

**Visioneering Unified Legislative Alliance
Kansas Career Pipeline Legislative Proposal 2008-2009**

Proposal: It is requested that the Visioneering Wichita Legislative Alliance include in its list of priorities for the 2009 legislative session the Kansas Career Pipeline's (KCP) request of \$425,000. The KCP received legislative funding of \$420,000 in 2007 and is requesting a similar amount in 2009.

Background: The Kansas Career Pipeline (KCP), based in Wichita, is a non-profit organization created as a solution to the current and impending workforce crisis in Kansas. As an economic development tool, the Kansas Career Pipeline connects the current and future Kansas workforce to the Kansas workplace by delivering career assessment and development services to students, adults, and businesses throughout South Central and other parts of Kansas. The KCP was incorporated in 2006, began providing services in September 2007, and has assisted over 57,000 students and adults find their optimal career path, then connect with the right education and training, and jobs. Six to seven hundred students and adults enter the pipeline every day. The KCP is provided free to all Kansas students and adults. Businesses are now able to connect with these students and adults, creating a pipeline of skilled and better prepared employment prospects. Local businesses supporting the pipeline include Spirit, LSI, Eby Construction, UCI, Fahnestock, Aeroflex, PBA Architects, and the Kansas Air National Guard. The KCP has placement in 75% of the state's secondary schools, 90% of the state's community colleges, and will be serving all the state's technical schools by 2009.

History and advancement of the legislative item: The KCP sought and received \$420,000 from the Kansas legislature in 2007, enabling us to provide this career development and training tool free to every student and adult in our region and state. Our request was sponsored by Senator Jean Schodorf and supported by other area legislators including Senators Carolyn McGinn and Donald Betts, as well as Representatives Joe McLeland, Tom Sawyer, Nile Dilmore, Delia Garcia, Jim Ward, Judith Loganbill, and Ty Masterson. The KCP requested and received legislative action to carry over the remaining balance of this funding in 2008. We will request \$425,000 of new legislative funding in 2009 to support the cost of provision of services. Mary Ellen Conlee has acted as our legislative representative and will continue to act as our representative in the upcoming legislative session. Mary Ellen's contact information is Conlee Consulting Group, Inc., 232 N. Parkwood, Wichita, Ks 67208, (316) 685-5590, conleeconsulting@cox.net.

We are also supported legislatively by our board of Directors; Jackie Vietti, Harvey Sorensen, George Fahnestock, and Bill Hagerman (Kansas State Department of Education), as well as by the Wichita Area Chamber of Commerce. The KCP was accepted as a Visioneering Wichita Alliance, working to support workforce growth and development in our region. We are working partners with the Kansas State Board of Education, Kansas Board of Regents, Kansas Department of Commerce, Kansas Department of Corrections, and the Kansas Post-Secondary Technical Education Authority, all of which have provided support in legislative sessions or directly to individual legislators.

Impact: The impact to South Central Kansas is significant. The Kansas Career Pipeline will help solve the region's shortage of skilled labor, strengthening the growth of our workforce and economy. Most of the South Central area's schools are using the KCP as a career development program and tool to keep students and adults in our community and working for our local employers after completing their education and training. This involvement includes the South Central region's secondary schools, as well as area community and technical colleges, including WATC. Workforce centers in our region are also using the KCP as a tool to direct adult job seekers to local education and work opportunities.

The KCP will help direct our next-generation workers into the right post-secondary programs, whether it be two year career and technical education, four-year college programs, or apprenticeship or on the job training programs. Career planning systems such as the KCP are having a positive impact on academic performance and transitions into higher education. Research reveals that 91% of similar system users transition into some type of post secondary education, up from the 64% national average. Research also reveals that these users are completing college 66% faster than non-system users. The result will be a larger, more skilled labor pool in the jobs where we are experiencing serious shortages. For example, 29% of our students and adults in the pipeline have a high interest in manufacturing; 28% in Science, Technology, Engineer and Mathematics; 27% in IT and 25% in health science. People with the interests and talents are there. We must find, cultivate, and keep them in our region, by using the Kansas Career Pipeline.

Business will be the ultimate winner in this workforce development initiative. By connecting with education through the KCP, businesses will be able to make their needs known, help local educational institutions create specific programs to meet workplace requirements, and connect business to their future workforce through resources such as internships, job shadowing, and apprenticeships. Businesses will be able to reduce the cost of recruiting and eventually reduce their turnover costs, while helping to build a larger pipeline of skilled labor in their industries. Business participation will improve workforce preparation, alleviate labor shortages, and maintain growth and economic prosperity in South Central Kansas.

The ability of our area industry and businesses to maintain a strong employee base is critical to continued economic success of our region. The KCP is designed to maintain and expand our employee base, particularly in the high need, high wage occupations such those in aviation and healthcare.

We request and welcome the support of the Visioneering Unified Legislative Alliance in our efforts.

Draft of previous legislation: see Attachment A, 2007 and 2008 KCP Legislation.

Proposed 2009 legislation: In discussion: not yet drafted.

Attachment A
Kansas Career Pipeline 2007 and 2008 State Legislation

Listed below are sections taken from the 2007 and 2008 bills approving KCP funding and related requests

2007 Legislative Action

2007 Statutory Authority establishing funding for the Kansas Career Pipeline 2007 SB 357: <http://www.kslegislature.org/bills/2008/357.pdf>

Sec. 34. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

(a) There is appropriated for the above agency from the state general fund for the fiscal year or years specified, the following:

Kansas career pipeline grant

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008..... \$420,120

Provided, That the grant awarded to the Kansas career pipeline shall require a \$1 for \$1 match by business and industry.

2008 Legislative Action

2008 Omnibus bill (Final appropriations bill for the Session):

<http://www.kslegislature.org/bills/2008/2946.pdf>

Sec. 6. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

(a) Any unencumbered balance in excess of \$100 as of June 30, 2008, in the Kansas career pipeline account of the state general fund is hereby reappropriated for fiscal year 2009.

(d) On July 1, 2008, notwithstanding the provisions of the proviso to the appropriation for the above agency to the Kansas career pipeline grant account of the state general fund in section 34(a) of chapter 201 of the 2007 session laws of Kansas, the requirement of a \$1 for \$1 match shall not be limited to business and industry as sources of the matching funds during fiscal year 2009.