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How KCKCC is Revolutionizing Education, Community Wellness and Prosperity in Kansas City

Kansas City stands on the brink of a transformative era. Under the leadership of Dr. Greg Mosier, President of Kansas City Kansas Community College (KCKCC), a trio of groundbreaking projects are redefining the region's educational and community landscape.

The Downtown Project

▣ This \$71 million initiative, in collaboration with Swope Health and Community America Credit Union represents the largest economic investment in downtown KCK east of I-635 in over three decades. The project, a four-story 92,000 square-foot **KCK Community Education, Health and Wellness Center**, is poised to become a student and community hub of opportunity and growth.

Located at the corner of 7th Street and State Avenue, this center will integrate multiple public resources under one roof, making it a unique model for community development. The first floor will include KCKCC's Welcome Center, a One-Stop Shop for student services and advising, community meeting rooms, and a beautiful professional art gallery. KCKCC will have a wide range of specialized classrooms and labs on the second and third floors of the partner building as well. Also on the first floor, CommunityAmerica Credit Union will open its first community access center in Kansas, offering financial literacy and financial health management services, as well as finance, investing and small business loan educational courses.

The top floor will house a new medical clinic operated by Swope Health, offering comprehensive medical services including medical, dental, vision, and behavioral healthcare. These collective services under one roof will be transformational for the downtown urban core, serving as a dynamic community hub that addresses holistic community needs.

Elements from the historic Seventh Street Methodist Episcopal Church will also be repurposed in the new building, including the pews, stained glass, foundation stones, and red bricks from the late 1800s.

Dr. Mosier pointed out the distinctiveness of this public/private venture: *"This facility will be one of a kind,"* he said. *"There's nothing like it in the nation where a community college has partnered with other private industry, to create a holistic solution for such a socio-economically depressed area. This facility is purposefully located right in the heart of the urban core."*

With demolition of the blighted buildings on this block making way for new beginnings, the project is on track for vertical construction in the spring. The goal is to open the center by the spring 2026 semester.

Centennial Hall Student Housing Project

The fall 2022 ribbon cutting for **Centennial Hall**, the college's new state-of-the-art, 260-bed residence hall, launched KCKCC's centennial celebration. This initiative aims to directly address a critical issue: housing insecurity.



Dr. Greg Mosier

President **Kansas City Kansas Community College**

Not only is Centennial Hall beautiful, it's also a game-changer in the college's landscape, providing more than just a place to sleep. With a secure roof over their heads, multiple community gathering spaces, and incredible amenities, students can focus on their studies and personal/professional development.

"Previously leasing buildings from a neighboring apartment complex, Centennial Hall was built to provide our students a better and more complete living & learning environment," said Dr. Greg Mosier.

The significance of Centennial Hall extends beyond its walls. By tackling housing insecurity, KCKCC removes a formidable barrier to education. This is especially impactful in an urban environment such as Kansas City, where housing security can be a lifeline for many aspiring students.

With this new facility, KCKCC further participates in the transformation of the community, paving the way for a more educated and equitable future.

New Leavenworth County Site

Lastly, the new **Leavenworth County Site** will represent KCKCC's proactive approach to educational leadership and community engagement.

As Wyandotte County continues to grow, with tremendous capital investment being made by business and industry on available land and building facilities, new growth will expand into Leavenworth County. KCKCC's new state-of-the-art educational site to be built in Leavenworth County is being designed to meet the burgeoning academic and technical education needs of businesses and families moving into the area.

Situated west of Wyandotte County, Leavenworth County is ideally located to serve not only the existing community but also the influx of residents and businesses expected in the coming years. Moreover, KCKCC's new site is poised to become a significant player in the region's economic and social fabric.

By providing educational resources and skill training aligned with the workforce demands of the future, this expansion will play a critical role in shaping the economic landscape of the area. It's a clear indication of KCKCC's dedication to fostering not only individual growth but also the overall success of the communities it serves.

Maximizing Returns for Students and Taxpayers

A closer look at KCKCC's investment analysis reveals a broader positive impact on student success and economic growth.

For 2022, KCKCC students who invested \$8 million in tuition, fees, supplies, and interest on student loans while forgoing \$16.4 million in wages, stand to gain significantly from their education. The cumulative present value of their increased earnings over their working lives is estimated at a staggering \$313 million.

This equates to a return of \$12.80 in higher future earnings for every dollar invested in their education, with an impressive average annual rate of return of 32.7%. From the taxpayer's perspective, the investment is equally fruitful: The \$65.7 million funding provided to KCKCC translates into \$84.1 million in added tax revenue due to students' higher lifetime earnings.

The ROI also includes increased property tax revenue and business output amounting to \$79.3 million, alongside a \$4.7 million reduction in demand for government-funded services in Kansas. In 2022 alone, Kansas' total investment in KCKCC of \$115.5 million in education returned \$764.9 million in new income, supporting 11,633 jobs in the region.

These results reflect the college's deep commitment to community empowerment and economic development. By investing in these projects, KCKCC is creating life-changing opportunities for a higher educated, socio-economically advanced, and vibrant Kansas City.

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TRANSFORMING
Institution by the
Positive Impact Rating

BUSINESS FOR A BETTER WORLD

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



Making an Impact with Colorado State University College of Business

Creating business for a better world

In 2019, Colorado State University College of Business embarked on a transformative journey, committing to a vision that would set it apart in the world of business education. The result? Business for a Better World – a mission deeply embedded in every facet of the institution, from research to curriculum, student engagement and community partnerships.

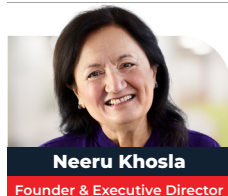
This commitment is not just a slogan; it's a strategic plan that has redefined the college's identity. Through a funding initiative called "Budgeting for Strategic Outcomes," the college has successfully fueled ideas with funding that aligns with its vision.

Central to their achievements is the Impact MBA program, a unique and purpose-driven full-time MBA experience attracting students passionate about using business to address pressing global challenges. "This program has produced graduates who are making meaningful contributions to the workforce and to our world," says College Dean Beth Walker. "They're tackling issues such as food insecurity, climate change and much more."

The college's commitment to innovation extends to its online programs, where the use of cutting-edge technology like "Mosaic" creates a dynamic and inclusive community-oriented learning environment. With a focus on inclusion, the college has diversified its student body and often has over 90 percent of its graduates secure job offers within 90 days of completing their studies.

Facing demographic challenges, the college proactively collaborates with companies and two-year institutions to create pathways for students to see the value of a Colorado State University education. This forward-thinking approach includes the development of Innovation Allie, a living and learning concept fostering entrepreneurship and innovation, set to be completed by fall 2027.

In an arena where business schools often share similar missions, the Colorado State University College of Business stands out as a remarkably forward-thinking faculty. With programs like Impact MBA and the renowned Online MBA program, if you're looking for a business education that transcends traditional boundaries, this is a great place to begin your journey.



CK-12's Flexi—A Personal Tutor for Every Student

Debunking one-size-fits-all curricula

Neeru Khosla, a molecular biologist and successful CEO, always credits her education for helping her achieve her dreams. Coming from a modest background, she has tirelessly worked for the cause of education so that every child gets the opportunity to participate in the global economy.

After heading the education committee of The Nueva School, where her four kids went, Neeru returned to Stanford University for her master's in education. With years of experience in the academic world and a passion for improving education for all, she co-founded CK-12 Foundation in 2008.

CK-12 provides high-quality math and science full curricula for K-12, a digital teacher assistant for every instructor and a digital tutor for every student. All powered by AI, all for free!

High-quality math and science full curricula for K-12

"The whole idea was to create an online portal where kids will want to learn and get feedback on how they're doing and what they need to do next," says Neeru, CEO of CK-12 Foundation.

CK-12's ground-up digital curriculum offers courses that house multimodal content, from simulations and modeling to formative assessments, flashcards and study guides. Written by CK-12's domain experts, the courses are highly engaging and promote active learning with immediate feedback.

A digital teacher assistant for every instructor

"We have to break out of standardized education and give our children skills to help humanity," Neeru says. "We need to go beyond the grade book, which only tells teachers what happened but not why it happened." To achieve this, CK-12's teacher assistant uses predictive AI to save instructors time and provide them with actionable insights.

A digital tutor for every student

CK-12's AI Tutor Flexi (Flexi.org), meanwhile, replicates almost every aspect of 1:1 human tutoring at scale—the form of equity Neeru always wanted to deliver. "Having already tutored over 1.3 million students in eight months, Flexi meets where the student is, personalizing instruction for each of them to motivate and prepare them for the success they deserve. CK-12 has served more than 265 million users worldwide and counting! Join me in creating a better tomorrow for every student!"

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Where the world is your classroom
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**"I DIDN'T FIT
LAUREL SPRINGS,
LAUREL SPRINGS
FIT ME."**

2024 Graduate



INDUSTRY INSIGHTS



Dr. Mikhail Brodsky
President
Lincoln University



At Lincoln University, our MBA program costs just \$20,000, offering an affordable but equally high-quality alternative to California's more well-known institutions. With our goal to empower future business managers, we teach them the practical skills they need to succeed. We teach business as science where money is the measure of success.



Denise LeDuc Froemming
President & CEO
CalCPA



Being involved in CalCPA means actively contributing to the evolving arena of accounting. The organization's commitment to education and forward-thinking initiatives, like the Community College to CPA program, ensure a relevant and flexible CPA pathway for everyone.



Cyndi Court
CEO
TGR Foundation



We empower young people from under-resourced communities to pursue their passions through education. Our TGR Learning Labs are safe and inspiring spaces where students can explore ideas, learn skills without fear of failure and plan their future. We're expanding into new communities and welcome partners to help more students maximize their potential.



Dr. Aileen Hawkins
President
Laurel Springs School



Our institution is known in Switzerland and the world for developing hands-on skills among students. They are not only academically trained but are really ready to work even before they graduate as they have already accumulated a lot of job experience while studying. This is something other institutions do not have.



Dr. Keith E. Whitfield
President
University of Nevada, Las Vegas



UNLV offers students unique environment for personal and academic growth

Nevada's leading research university proudly lists numerous accomplishments that are making a global impact.

Dr. Keith E. Whitfield, president of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), meant every word when he said the university is truly a special place.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has bestowed upon the university the highest national honors for both research and community engagement. This public urban research institution is also among the only two universities nationwide with several scientists involved in the NASA Mars project. UNLV provides 76 undergraduate majors and over 175 graduate degrees and certificate programs, featuring highly esteemed programs in law, engineering, hospitality and health care. Additionally, the university shows a sincere dedication to the future economic prosperity of its students.

"Our mission is to be a world-class research university that provides students with limitless opportunities while connecting with communities and the world," says Dr. Whitfield, a distinguished administrator and researcher who assumed the role of president at UNLV in August 2020. "UNLV mixes excitement with education, research and experiences. It's a wonderful combination of all of those things that makes our university a unique place."

Situated in the vibrant and entrepreneurial city of Las Vegas, UNLV ranks highly for campus ethnic diversity, as reported by U.S. News & World Report. Nearly half of its over 31,000 students are first-generation college graduates, transforming their economic prospects.

UNLV hosts Nevada's sole dental and law schools and has been recognized by the White House as a model academic institution for its cybersecurity curriculum. Demonstrating its dedication to addressing community challenges, UNLV focuses on educating more teachers and nurses. Additionally, its Department of Brain Health houses the world's only observatory for Alzheimer's drug development.

"What makes UNLV really magical is our incredible faculty that truly cares about our students," Dr. Whitfield says. "That's a piece that we've been doing really well on top of being a leading research university, and it gives our students opportunities they wouldn't get elsewhere."



Dr. H. Neil Matkin
District President
Collin College



Collin College provides essential skills required by businesses

Relevance, collaborations and a sense of immediacy are fueling the achievements of graduates in sought-after fields.

Located on 32 acres in Allen, Texas, the Collin College Technical Campus exemplifies the institution's commitment to educating students in critical fields. Offering programs in construction management, plumbing, electrical work, HVAC, automotive and welding, the campus also houses a Texas A&M Engineering Academy and the Collin College Academic Alliance. It is the fastest-growing among Collin College's 10 campuses, the iCollin Virtual Campus and centers, all dedicated to delivering practical education to nearly 60,000 students annually.

"It's an exciting time to be here," said Dr. H. Neil Matkin, Collin College district president. "If I could sum up the keys to our success in one word, it's 'relevance.' It's listening to the community and understanding their needs. Our students come out of programs with the necessary skills to fill the employment needs of the businesses and industries around us."

Propelled by a sense of immediacy, agility and deep partnership with businesses and industries, Collin College offers over 200 degrees and certificates. It also grants bachelor's degrees in four academic fields: nursing, construction management, cybersecurity and clinical operations management, with some completely accessible online. These programs were developed in consultation with advisory committees composed of business leaders dedicated to cultivating essential workforce pipelines. Awaiting approval of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, Collin College plans to launch its fifth bachelor's degree program, a Bachelor of Applied Science in Software Development, to further meet the requirements of enterprises and the community.

As it approaches its 40th anniversary milestone in 2025, Collin College anticipates expanding upon its achievements in the coming year. It initiated the Texas A&M Engineering Academy at Collin College, enabling students to pursue engineering degrees concurrently at Texas A&M University and Collin College, resulting in substantial cost savings. Additionally, a fresh Academic Alliance collaboration with Texas State University and The University of Texas at Dallas will introduce several new bachelor's and master's degree programs to the community, further enhancing affordability and accessibility.

"We have a singular focus, and it's educating students," Dr. Matkin says. "We're trying to help students develop critical skills and expose them to things that will help them make their own decisions. Through our outstanding faculty and university partnerships, we have developed a wonderful environment focused on student success."

INDUSTRY INSIGHTS



Kristina Scala
Founder and CEO
Aspen Academy



We hope to keep our middle school and elementary school students at our Greenwood Village Private School in a space of curiosity, fascination and wonder so they can identify problems and reach deep inside themselves and out to others to figure out appropriate solutions and create businesses. Our LIFE™ Program develops extraordinary leaders who know how to take good care of themselves while having the inclination and capacity to help others.



Stephen W. McCannless
Superintendent
Cleveland ISD



Our out-of-the-box approach is solving the teacher shortage puzzle. We're hiring associate and bachelor's degree holders as part of our IAT (Interim Assignment Teacher) Program. We use eGlass, a lightboard that allows a certified teacher in one class to interact with other classrooms guided by IATs. With our financial support, our IATs eventually become certified teachers.



Dr. Steve Olmos
Superintendent and Executive Director
Visions in Education



Visions In Education has been impacting the lives of students across Northern California for nearly three decades. It offers personalized and free learning programs that students can take in the comfort and safety of their own homes. Visions complements its curricula with mental health programs, clubs and proprietary technologies to maximize the students' potential. Learn more about Visions at viedu.org.



Christa Augsburgberger
Director
SHL Schweizerische Hotelfachschule Luzern



Our institution is known in Switzerland and the world for developing hands-on skills among students. They are not only academically trained but are really ready to work even before they graduate as they have already accumulated a lot of job experience while studying. This is something other institutions do not have.

INDUSTRY INSIGHTS



Nick Davies
Head of College
Brighton College
(Singapore)



While the academic success of our pupils will always be our most important educational goal, we're also looking for opportunities to build their confidence, develop their curiosity about the world around them and discover the power of kindness. Our vision is to build a superb all-through school where children will feel supported and cared for.



Su Fen Cheong
Founder
Preschool Market



Our primary focus is to empower educators and parents with the tools and knowledge needed to create engaging, inclusive and effective learning environments for young children. We aim to bridge the gap between learning needs and available resources to foster a community of support and collaboration in early childhood education.



Tammy Murphy
Head of School
XCL World Academy



We're shaping the next now. Through the guidance of our amazing and experienced teachers, we feel we've developed a truly world-class, holistic curriculum. We try to be a beacon of light for our students as we leverage innovation, continually adapting to all the changing realities around us to make this world a better place.



Dr. Chad Weidner
Teaches Film, Media and Rhetoric
University College Roosevelt



We are small-scale, intensive and residential. We allow our students to build their own program from more than 200 courses in science and engineering, social science, and arts and humanities. We're continuously developing truly interesting and innovative ways to offer a curriculum that speaks to sustainability in a broad sense.



Daniels College of Business raises ethical leaders using hands-on education

The college is changing the world by immersing students in its experiential learning curricula.



Daniels College of Business

Named after Bill Daniels, Daniels College of Business at the University of Denver aspires to carry on the cable television innovator's legacy of creating ethical business leaders. The college has accomplished this goal with flying colors using its distinct experiential learning model.

"Our vision at Daniels is to nurture business pioneers for the public good," says Lowell Valencia-Miller, assistant dean of MBA Programs at the University of Denver's Daniels College of Business. "We raise the bar in creating ethical leaders using our learning-by-doing mantra."

The college stands out with the adoption of a challenge-driven model, which goes beyond the concepts and theories learned in the classroom to their actual implementation in the boardroom. In Daniels' full-time program, students complete four challenges focused on entrepreneurship, social good, corporations and international business, which is conducted in the cohort's country of choice. Every challenge gives students the opportunity to help businesses solve real challenges that they are encountering. Business professionals choose among Daniels' four MBA offerings—full-time, part-time, executive and online—depending on where they are in the phase of their respective careers.

"If you are looking for an opportunity to learn, apply, and grow with our industry-connected faculty as your guide, then the Daniels College of Business is the place for you," Valencia-Miller says. "Many come here to learn, and a lot of them stay to be hired by the large companies in Denver's growing and vibrant entrepreneurial community."



Merced Union High School District revolutionizes public education

Boldly resolving issues to create more relevant and impactful student experiences



Alan Peterson
Superintendent
Merced Union High SD

Merced Union High School District (MUHSD) Superintendent Alan Peterson meets every year with selected high school students from the district's different campuses. He wants to know what changes they would like to see if their siblings were to go to MUHSD. The school's Board of Trustees then deliberates these suggestions before final implementation.

"We're not afraid to try new things and push the edges of public education, which needs to change in a lot of areas," says Peterson, who brought in structural changes to MUHSD when he became its superintendent in 2015. "Each of our students has distinct dreams and circumstances, and we have to react to deal with those. We've changed what we could to make education more relevant."

MUHSD boasts of its commitment to creating relevant education. It has pioneered the adoption of CTE (Career Technical Education), which gives students academic and industry skills needed by modern businesses. The school is also among the first signatories to the UC (University of California) Merced Automatic Admission Program, which prioritizes MUHSD students who would like to enroll at UC Merced. To prepare students for these initiatives, MUHSD has lengthened its class periods to seven per day from six.

"Our society changes every year, but schools are famous for being decades behind society; that just can't happen anymore," Peterson says. "High school is foundational, and it is where we hold our kids' hands and walk them through. We've come in with new requirements, goals, and outcomes to help our students overcome the barriers and challenges they face in life."

MERCED UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Redefining Readiness:
WHERE EVERY GRADUATE
is Equipped for Tomorrow's Success

About MUHSD!

At Merced Union High School District (MUHSD), we prepare students for more than graduation; we guide them towards success beyond the classroom. Our goal is for every student to leave with a diploma, CTE certification, and college credits. Redefining readiness for the real world in Merced County, MUHSD fosters excellence among educators and staff, supporting students daily in pursuing their postsecondary aspirations.

For more information Scan Here!

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Springs Charter Schools takes unconventional route to enjoyable and adaptable learning

A strong collaboration with parents, communities and colleges provides students with practical education tailored to their individual needs.

According to a report by CREDO (Center for Research on Education Outcomes) at Stanford University, charter schools are showing superior performance compared to traditional public schools, particularly in reading and math. This success can be credited to the dedication and innovative approach of institutions like Springs Charter Schools.

Founded in 2000 as a publicly funded, tuition-free school with just 17 students, Springs Charter Schools has expanded significantly. Today, it educates over 12,000 learners in seven schools across 21 locations. Parents are drawn to Springs Charter Schools for its hybrid programs including homeschooling, its authentic student relationships and numerous opportunities for real-world experiences—all reflecting an unconventional approach to education.

“Nurturing a lifelong learner requires two things,” says Springs Charter Schools superintendent Dr. Kathleen Hermsmeyer, who holds a PhD in curriculum and instruction from the University of the Pacific. “Firstly, the student has to be excited and curious about the world, an attitude typical schools sometimes don’t encourage. Secondly, students need to learn how to learn and not just wait for the teacher to teach something to them. We want the students to really own and have agency over their own learning.”



Dr. Kathleen Hermsmeyer

Superintendent
Springs Charter Schools

A Homeschooling Expert

Pioneering the rise in homeschooling, Springs Charter Schools provides a fully virtual Montessori Home-school Program and hybrid options where students attend selected weekdays. This approach makes parents integral partners in guiding their children’s learning at home. The programs incorporate traditional school activities like field trips, parent/student events, science fairs, traditional graduation ceremonies and prom nights.

“The five-day-a-week factory model of education is absolutely not the only way. The more flexible school environment works best for families and children, and people need to open their eyes to alternate possibilities of education,” Dr. Hermsmeyer says. “This is the right model and the way of the future; we believe we are the model of the future.”

Springs Charter Schools’ leadership in homeschooling reflects its proficiency in online learning platforms. Amid the pandemic, the school was honored with the “Above and Beyond” accolade from the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools for providing the world access to its online courses and live teaching resources, which were already established prior to the health crisis.

Nurturing Genuine Relationships

With a more intimate student body compared to larger schools, Springs Charter Schools fosters a close-knit community where nearly everyone knows each child by name and understands their individual circumstances. The school also sees to it that students remain together for at least a couple of years, promoting genuine bonds among peers.

“Ours is a personalized model giving every student what they need in many facets,” says Vivian Price, assistant superintendent of Springs Charter Schools. “We know their specific academic requirements but also their social and emotional needs. We really know the whole child.”

The CREDO at Stanford University report also highlighted Springs Charter Schools’ achievement in enhancing the academic outcomes of special student groups. This includes narrowing the achievement gap typically seen among English language learners, students with disabilities and those from minority backgrounds. This accomplishment underscores the school’s deep understanding and responsiveness to the unique circumstances and needs of each student.



Vivian Price

Assistant Superintendent
Springs Charter Schools

Internships and Early College Experience

“Our mission is to make the community part of the classroom,” Price says. “For us, learning happens beyond the school building walls, and so, we have students who are not only completing internships and work experiences but also enrolling in college.”

Springs Charter Schools mandates that students complete a college course before graduating. This initiative aims to prepare them for the next phase of their academic journey and foster self-confidence.

After establishing its 21st center in Smyrna, Tennessee, Springs Charter Schools plans to expand further. The school is enhancing its focus on real-world education, including a campus at an airport where students gain hands-on experience in aviation. Additionally, the institution is preparing to launch a farm school in Georgia, offering a practical learning environment.

Building a Stronger Base

Springs Charter Schools aims to improve teacher status to drive school advancement. In pursuit of this goal, it has established a teacher program in partnership with the University of Massachusetts Global, a reputable online university with accreditation and consistent rankings.

“We want teachers to love their work, and so, we have committed our time and efforts to helping develop people who have a heart for teaching,” says Price, who has broad experience in charter, traditional, and private schools.

“At Springs, we are focused on developing teachers who embrace our mission and vision and who believe in every student’s ability to achieve at high levels,” Dr. Hermsmeyer says. “This is the cornerstone of personalized learning. We believe that our model, which breaks from the traditional school model, will revolutionize education.”