KC Tech Council

The KC Tech Council is comprised of more than 200 member companies, representing the many facets of the tech industry in the Kansas City region. While primarily tech companies, we also count many from the legal, marketing, health care, financial and other legacy industries as members. Though varied in type and scale, our members share one important common trait: they recognize the important role the tech industry plays in shaping the future economic growth of our region, and acknowledge that they cannot foster and sustain that growth on their own.

Together with our member companies, we focus on three strategic pillars:

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Every successful tech hub has one thing in common: a strong tech talent pipeline. We employ short-term and long-term solutions to help bridge our region's tech talent gap. That's why we launched our tech apprenticeship program focused on expanding and diversifying the tech talent pipeline.

INDUSTRY ACCESS

The tech industry employs one in every 10 workers in Kansas City. Through events such as The CEO Retreat, Access : Granted and our Executive Roundtable Series, we strive to create a unique space for these 100,000+ workers to connect, collaborate and achieve.

POLICY ADVOCACY

Legislative policy has the ability to help or hinder the growth and success of the tech industry. It is vital for KC's industry to have a collective voice before our elected officials. Led by our Policy Committee of industry leaders, we actively monitor, champion or oppose emerging issues that impact the industry, and inform our members on the issues they should prioritize.

KC TECH COUNCIL POLICY COMMITTEE

Kara Lowe | KC Tech Council
President & CEO
kara@kctechcouncil.com

Christine Murray | KC Tech Council
Director of Workforce Initiatives
christine@kctechcouncil.com

Josh Maxfield | Garmin
Associate General Counsel
josh.maxfield@garmin.com

Steve Cosentino | Stinson
Partner
steve.cosentino@stinson.com

Bambi George | Valorem Reply
Managing Partner
bgeorge@valorem.com

Jeff Gray | Genuen
CEO
jeff.gray@genuen.com

Gregory Kratofil, Jr. | Polsinelli
Office Managing Partner, Technology Transactions & Data Privacy
gkratofil@polsinelli.com

Leslie Maness | Commerce Bank
IT Business Office Director
leslie.maness@commercebank.com

Josh Miller | Verizon
Manager of Municipal Affairs and Community Engagement
joshua.miller3@verizon.com

Chris Newlin | Netrality
Director of Business Development and Strategic Accounts
cnewlin@netrality.com

Neelima Parasker | SnapIT Solutions
President & CEO
neelima@snapit.solutions

Clinton Robinson | Black & Veatch
Associate Vice President, Director of State & Local Government Affairs
robinsonco@bv.com

John Senger | SS&C Technologies
Director of Software Development
john.senger@sscinc.com

Scott Woodward | MarksNelson
Partner
swoodward@mnadvisors.com

Scan to learn about the state of Kansas City's tech workforce utilizing KC Tech Council's free data dashboard.

KC TECH COUNCIL POLICY COMMITTEE PRIORITIES & PRINCIPLES 2024

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. **Represent** the collective voice of KC Tech Council's 200+ member companies and organizations, from entrepreneur to enterprise.

2. **Educate** our membership on the important role public policy plays in the sustainable growth of the tech industry in Kansas City.

3. **Empower** and mobilize our community to use its collective voice effectively in supporting or opposing policy matters that affect the growth of the tech industry.

2024 FEDERAL, STATE AND MUNICIPAL PRIORITIES

Policies that Develop, Attract and Retain a Broad, Diverse and Highly Qualified Tech Workforce

- Policy promoting immigration of highly skilled workers via STEM visas, comprehensive H1-B reform, removal of per country caps within the green card system and other reform initiatives
- Expansion and resourcing of K-20 STEM education, especially Computer Science Education
- Apprenticeship program funding and expansion to unlock tech talent
- Broaden the tech workforce by increasing the diversity and representation within the talent pipeline
- Technology retraining via reskilling and upskilling for jobs and industries displaced by new technology

Policies that Promote Innovation and Organic Growth or Attraction of Companies

- Strategic (R&D, angel investment) tax credits while preserving the ability to deduct such expenses in the year incurred
- Funding for state and municipal-level programs in Kansas and Missouri that work to attract and grow tech companies
- Funding for the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) programs, among many others
- Intellectual property protection and patent reform

Policies that Maintain Appropriate Infrastructure to Support an Ecosystem Where the Technology Industry Can Thrive

- Creation and expansion of a competitive market for data centers, 5G, smart cites initiatives and other emerging infrastructure technologies to grow in the Kansas City region
- Uniformity of data privacy, data care and security laws to encourage innovation within companies of all sizes
- North American broadband access and affordability