

REAP | Regional Economic  
Area Partnership

# 2014 Legislative Policy Summit

December 5, 2014



Botanica Gardens  
Wichita, KS

# Agenda

**11:00—Registration Opens (Foyer of Lotus Hall)**

**11:30—Lunch is Served (Lotus Hall)**

**11:45—Welcome and Opening Remarks**

*Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County, REAP Chair*

*Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County, REAP Legislative Chair*

*Representative Jim Howell, Kansas House of Representatives, District 81; South Central Kansas Legislative Delegation Chair*

**12:00—Keynote Presentation:**

**The Importance of Regional Economies**

*President John Bardo, Wichita State University*

**12:40—Dessert Break**

**1:00—The Skills Gap in South Central Kansas**

Moderated by Council Member Jeff Longwell, City of Wichita,  
REAP Chief Elected Official, Kansas Local Area IV

*Speakers:*

*Rod Blackburn, Chair, Local Workforce Investment Board & Co-Owner, WB Construction*

*Dr. Blake Flanders, Vice President of Workforce Development, Kansas Board of Regents*

*Chris Roberts, Production & Marketing Manager, Global Parts*

**1:55—Break**

# Agenda

## **2:05—State Budget Presentation and Response**

Moderated by Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County

*Speakers:*

*J.G. Scott, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department*

*Dr. Nancy McCarthy Snyder, Director, Hugo Wall School of Public Affairs, Wichita State University ~ Member, Kansas Consensus Revenue Estimating Group*

## **2:50—Afternoon Snack Break**

## **3:15—Transportation Infrastructure and Job Creation**

Moderated by Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County

*Speakers:*

*Lynn Nichols, Chairman/CEO, Yingling Aviation*

*Michael Johnston, President & CEO, KTA, Retired; Board of Directors Member, Economic Lifelines*

## **4:15—Next Steps and Closing Remarks**

*Keith Lawing, REAP Executive Director*

*Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County, REAP Legislative Chair*

## **4:30—Reception (Lotus Hall)**

## **5:00—Holiday Illuminations opens for Attendees (open to the public at 5:30)**

Thank you for attending the 2014 REAP Legislative Policy Summit!  
We hope it was informative & look forward to seeing you next year!

Thank you to our Reception Sponsors!



Founded in 1885 and headquartered in Dallas, Texas, AT&T is a multi-national telecommunications corporation. Employing nearly 247,000 people world-wide, annual revenues reported for 2013 were nearly \$129 Billion. At&t employs about 2,400 in the state of Kansas. Their mission is to connect people with their world, everywhere they live and work. For more information about at&t, please visit [www.att.com](http://www.att.com).



Burns & McDonnell is an industry leader in environmental, engineering, architectural, consulting and construction services. Over 4,500 employee-owners provide innovative, timely and cost-effective services to our clients across the nation and throughout the world. Located in Wichita with headquarters in Kansas City, Burns & McDonnell meets the needs of clients in the areas of: Aviation & Federal, Business & Technology Services, Construction/Design-Build, Energy, Environmental, Environmental Studies & Permitting, Global Facilities, Process & Industrial, Transmission & Distribution, Transportation and Water. For more information on Burns & McDonnell, please visit [www.burnsmcd.com](http://www.burnsmcd.com).

## Thank you to our Illuminations Sponsor!



The largest city in the state of Kansas with a population of 386,552, Wichita encompasses 163.59 square miles. The City began as a trading post on the Chisholm Trail in the 1860's and incorporated in 1870. It was a destination for cattle drives from Texas, earning it the nickname "Cowtown". In the 1920's & 30's it successfully incubated several aircraft manufacturing companies including Beechcraft, Cessna, and Stearman Aircraft, becoming known as the "Air Capital of the World". For more on the City of Wichita please visit

## Thank you to our Gold Sponsors!



Incorporated in 1872, Harvey County is named in honor of the fifth Governor of Kansas, James M. Harvey and encompasses 540 square miles, seven cities, with a population of 3,643. For more information on Harvey County please visit [www.harveycounty.com](http://www.harveycounty.com).



Founded in 1872, Newton is the Harvey County Seat with a population of 19,132 and a land area of 12.6 square miles. Newton is home to the Kansas Logistics Park, which serves manufacturing and transportation industries. For more information on the City of Newton please visit [www.newtonkansas.com](http://www.newtonkansas.com).

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*Sedgwick County...  
working for you*

Sedgwick County was officially established in 1867, and bears the name of Civil War Major General John Sedgwick of the Union Army. The County encompasses 1,009 square miles with a population of 505,415. For more information please visit the County's website at [www.sedgwickcounty.org](http://www.sedgwickcounty.org).



Via Christi Health is the largest provider of health care services in Kansas. Based in Wichita, it serves Kansas and northeast Oklahoma through its doctors, hospitals, senior villages and health services. Employing more than 10,000, Via Christi Health's history dates back more than a century to the early health care ministries of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Wichita. In FY 2012, Via Christi provided \$90.5 million in community benefit. For more information please visit [www.viachristi.org](http://www.viachristi.org).



The largest electric energy provider in Kansas, Westar Energy provides generation, transmission and distribution to approximately 687,000 customers. Headquartered in Topeka, Westar employs about 2,400 people in Kansas. Westar's energy centers in eleven Kansas communities generate more than 7,000 megawatts of electricity and coordinate 34,000 miles of transmission and distribution lines. Please visit [www.westarenergy.com](http://www.westarenergy.com) for more information.

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For more than 90 years, Black Hills Energy has provided safe, reliable electricity and natural gas services to their customers. In Kansas, Black Hills Energy provides clean, efficient natural gas services to 110,000 customers in 56 communities. For more information on Black Hills Energy please visit [www.blackhillsenergy.com](http://www.blackhillsenergy.com).



Derby is the 18th largest city in Kansas with a population of 23,047. Located just south of McConnell Air Force Base, the community takes great pride in its many residents who are active duty and retired members of the military services. The City's mission is to create vibrant neighborhoods, nurture a strong business community, and preserve beautiful green spaces. Visit the community at [www.derbyks.com](http://www.derbyks.com).



Founded in 1966 in Kansas City, TranSystems brings unique and innovative solutions to transportation infrastructure challenges, to facilitate the movement of goods and people by creating an integrated transportation systems around nine key market sectors- freight rail and transit, states and municipalities, aviation, manufacturing and distribution, maritime, trucking, energy and communications, and the federal government. For more information on TranSystems, please visit [www.transystems.com](http://www.transystems.com).

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The Wichita Area Builders Association (WABA) is a not-for-profit founded and dedicated to benefitting home builders and other persons and firms engaged in related businesses and professions in Sedgwick, Harvey, Butler, Sumner, Cowley, Harper, and Kingman Counties in the state of Kansas. Please visit [www.wabahome.com](http://www.wabahome.com) for more information.



The Wichita Downtown Development Corporation (WDDC) was launched in 2002 to revitalize and enhance the center City. WDDC is a private 501c3, not-for-profit corporation that works closely with the private sector and local government to stimulate new investment and interest in Downtown Wichita. For more information on the WDDC please visit [www.downtownwichita.org](http://www.downtownwichita.org).



**WICHITA METRO**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce is the dedicated champion for more than 1,700 business members and their 153,000 employees. The mission of the Chamber is to drive economic growth and community advancement in the Wichita region. Please visit [www.wichitachamber.org](http://www.wichitachamber.org) for more details.

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We hope it was informative and we look forward to seeing you next