

## ABOUT NETWORK KANSAS

NetWork Kansas is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to developing an entrepreneurial ecosystem in Kansas that connects aspiring, emerging and established businesses to a deep network of business-building resource organizations in communities across the state. NetWork Kansas provides small businesses and entrepreneurs with free, easy access to the resources they need to start and grow successful businesses. For more information, contact us.

## OUR VISION

To be recognized nationally as a leading organization devoted to the establishment and growth of entrepreneurship and small business as a priority for economic and community development.

## OUR MISSION

To promote an entrepreneurial environment throughout the state of Kansas by establishing a central portal that connects entrepreneurs and small business owners with the right resources—expertise, education and economic resources—when they are needed most.

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## NETWORK KANSAS

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## FOUNDING PARTNERS



# CREATING AN ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM

ANNUAL REPORT FY2017

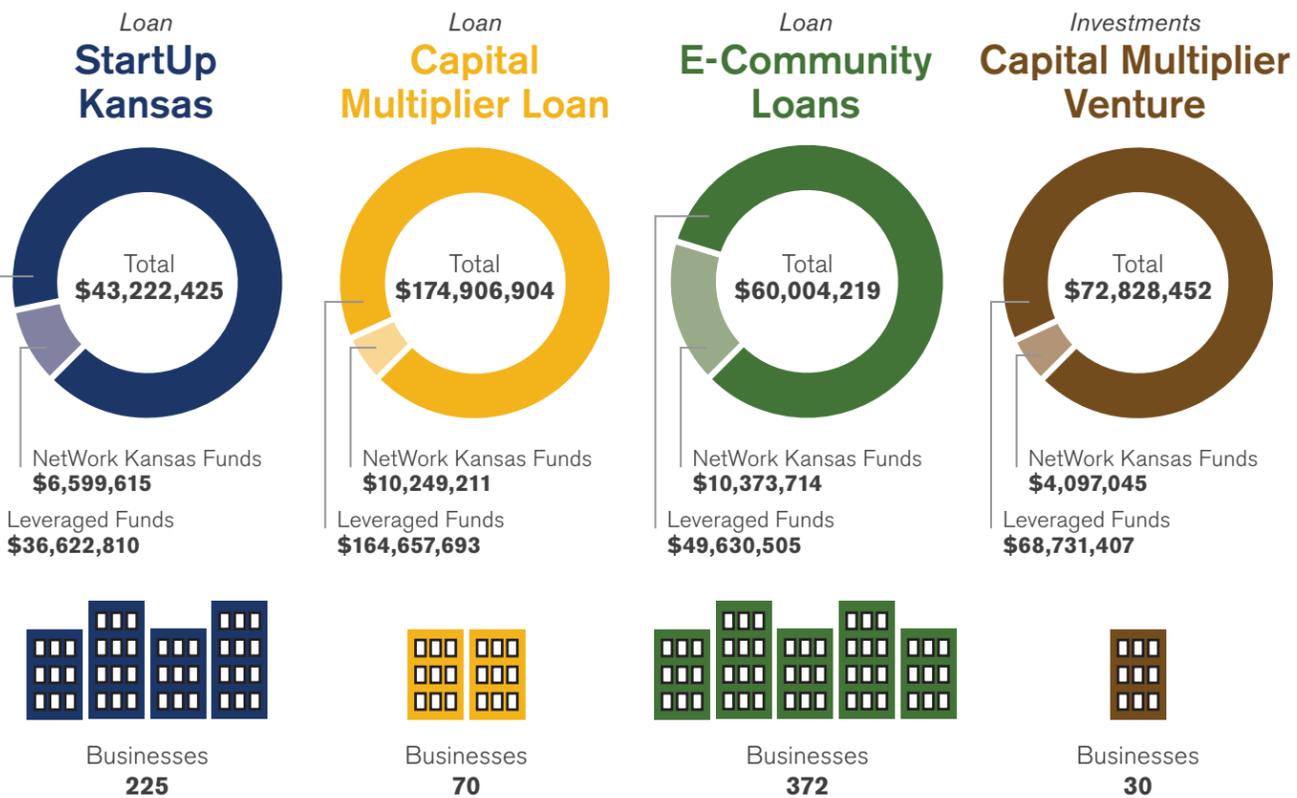


# RESOURCE PARTNERS

The Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship DBA NetWork Kansas, is creating an entrepreneurial culture throughout the state and one of the most robust, collaborative networks in the country. With more than 500 partners, this network focuses on high connectivity, not just connections, to create a living and breathing ecosystem. The network connects entrepreneurs and small business owners to Education, Expertise, and Economic resources (the 3E's) in their community and across the state.

## BY THE NUMBERS

Programs are designed to support private capital – not replace it – through matching funds that provide much-needed capital to startups and existing businesses that are expanding. Over the past eight years, these programs have leveraged more than \$315 million, supporting more than 690 businesses.



“Thanks to the deep relationships with our partners and E-Communities, significant opportunities continue to emerge that will accelerate the infusion of knowledge, talent, and capital in a manner that is unique to Kansas. The result is a more robust entrepreneurial ecosystem that helps Kansas businesses prosper.”

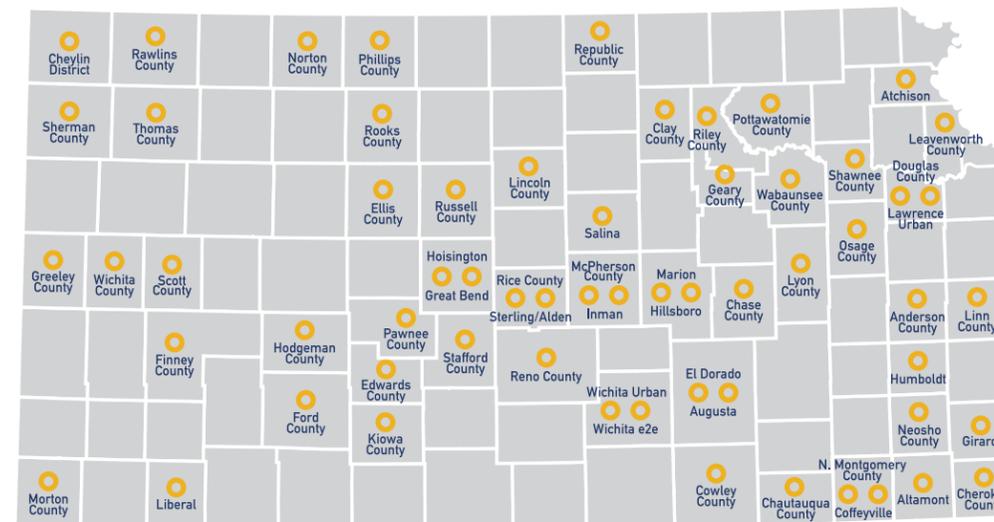
Steve Radley

## REFERRAL CENTER AND PARTNER DRIVEN

- The Referral Center has provided assistance to more than 23,000 entrepreneurs since inception
- Served as a partner in the Kauffman Foundation's inaugural ESHIP Summit in Kansas City
- Launched an E-Mentoring program to assist high impact entrepreneurs with Wichita Technology Corporation, Advanced Manufacturing Institute at Kansas State, and Kansas Global, Inc.

# E-COMMUNITY NOTABLES

690+ LOCAL TEAM MEMBERS REPRESENTING 61 E-COMMUNITIES



“As the E-Community leadership teams engage on a more strategic level with our E-Community coaches, it's exciting to see the growth in their entrepreneurial ecosystems. Many of our communities are shifting from simply having a locally-controlled loan fund to having a true partnership in which programs, initiatives, and experiments are being implemented. The end result is hands-on engagement with the local entrepreneurs and small business owners.”

Erik Pedersen

## 4TH ANNUAL YEC SERIES

The 4th annual YEC Series featured 454 high school and middle school students from 29 schools across Kansas and awarded young entrepreneurs with more than \$11,000 in prize money. There were 21 local-level entrepreneurship competitions that led to the State Championship. The State winner represented the Thomas County E-Community. The State competition also debuted a proprietary NetWork Kansas YEC competition scoring system.

## OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Implemented Wichita State's Center for Entrepreneurship's Growing Rural Business Program in Scott County and McPherson, successfully launching the updated eight-session curriculum
- Offered the Ice House Entrepreneurship Program in seven counties, sponsored a resource partner bootcamp, hosted the first Ice House facilitator training event in Kansas, and developed the statewide approved facilitator network
- Sent 49 businesses from nine E-Communities to Destination BootCamp, helped five E-Communities participate in the Community Reinvention Program, and expanded Destination BootCamp to include the Graduate program
- Piloted an E-Leadership workshop in Rooks County, offering in-person leadership training facilitated by Don Macke of the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship
- Piloted LaunchPrep, an early-stage business mentorship program in partnership with the Wichita State University Center for Entrepreneurship, and the e2e Accelerator
- Provided E-Accelerator training in five counties
- Added two new E-Communities: Morton County and Neosho County

“NetWork Kansas is one of the nation's most comprehensive statewide entrepreneurial ecosystems.”

Don Macke  
Center for Rural Entrepreneurship