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Contact:

Kara Lowe, KC Tech Council

kara@kctechcouncil.com

913.730.7020

KC Tech Council Releases Annual Report, KC Tech Specs v3

The KC Tech Council announces plans to work with Kansas state leaders to focus on strategies to grow Kansas tech companies and jobs, two opportunities uncovered in the report.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (October 9, 2019) -- The KC Tech Council today released *KC Tech Specs v3*, a comprehensive report on the current state of the region's tech industry. The report delves into metrics outlining tech industry performance in the state of Kansas and Missouri, as well as the Kansas City metropolitan area.

"In an industry powered by numbers, data is essential," said Ryan Weber, KC Tech Council President and CEO. "The data we source from our partners to compile KC Tech Specs provides a definitive resource to understand our region's tech industry, our competition, and where opportunities exist."

The report highlights three focus areas: a "Current State" of the industry, a "City & State Comparison" and "Trending in 2020", a section focused on a few topics that could have an effect on the growth of the tech industry over the coming year.

Outcomes of the report include:

- Tech has permeated KC's employment base more than it has in peer cities. Kansas City has 9.2% of overall workers in tech occupations, which is closer to the tech employment market share that "tech cities" like Portland (10.8%) and Denver (11.4%) boast, compared to that of many of KC's peers, like Indianapolis (7%) and even Nashville (6.1%).
- Four trends to watch in 2020 are uncovered, including 5G technology, data privacy regulation, Missouri hyperloop project, and computer science education expansion.
- Kansas experienced a loss of both tech jobs and tech businesses. In 2018, the State of Kansas posted the second-highest amount of tech job losses among all 50 states and posted a net loss of total tech businesses operating in the state compared to the year prior.

This final data point has been noted by Kansas Governor Laura Kelly, who today released the following statement:



“Technology growth, commerce, and innovation are moving at unprecedented rates, and we recognize there is work to be done to prevent Kansas from falling further behind – and to bring Kansas back to the leadership position it once held. I’m pleased to say we’re ready to address the challenge of fostering tech job and business growth in Kansas head-on. Secretary Toland and the Department of Commerce recently announced the addition of Trent Armbrust as director of strategy for bioscience and technology, a newly created leadership role established specifically to advance Kansas’ leadership across key technology sectors. Trent and the team at Commerce are engaging with partners like KC Tech Council to drive innovation, attract new business and help facilitate long-term business growth. Technology is redefining our economy and our lives at a fundamental level, and my administration is committed to doing the hard work to make Kansas competitive again. The future of our economy depends on it.”

“We’re pleased to use the data within KC Tech Specs to help guide strategies that can improve our industry and engage decision-makers,” said Weber. “The KC Tech Council’s partnership with the Kansas Department of Commerce is a prime example of using data to make a case for creating a positive change. Look for more opportunities for improvement to be announced throughout the coming year as we use this data to guide strategies to make our region’s tech workforce, economy and education system stronger.”

The report, which pulls localized, national and comparative-by-market information from data sources including U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, CompTIA, CBRE Research, SmartAsset, Code.org, and Gartner’s Talent Neuron, identifies strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for the tech environment in Kansas City.

KC Tech Council, which works to solidify Kansas City as a leading national technology hub, partnered with KC Tech Council sponsors RSM and VMLY&R to produce the comprehensive report.

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About KC Tech Council

The KC Tech Council is the voice of Kansas City’s tech industry. It serves as the regional advocate for the tech industry, comprised of 130+ member and sponsor companies ranging from large enterprises to small businesses. Advocacy work is focused around three strategic pillars: industry access and connectivity, public policy advocacy at every level of government, and workforce development.

In conjunction with strategic partners, active stakeholders and unique cultural and lifestyle advantages, the KC Tech Council elevates Kansas City as a leading technology hub.

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