



GREAT PLAINS TECHNOLOGY & MANUFACTURING CLUSTER

DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Member Spotlight

Titan Trailers Waterville, KS



Our member spotlight this month is Titan Trailers from Waterville, Kansas. The company manufactures a full line of trailers, including livestock, flatbed, utility, dump and cargo trailers to fulfill their customers needs.

As a family owned company with a large dealership base across the United States and Canada, Titan Trailer is know for developing trailers that are built to last and "Titan Tough". Their trailers can withstand the wear and tear of livestock and heavy materials through everyday use. The company's technical knowledge and manufacturing flexibility allow them to build a line of standard trailers as well as develop custom trailers to fit their customer's needs.



Titan met a growing need in the marketplace for smaller, lightweight trailers to transport side-by-side recreational vehicles by developing a trailer that could be quickly constructed in between larger production runs to fill any downtime in production. In an effort to document the design and structural integrity of the new trailer, the company applied for an EDA CARES Act Innovation Stimulus Program grant from the K-State Technology Development Institute (TDI) for engineering



validation of the design. TDI was able to provide Titan with a complete CAD model, conducted FEA analysis to verify loading capacity and suggested design improvements to further enhance the strength of the design.

Titan Trailers continues to manufacture trailers which exceed customer expectations and are always seeking to develop innovative products to suit their customer's needs. If you are interested in learning more about the company, please visit their website at www.titantrailer.com.

Did you Know...

...the global industrial automation market is projected to be worth over **\$200 billion in 2022?! (Robotics & Automation News)**. The manufacturing sector has greatly benefitted from this advancement due to increased production capacities and reduced costs by automating their processes.



Whether you are ready to add automation processes to your facility or not sure where to start, the Great Plains TMC team has the resources and skills to help you at any stage. Connect with us to get started!

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KANSASWORKS Employer Survey

The KANSASWORKS State Workforce Board is inviting Kansas businesses to participate in an Employer Survey. The goal of this survey is to help the Board understand and gain insights on the needs of businesses so that they can adapt their services to meet those needs.



The mission of KANSASWORKS is to deliver a qualified workforce through training and matching services available to Kansans by supporting businesses, growing rural economies, and improving prosperity of all. Please take 15 minutes to complete the survey so that KANSASWORKS knows how to better assist your business!

https://wichtastate.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b10i6e1NTIV8siW

Upcoming Partner Events

- 1/20 - KARTA Conference - Junction City
- 1/21 - Metal Fabricating and Finishing Webinar - KSU PPI
- Mid-February - Next Ag Equipment Mfg event

New NetWork Kansas Certified Board Program



NetWork Kansas has recently announced a new Board Certified Program for their E-Communities called **Entrepreneur Business Basics (EBB)**. These Board Certified Programs are available to E-Communities to help generate entrepreneurial activity in their community/county. There are a total of 66 E-Communities in Kansas.

EBB is based out of Kansas City, Kansas and was established to help train and equip underestimated entrepreneurs with the business training and skills they need to have a successful business. It is a 12 week training course that has workshops, training sessions, and resources that are facilitated by successful entrepreneurs, executives and organizations focused on entrepreneurship.

As this program is available for the E-Communities in Kansas, there will be funding opportunities towards the participation fees in the class. If you are interested in the course, please reach out to your **E-Community in your area**. EBB is also seeking facilitators to teach the courses in the E-Communities. If you would like to become a facilitator or learn more about the class, contact NetWork Kansas at info@networkkansas.com.

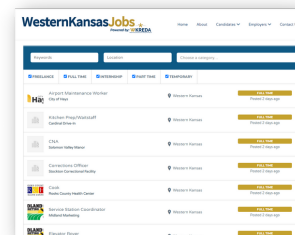


Western Kansas Job Postings



The Western Kansas Rural Economic Development Alliance (WKREDA) has a workforce initiative to recruit and bring people back to western Kansas communities through their **Western Kansas Jobs** page. This organization is composed of economic development directors, certified development companies, SBDCs, state departments and resources partners that pool their resources together for the 55 western Kansas counties.

The Western Kansas Jobs website provides a place to locate and explore job opportunities across western Kansas. It also allows businesses in this area to post job openings at no charge. In order to make posts on the page, you must request user access to begin. From there, you will be able to access your dashboard and make changes to all of your posts.



In addition to this webpage, there are other western Kansas job posting sites that are beneficial for finding and posting open jobs, such as the Northwest Kansas Economic Innovation Center's **Connect NWK** program and **KANSASWORKS**. Sign up or login to the **GPTMC membership** to view all workforce resources in our region.

Funds Available Towards Technical Projects

The K-State Technology Development Institute (TDI) was awarded EDA and KS Dept. of Commerce funding to provide support to innovators and manufacturers across the region impacted by COVID-19. TDI created an Innovation Stimulus Program to provide engineering services to projects that will have a positive impact within the region.

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Technology
Development Institute

There are funds still available for entrepreneurs and manufacturers to utilize to move their projects, products or ideas forward in the marketplace! The max amount of service awarded to any one project will be capped at \$20,000. Examples of projects that would fit into the Innovation Stimulus Program include:

- **Design, engineering or prototyping of new concepts**
- **Creation of SolidWorks models**
- **Creation of production drawings or other manufacturing documentation**
- **Conducting preliminary customer/market and/or intellectual property research**
- **Creation of websites or marketing materials**
- **Other areas of technical support**

If you are interested in utilizing these funds towards your technical projects, please contact us at info@greatplainstmc.org.

The 5 W's of Reshoring

You've probably heard the word "reshoring" more times that you can count. It is a term that has been commonly used among manufacturers in several industries that are trying to figure out how to resolve some of their supply chain issues...even before the COVID-19 pandemic! If you are not familiar, or are new to the reshoring term, this blog will help describe it to you. It will go over the 5 W's of reshoring:

- **What is reshoring?**
- **Where are supply chains going?**
- **Why do companies reshore?**
- **Who is reshoring?**
- **When will most companies reshore?**

[Login](#), or [become](#) a Great Plains TMC member to read the full blog and all of our other industry related blogs!



W2B YouTube Series

Whiteboard 2 Boardroom (W2B) has recently started a YouTube series that showcases resource partners and new technologies available for licensing from partner institutions. W2B is part of the UMKC Innovation Center and provides access to innovations available for licensing from universities, hospitals and corporations in the bi-state region. Some of their services include the identification of CEO talent and mentors for new companies, access to innovations, establishment of strategic partnerships and the identification of sources of capital.



As a resource partner with W2B, the Great Plains TMC will be participating in a YouTube video to share information about our program and the resources that we have available for entrepreneurs and companies. Give W2B a follow on [YouTube](#) so that you can watch the video when it's published!

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!