sites!
 Online Journal of Rural Research and Policy
www.ojrrp.org
 Eye on Kansas
www.eyeonkanssas.org

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