

2026 KANSAS BUSINESS HALL OF FAME STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

For Kansas Students Grades 9–12

\$2500 In Cash Prizes

THEME:
Kansas Entrepreneurs

ENTRIES DUE:
Friday, February 27, 2026

Wal-Mart, Chrysler, Pizza Hut, Garmin, Dillon's, Russell Stover, and Cessna. Each of these companies has direct ties to a member of the Kansas Business Hall of Fame.

One of the purposes of the Kansas Business Hall of Fame is to provide role models to inspire dreams and guide careers. Which member of the Kansas Business Hall of Fame do you find the most inspiring?

CONTEST RULES

PARTICIPANTS

Contest is open to students in Grades 9-12 in the state of Kansas. Home school entries are accepted.

ENTRIES

Original essays should be based on research of one Kansas Business Hall of Fame inductee. Information about Historical and Contemporary inductees can be found at <http://www.ksbhf.org>. Students are encouraged to use their own personal thoughts, other research, and views that best pertain to the theme and themselves. Students who have previously entered this contest must choose a different inductee. Entries are judged by a panel of business professionals. Entering the contest gives us permission to post your essay on our website, and for use in social media and other publicity.

FORMAT

All essays must be typed with a limit of 500-1000 words. All entries MUST include a cover sheet consisting of the student's name/email, teacher's name/email, school, and grade or the entry will not be judged.

PRIZES

Cash prizes totaling \$2500 will be awarded to the top five essays overall (\$500 each). Prize money is graciously donated by the Kansas Chamber of Commerce.

DEADLINE

All entries must be received by February 27, 2026. Mail or deliver to: Beth Ginter, Emporia State University, 1 Kellogg Circle, Campus Box 4039, Emporia, KS 66801. Or you may email them to: eginter@emporia.edu.

INFORMATION

For more information, email the Kansas Business Hall of Fame at eginter@emporia.edu.



Marci Penner
2025 Contemporary Inductee



Emerson Carey, Sr.
2025 Historical Inductee



2025 Essay Contest Winners



2025 Essay Contest Winners

Sponsored by the
Kansas Business Hall
of Fame

1 Kellogg Circle
Cremer Hall
Emporia, KS 66801
<http://www.ksbhf.org>

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