



GREAT PLAINS

TECHNOLOGY & MANUFACTURING CLUSTER

NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Member's Social Corner - What's Happening?

NEW! We are sharing news and social media updates from our community members! Click on each picture to go to the main social media posts.

Burger & Brown Engineering



Burger & Brown is actively connecting with future manufacturing employees in their region. The company's president, Corey Brown, visited students at the State Technical College of Missouri to share about the opportunities, operations, and company culture at their facility.

Cashco, Inc



Cashco, Inc. of Ellsworth, KS was the winner of the Statewide Manufacturing/Distribution Award from Kansas Department of Commerce's *To the Stars Kansas Business Awards!* The company is a leading manufacturer of industrial control products in a 120,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility.

Hess Services



Hess Services hosted students from the Hays High School JAG Program to tour the facility and learn about the operations. The tour allowed the students to understand what skills are needed to operate the machines and what types of careers are available.

MetalQuest Unlimited



MetalQuest continues to "think outside of the box" and is excited to take the next step in their automation journey. The company recently became an authorized Fanuc Robotics Systems Integrator - Internal Systems Group.

Did You Know...

...that if your company website isn't mobile friendly, 50% of users will use it less...even if they like your business?! (**Source: Leadpages**). A mistake like this can cost you valuable business from even your top customers or partners.



The GPTMC Website Development Program can help you avoid this. Our goal is to help businesses be fully visible online from any device. If you're ready to update your out-of-date website or start from scratch, reach out to us at info@greatplainstmc.org.

Give Us A Follow!



Kansas SBDC Seeking Assistant State Director

The Kansas SBDC has announced a new position to serve the Western Kansas region as the Assistant State Director. This position will manage the newly formed region composed of 51 counties and will work closely with the state director in an effort to increase client activity, support small businesses, and more in the state.

For more information about the position, please visit https://fhsu.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/CAREERS/job/Assistant-State-Director--Kansas-Small-Business-Development-Center_R-03604

In addition, the Washburn University Kansas SBDC is seeking a Business Consultant for the Manhattan Outreach Center. More information can be found at <https://careers.washburn.edu/jobs/consultant-small-business-development-center-for-manhattan-washburn-university-kansas-united-states>

Upcoming Partner Events

- 12/6: State Tax Webinar
- 12/14: Know Your Numbers and Make More Money

View and sign up for more events at <https://greatplainsmnc.org/events>

KDA Workforce Survey Results



The Kansas Department of Agriculture's (KDA) 2022 Workforce Survey results are ready to view. These survey results will help KDA better understand the workforce needs of agribusinesses and industries in the state.

The survey was sent to 25,000 businesses, and 1,192 of them chose to participate. The participating businesses employ 27,466 individuals in Kansas, and 9,244 outside of Kansas. Overall, the survey results attempt to answer two key questions:

- What is the likely source of future employment demand from the agriculture industry for workers?
- What programs and strategies can be developed within KDA to respond to the needs of the agriculture sector so that the knowledge and skills acquired by potential employees match future employment opportunities?

In addition to the action items and new ideas discussed at the Kansas Ag Growth Summit this summer, the survey results will continue to guide KDA in their mission to serve farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses in Kansas. Through partnerships with employers, state agencies, educational institutions, and other agricultural entities, new programs and training opportunities can greatly benefit all Kansas agribusinesses.

For more information and to view the survey results, please visit <https://agriculture.ks.gov/workforce>.

To the Stars Business Awards Announced

The Kansas Department of Commerce (KDC) hosted their *To the Stars: Kansas Business Awards* event on October 20th in Topeka, Kansas. This awards banquet honors and recognizes businesses in various industries throughout the state for their hard work and the valuable contributions they make to the Kansas economy and well-being of their communities.



Businesses and individuals were nominated in 10 different categories, such as Agribusiness, Business Innovation, Manufacturing/Distribution, Apprenticeship Champions, and more. Each category had one overall statewide winner as well as regional winners. A total of 230+ businesses were nominated. Congrats to several GPTMC members/partners who received regional and merit awards!

- Anderson Knight Architects - Merit
- Cashco, Inc - Statewide Manufacturing/Distribution winner
- Curtis Machine - SW Region Manufacturing/Distribution winner
- DragonLine - Merit
- Good Karma Micro Dairy - NC Region Agribusiness winner
- New Boston Creative dba HirePaths - Merit
- Ronawk - Merit

View the rest of the winners at <https://www.kansascommerce.gov/kansasbusinessawards/#h-merit-award-winners>

Changes to the Monthly Newsletter

Did you notice the newsletter looked a little different this month with no member spotlight? Starting this month, the GPTMC will be making changes to its monthly newsletter layout. This change will allow the GPTMC team to continue building its manufacturing community by highlighting everything that happens with members and throughout the region. Don't worry, you'll still receive a newsletter each month!



The newsletter will have a different feature on the first page each month and will be rotated on a quarterly basis. The newsletters each quarter will look like the following:

- Month 1: Member Spotlight
- Month 2: Member's Social Corner
- Month 3: Where was the GPTMC team?

If you have any suggestions on specific topics you would like to see in the newsletters or questions, please let us know at info@greatplainstmc.org.

6 Reasons Why You Should Join a Manufacturing Community...Especially the GPTMC - Blog

Wouldn't it be great to have a place where you can grow your company, build your network, and connect with fellow manufacturers throughout the region? One of the best ways to accomplish this is to be involved with a manufacturing community, such as the GPTMC!

What does a manufacturing community look like? The definition of a community is "a group of people who share the same interests, pursuits, or occupations" or "a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests and goals" (OED). With this definition, a manufacturing community is a place for manufacturers to ask questions, find solutions, connect with needed resources, and network with others with the same goals in the region. The GPTMC has built an environment that accomplishes this and makes it easier for companies to find the resources they need to be successful. It is a welcoming community that is open to everyone involved in manufacturing, business, entrepreneurship, and more in the region



Curious about joining? Have someone in mind that should be a part of the community? Check out this [blog](#) to see the reasons why you should join a manufacturing community...especially the GPTMC! Please share with your co-workers and networking channels!

Welcome New Members!

We would like to welcome 17 new members that joined the GPTMC manufacturing community in October! If you're new here, check out the [events](#), [programs](#), and previous [newsletters](#).



Want to view all of our new members? View the [community directory](#) to search for members by company name, point of contact, products/services, and location.

Stay Tuned for GPTMC Feedback Request

As we near the end of 2022, the GPTMC will soon be reaching out to members to ask a few questions regarding their experience with the community and how it has impacted their business within the past year.

The GPTMC will be reaching out via email in early January 2023. Please be on the lookout for the request! If you have questions, please contact us at info@greatplainstmc.org.