



## Advanced Computing Technology

The Kansas, Inc. strategic planning process identified technology and innovation as a critical part of the framework that must surround the state's inherent and emerging strengths in order to contribute to the sustainability and growth of our economy.

Based on this premise, technologies such as advanced computing may provide the means to increase business innovation and competitiveness for small-, medium- and large-sized firms throughout Kansas; and where many businesses may not have access to the resources or expertise to utilize such infrastructure, the state may be able to provide the link between businesses, universities and advanced computing opportunities. When considering advanced computing technologies, it is important to realize that the true value in having a high performance computing facility is not merely having the hardware, but rather having the staff with the needed unique skill sets available to support all users.

Research has shown that a strategic investment in advanced computing technology would have the potential to create innovative opportunities that would otherwise likely be unattainable for business and industry, as well as universities and government, that could ultimately contribute to the economic growth of the state. [Click here](#) for further information regarding this concept.

The Kansas, Inc. eREPORT provides analysis intended to stimulate discussion in order to identify policy options and build consensus essential for concerted action on vital economic issues. Discussion points from several resources have been compiled in this publication; therefore some points brought forth may not necessarily represent the consensus views of the entire Kansas, Inc. Board, but are simply provided as a starting point for discussion.

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## The Kansas Business Center

The Kansas, Inc. [Strategic Plan](#) identified the enhancement of the Kansas Business Center (KBA) as a priority to enhance the ability for Kansas businesses to thrive. The KBC was originally conceived as a multi-agency effort to develop a centralized resource for Kansas businesses, ultimately allowing business owners the opportunity to interact with government electronically from their homes or offices.

Based on the perceived need, an extensive multi-agency collaboration was formed to enhance the KBC. Led by the [Information Network of Kansas](#) and [Network Kansas](#), the KBC was revamped and reintroduced during 2009 as the official state resource for information, filings and personal assistance to start or maintain a business in Kansas.

Today, the enhanced KBC is better equipped as a one-stop-shop to provide the information and resources needed to do business in Kansas. The availability and speed of information continues to be a critical aspect of conducting business, and state-level efforts, such as the KBC, that enhance and utilize technology to deliver services have the potential to improve the overall business climate in Kansas. **To access the Kansas Business Center, [click here](#).**

## Recent Kansas, Inc. Reports

Kansas, Inc. maintains an aggressive research agenda designed to provide the groundwork for its strategic planning and evaluation functions. This research also assists decision-makers with information regarding various aspects of economic development, industry sectors and other issues pertinent to the Kansas economy. **(Click on title to access each report)**

- [Embracing Dynamism: The Next Phase in Kansas Economic Development Policy](#)
- [A General Overview of Advanced Computing Technology Issues and Opportunities](#)
- [Grants and Loans: Report for Fiscal Year 2009](#)
- [Kansas Military Analysis: Fiscal and Economic Impact of Military Activity in Kansas](#)
- [Supplemental Industry Cluster Analysis Information for the Kansas Military Analysis: Comparing employment, population and income across Kansas and the United States](#)

## Embracing Dynamism

The Kansas, Inc. [Strategic Plan](#) stressed the importance of creating a tax and regulatory structure that is competitive and conducive for the growth of existing and new businesses of all sizes. “We have to recognize what we can and cannot do, and focus on the areas where we can make a difference – every business matters.” Based on this premise, Kansas, Inc. examined aspects of business dynamism applied to economic development policy. Dynamism in this context simply refers to business churn (business births and deaths, business expansions and contractions).

Throughout history and still today, the Kansas economy continues to transform – through existing trends such as urbanization and globalization that contribute to the geographic and compositional shifts in the economy – to natural economic dynamism, that continues to evolve the state’s economy in ways that may not be fully appreciated at the time. **Embracing dynamism** provides the theme for this research in describing the next phase of economic development policy in Kansas.

- Embracing dynamism suggests an economic development model that works with the mega-trends that continue to shape the Kansas economy.
- Embracing dynamism suggests that economic development efforts discard the traditional industry-centric focus and replace it with a region-centric focus.

A state-level economic development model that embraces dynamism should create a set of policies that work well across the whole array of regions, regardless of their development stage. In brief, state-level policies should: 1) treat all business and investment opportunities equally, 2) facilitate business development in the unique context of the regional economy, and 3) embrace rather than impede the continuing patterns of structural change.

Almost every state offers economic development incentives. Yet, in general, benchmarking literature suggests that these incentives do not have a significant impact on economic growth. Benchmarking literature also suggests that states must continue to offer such incentives to remain competitive. This report challenges key elements of that conclusion: Kansas can break out of the benchmarking race by developing a strategy built on embracing dynamism. Such a strategy can distinguish itself by building unique capabilities that create a different mix of value to all business seeking to thrive in Kansas – a mix of value that can enhance the probability of long-term economic success through enhanced opportunity. **Embracing dynamism can change how Kansas plays the economic development game.**

The goal of embracing dynamism is simply stated: **Create the conditions necessary to induce as much commercial experimentation as possible on Kansas soil.** Proper execution of the embracing dynamism strategy will create an environment where all manner of people – inside and outside the state – feel motivated to commit their time and treasure to Kansas soil. The policy challenge centers on promoting dynamism by establishing a business environment that induces business birth and expansion without bias related to the size or type of business. **Every business matters.**

**Embracing dynamism starts with a change in vision** – The State should consider examining its prevailing policy of the State as an active investor in targeted businesses or industries and instead adopt the policy vision of the State as a caretaker of a competitive platform that seeks to induce as much commercial experimentation as possible. This vision implies the state government need not commit scarce resources to the enormously difficult task of predicting the outcome of competition if it focuses on the much more manageable task of creating the platform on which the competition takes place. [Click here](#) to access the full report.

Figure 1. A Profile of Two Visions for Kansas Economic Development Policy

