

ANNUAL ISSUES SUMMIT

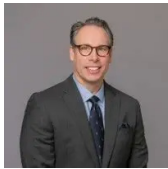
at Black & Veatch Conference Center at O.P. Chamber

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2026

1:00 pm

UNDERSTANDING & ADAPTING TO THE CHANGING NEEDS OF THE WORKFORCE

- **Tom Sullivan**, VP Talent Management & Workforce Analytics, Evergy
- **Tami Bradley**, Senior Strategic Advisor for Talent & Workforce Development, Greater Wichita Partnership
- **Jennifer Bonds-Raacke, PhD**, President & CEO, Kansas Board of Regents



TOM SULLIVAN | Tom Sullivan leads Human Resources, with responsibility for the company's talent acquisition, leadership development, organization development, human resource information systems, workforce analytics and payroll functions. He serves as a member of the Overland Park Chamber Talent Council.



TAMI BRADLEY | Tami Bradley is Senior Strategic Advisor for the Greater Wichita Partnership, the economic development organization that serves a 10-county region in south-central Kansas. She works on talent and workforce development by activating the Partnership's Talent Roadmap strategic plan.



JENNIFER BONDS-RAACKE, PHD | Dr. Bonds-Raacke began her current role on August 2 after having served as Vice President for Academic Affairs for the Kansas Board of Regents. She previously served as President of Saint Martin's University and earned her PhD in experimental psychology at Kansas State University.

2:00 pm

ADJOURN

Wichita State University's Public Policy and Management Center (PPMC) works with the public, private and nonprofit sectors to conduct independent, objective, and evidence-based research, evaluation, training, association management, and community development. PPMC enhances public service to best serve your community.



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

PUBLIC POLICY & MANAGEMENT CENTER

ANNUAL ISSUES SUMMIT

WWW.KANSASBR.ORG

AMERICA
250

Tuesday
September 29, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Black & Veatch
Conference Center

**Overland Park
Chamber of Commerce**

9001 W 110th St #150
Overland Park, KS 66210



ANNUAL ISSUES SUMMIT

at Black & Veatch Conference Center at O.P. Chamber

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2026

9:00 am

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

- **Bruce Witt**, Kansas Chief Advocacy Officer, Ascension Via Christi Health & KBR Board Chair



BRUCE WITT | Bruce became a founding member of the Kansas Business Roundtable in 2022 so diverse businesses could have open dialogue around data-driven, bipartisan public policy solutions that strengthen the Kansas economy.

9:15 am

HOW CAN KANSAS BETTER SUPPORT THE NEEDS OF THE U.S. MILITARY?

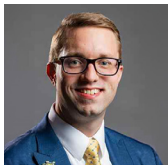
- **Perry Wiggins**, Executive Director, Governor's Military Council
- **Barry Albrecht**, Director of Aerospace and Defense, Kansas Department of Commerce
- **Zach Gearhart**, Chief of Staff & Executive Director of Government Relations, Wichita State University



PERRY WIGGINS | Perry's 33 years in the US Army (Lt. General Retired) has served him well the past 10 years as professional military advisor to the Governor. The mission of the Governor's Military Council is to optimize the military presence in Kansas, enhance the quality of life for military personnel and their families, and foster cooperation between military installations and communities.



BARRY ALBRECHT | Barry worked 30+ years in economic development and defense industry site selection. He led regional economic development organizations in TX, AZ, VA, and OK. He was awarded the Army's Outstanding Civilian Service Medal for his longstanding support of military installations, soldiers, and military families.



ZACH GEARHART | Zach joined WSU in 2014 and is a member of the Governor's Military Council. WSU's research for the Department of Defense has grown sharply in recent years. In July, Wichita became the top city in the country for aerospace and defense manufacturing.

KBR Pillars: Infrastructure, Innovation, Workforce, Healthcare, Civil Society

ANNUAL ISSUES SUMMIT

at Black & Veatch Conference Center at O.P. Chamber

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2026

10:30 am

DATA CENTERS: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED? WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- **Ralph Oropeza**, Greater KC Building & Construction Trades Council
- **Greg DuMars**, Deputy Director, Kansas Municipal Utilities



RALPH OROPEZA | Ralph Oropeza has been a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union #124 for 35 years. He serves as on the boards of the Greater Kansas City Labor Management Council and Missouri state AFL-CIO, and the Missouri Works Initiative apprentice ready program.



GREG DUMARS | KMU is the statewide association representing Kansas communities that provide electric, natural gas, water, wastewater, and telecommunications services. In July, KMU hosted a summit on data center development that drew 270+ cities and industry leaders.

11:45 am

WORKING LUNCH: K-12 SCHOOLS: HOW SHOULD FINANCING LOOK GOING FORWARD?

- **Senator Pat Pettey (D) District 6, Wyandotte County**
- **Representative Jason Goetz (R) District 119, Ford County**



SENATOR PAT PETTEY | Senator Pettey (2013-present) is ranking minority member of Ways & Means and serves on the Education Funding Task Force. She is a retired educator who first served in the House (1993-96).



REPRESENTATIVE JASON GOETZ | Representative Goetz (2023-present) is chair of the K-12 Education Budget Committee and serves on the Education Funding Task Force. He is self-employed.

12:45 pm

PRESENTATION OF CIVIC CHAMPION AWARDS

Kansas Voices, Kansas Solutions

kansasbr.org