

**MINORITY**   
**ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**  
**HERITAGE TO LEGACY AWARDS**



**KANSAS**  
COMMERCE

SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

“Taking time to **celebrate** and **congratulate** minority- and women-owned businesses and their work **is important as they are critical** to keeping the Kansas economy vibrant and growing.”

The seal of the State of Kansas is visible in the background, featuring a circular border with the text "SEAL OF THE STATE OF KANSAS" and "1861". Inside the seal, there is a landscape with a river, mountains, and a plow. The motto "AD ASTRA PER ARCTURUM" is also present.

*David C. Toland*

**David C. Toland**

Lieutenant Governor & Secretary of Commerce

# 39TH ANNUAL MINORITY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT AWARDS GALA

Friday, September 6 | The Wild Sage Ranch

## Networking & Arrival

Mingle over light refreshments, snap memorable photos and connect with fellow attendees as the evening begins.

## Welcome

Danielle J. Martin, our dynamic Master of Ceremonies, officially kicks off the night.

## Opening Remarks

David Toland, Lieutenant Governor & Secretary of Commerce, sets the stage with inspiring words.

## Presentation of Awards

Celebrate excellence as Danielle J. Martin and Jessica Gnad lead us in honoring tonight's outstanding achievements.

## Closing Remarks

Taylor Overton concludes the awards with heartfelt reflections and a forward-looking perspective.

## Post-Gala Celebration

Cap off the evening with delicious food, lively music and dancing under the stars.

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Oscowequasin (os-ko-we-qua-sin) Hello,

I am excited to accept the responsibility as Director of Minority- and Women- Business Development with the Kansas Department of Commerce! The privilege to serve diverse Kansas communities through the empowerment of minority- and women-owned businesses is an honor.



Minority- and women-owned businesses play an integral part of every community; their dreams and ambitions help shape the unique culture of each community. However, while integral to the fabric of your communities, you also face distinct challenges.

I look forward to meeting with you, collaborating with you, and creating opportunities that provide access and support as you strive for excellence in your respective industries. I hope to be your collective voice within the Department of Commerce focused on elevating socially and economically disadvantaged businesses. The Office of Minority and Women Business Development is so much more than the location that certifies your business — we are the catalyst for your success, providing the resources, connections and support to help your business thrive and grow.

Collectively, we can make Kansas a leading state for opportunities for minority- and women-owned businesses. I am enthusiastic about serving each of you and achieving our shared goals together.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Christian Hopkins".

**Christian Hopkins**

Director of Minority- and Women- Business Development

# MENU

Tonight's catering is provided by Wholly Cow Market and featuring Eudora's own Torched Goodness Crème Brûlée.

## First Course

Wholly Cow Assorted Flavor Wings, Kansas Charcuterie, Southwest Kansas Pork Belly Pops

## Second Course

Wholly Cow Braised Beef Short Ribs accompanied by Rosemary Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Wholly Cow Sirloin Beef Crostini with Horseradish Garlic Sauce, Blanched Asparagus with Assorted Dips

## Third Course

Crème Brûlée, Coffee Bar, Fruit, Goat Cheese, Chocolate Charcuterie



Michelle Canny, owner of the Wholly Cow Market, with her family.



SUPPORTING  
KANSAS  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

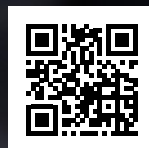


**We bring together people, ideas, and resources to build inclusive wealth, prosperity, economic growth, and community vitality.**

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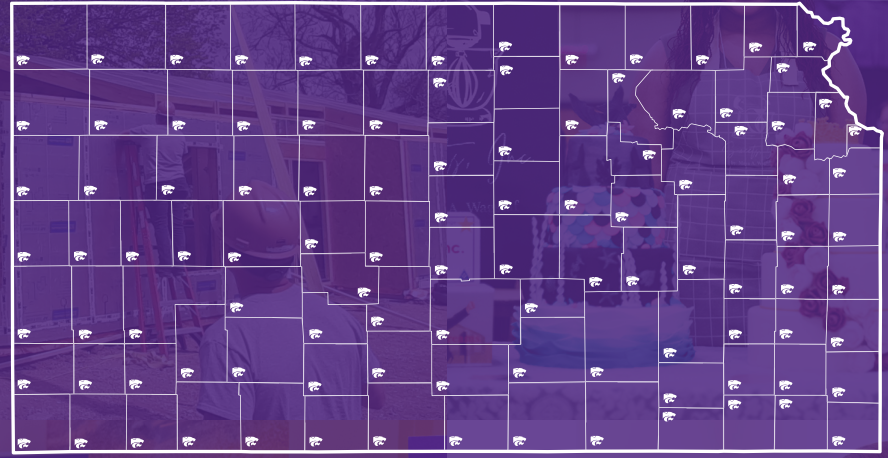
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Growing Kansas.



KANSAS HEALTH  
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# K-State 105

Economic and community development  
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As the nation's first operational land-grant university, Kansas State University has always been in every Kansas county. But as a next-generation land-grant university, **we're embracing innovative ways to serve, engage and connect with the people who call the Sunflower State home.**

**We call it K-State 105. Join us.**

**KANSAS STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

Scan the QR code to learn more.  
[k-state.edu/105](https://k-state.edu/105)



## Business Advocate of the Year Award

This award recognizes an individual or non-profit that has demonstrated exceptional dedication, commitment, and impact in advocating for minority- and women-owned businesses.

The top three finalists for the 2024 Business Advocate of the Year award are:



**Raquel Arellano**  
Seward County  
Development Corporation



**Belinda Hooks**  
The Mountain Plains Minority  
Supplier Development Council



**Christina Long**  
CML Collective

## Community Impact Award

This award acknowledges a minority- or women-owned business that has made significant contributions to its community through philanthropy, volunteerism or other forms of social responsibility.

The top three finalists for the 2024 Community Impact award are:



**Skin Is In, LLC**



**The Wild Sage Ranch, LLC**



**Common Ground  
Producers  
and Growers, Inc.**

## Community Arts Engagement Award

This award recognizes a minority- or women-owned business that actively engages with the community through arts-based programs, initiatives or events, fostering creativity, expression and cultural exchange.

The top three finalists for the 2024 Community Arts Engagement award are:



**Lisa LaRue Baker**  
785Arts, LLC



**Robin & Julie Cates**  
On the Pot: A Pottery Playhouse



**Catherine Bell**  
Sew Simple Sewing

## Corporation of the Year Award

This award honors a corporation that has shown exemplary dedication to supplier diversity by actively sourcing products and services from minority- and women-owned businesses, fostering economic opportunities and inclusion within its supply chain.

The top three finalists for the 2024 Corporation of the Year award are:



**JE Dunn Construction**



**Burns & McDonnell**



**T-Mobile**

## Entrepreneur of the Year Award

This award honors an outstanding minority or women entrepreneur who has shown exemplary leadership, innovation and resilience in building and growing their business.

The top three finalists for the 2024 Entrepreneur of the Year award are:



**Chelsey Miller**  
The Vintage Belle Boutique



**Troy Brooks**  
Greatness Vodka



**Kristin Eldridge**  
Snap Promotions



**Ashley Bettis**  
PTMW, Inc.



**Thi Wynn**  
Time Wise, Inc.



**Angela Hurt**  
Veracity Consulting, Inc.

## Family Business Excellence Award

This award acknowledges outstanding achievements and contributions made by family-owned businesses in various aspects such as innovation, sustainability, community engagement and overall success. This award celebrates the unique qualities and strengths of family enterprises, including their resilience, long-term vision and commitment to values.

The top three finalists for the 2024 Family Business Excellence award are:



**Breanna Bell**  
Curltology



**Clint Appelhanz**  
Reliant Apparel, LLC



**Carlos Cortez**  
Cortez Transportation Company



**Clara Reyes**  
Dos Mundos Newspaper



**Rhonda Harris**  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas



**Lisa Sisley**  
New Boston Creative Group

## Innovation Award

This award celebrates a minority- or women-owned business that has introduced groundbreaking products, services, or processes demonstrating creativity and forward-thinking in their industry.

The top three finalists for the 2024 Innovation award are:

## Lifetime Achievement Award

This award recognizes a seasoned minority or women entrepreneur or business leader who has made enduring contributions to their industry and community over the course of their career.

The top three finalists for the 2024 Lifetime Achievement award are:

*Toast to 50 years*

of empowerment and innovation,  
celebrating the strides made and  
envisioning a future of even greater impact.



# The Kansas Black Leadership Brunch Series



**Meet us in your City!**  
**Save the Date for Remaining Brunches:**

**September 21 Manhattan**

**October 19 Topeka**

## Mountain Plains Minority Supplier Development Council

The Mountain Plains Minority Supplier Development Council (MPMSDC) is honored to support the Kansas Department of Commerce & the Office of Minority and Women Business Development during MED Week in KCMO.

We proudly join entrepreneurs, business leaders, and public sector representatives in recognizing the exceptional growth and achievements of minority business enterprises nationwide.

Together, we are driving diversity, fostering innovation, and creating a brighter future for all... MPMSDC - Empowering Minority Businesses for Sustainable Success

**Proud Operator for the Denver Minority Business Development Agency!**

**Kansas/Missouri Office:**  
11322 W. 79th St.  
Lenexa, KS 66214  
Phone (816) 221-4200

MPMSDC | Mountain Plains Minority Supplier Development Council

**Certify | Develop | Connect | Advocate**

## Five Cities: One Goal.

**Learn about Local & State Leadership Opportunities**

**Inspirational Speakers**

**Networking Opportunities**

**Brunch Buffet**

Scan to Register!



**FREE Registration: [www.kansasblc.org/kblcbrunch](http://www.kansasblc.org/kblcbrunch)**







# BECOME A MEMBER



## READY TO TAKE YOUR BRAND TO THE NEXT LEVEL?

If you are ready to invest in building your brand strategy, Danielle J. Martin is here to help you! Imagine turning your passion into a powerful platform that not only builds your brand but also gets you speaking on stage. Whether your stage is coaching, consulting, or impacting others from the podium, The Elevation Network's newest program, "From Passion to Profit," you'll learn how to connect with your audience, grow a loyal community, and use your voice to earn a profit.

Let's chat about how you can move from behind the mic to owning your stage! **Email [info@daniellejmartin.com](mailto:info@daniellejmartin.com) for a free 20-minute consultation.**

### FREE RESOURCES

#### PODCAST



LISTEN TO **BEHIND THE SPOTLIGHT** ON APPLE, SPOTIFY, AND YOUTUBE

#### INNER CIRCLE



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[FromtheLandofKansas.com](http://FromtheLandofKansas.com)



SCAN TO JOIN TODAY

## Media Achievement Award

This award commends a minority or women owned business, organization or initiative for their work in amplifying stories of minority communities in the news and media industry.

The top three finalists for the 2024 Media Achievement award are:



**Shiela Ellis-Glasper**  
SEG Media Collective



**Diana Reyes**  
Reyes Media Group



**Marlin Watson**  
Companion Projects Media, LLC

## Minority-Owned Business of the Year Award

This award recognizes a Minority Business Enterprise that has demonstrated exceptional performance, growth, innovation and impact in its industry or sector.

The top three finalists for the 2024 Minority-Owned Business of the Year award are:



**iDatalytics**



**EDZ Systems**



**Heartland Coca-Cola**

## Tourism Impact Award

This award recognizes an organization that actively promotes the advancement of tourism in a community or region to create welcoming tourist destinations. The award can be given to a single organization or a partnership between multiple organizations.

The top three finalists for the 2024 Tourism Impact award are:



**Visit Emporia**



**Visit Manhattan**



**Visit Liberal**

## Woman-Owned Business of the Year Award

This award recognizes a Woman Owned Enterprise that has demonstrated exceptional performance, growth, innovation and impact in its industry or sector.

The top three finalists for the 2024 Woman-Owned Business of the Year award are:



**SWK Fitness, LLC**



**Loving Arms Enterprises**



**Advantage Marketing**

# Young Entrepreneur Award

This award recognizes an outstanding young entrepreneur (under 30) from a minority- or women-owned business who has demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit.

The top three finalists for the 2024 Young Entrepreneur award are:



**Ellie Bowman**  
Prickly Pear Farm & Home



**Erin Hammel-Glavan**  
Happy Hippie Studios



**Claire Roberts**  
2C Farmstore

# Governor's Award of Excellence

This award recognizes a best-in-class company or individual making a significant impact on their community and on the economy.

The top three finalists for the 2024 Governor's Award of Excellence are:



**Kansas Health Foundation**



**The Toolbox: Small Business Resource Center**



**Omni Circle Group, Inc.**



Invenergy's Buckeye Wind Energy Center in Ellis County, Kansas

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# ENERGIZING KANSAS'S FUTURE.

Energy is essential to the way we live, work and play. ITC operates, builds and maintains the region's electric transmission infrastructure. As the only independent transmission company in Kansas, we're working hard to improve electric reliability and increase electric transmission capacity in the Great Plains and throughout the Midwest.



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**GROW YOUR BUSINESS**

Apply Today

GO Topeka's First Opportunity Fund and Small Business Incentives are here to propel you forward! Whether you're launching your venture or aiming to grow, these resources are the gateway to unlocking your business's full potential. Don't delay - apply now and access the support you need for success!



The Hugoton Area Chamber of Commerce welcomes you to Stevens County...

Stevens County is a progressive county with a "Vision for the Future" where our citizens enjoy small town quality of life, but still have the ability to do BIG business, even on a global basis.

Hugoton has long been known as the "Natural Gas Capitol" of North America, but Stevens County is a diversified community with thousands of acres of rich irrigated farmland and we are known as one of the leading corn producers in the state. Stevens County is home to Seaboard Energy, your Responsible Energy Production facility; Northwest Cotton Growers Co-op, North America's second largest cotton gin and home to multiple feed lots and several dairies which provide numerous jobs for our citizens.

Hugoton hosts community events, such as "Park Day" on July 4th and the High Plains Music Fest in September. Forewinds Golf Course is our beautiful nine-hole course a minute west, and don't forget to take a dip on a hot summer day at our "Oasis on the Prairie", the Hugoton swimming pool located in City Park on north Main Street. We enjoy outstanding educational, recreational and medical facilities, but our greatest asset however, is our friendly people.

Welcome. We hope you enjoy your time in Stevens County!



Hugoton Area Chamber of Commerce  
630 South Main,  
Hugoton, KS 67951  
(620) 544-4305



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Reno County's community of entrepreneurs, business experts, and mentors.



[StartUpHutch.com](http://StartUpHutch.com)



# Sunflower Bank

Proudly supporting **Kansas Commerce MED Week Awards**

We honor the remarkable achievements and contributions of minority- and woman-owned businesses.

[SunflowerBank.com](http://SunflowerBank.com)

## The Chamber LAWRENCE • KANSAS

# EMPOWERMENT EXPO

a business conference for all by The Chamber and many community partners

**10 OCT 2024**  
**BURGE UNION**

# EXPOSICIÓN DE EMPODERAMIENTO

una conferencia de negocios para todos por parte de La Cámara y muchos socios de la comunidad

- 6 breakout session topics
- 1 panel discussion
- networking and reception
- live English to Spanish translations
- closed captioning
- lunch and refreshments

Tickets on sale for \$25/person! Scan the QR code to buy today!



# Office of Minority and Women Business Development

Providing certification and education for disadvantaged, minority- and women-owned businesses.

Scan for our directory



Scan for our website



# KANSAS COMMERCE



**YOU'RE INVITED!**

*to the stars*  
**KANSAS  
BUSINESS  
AWARDS** ✦ ✦

Join us in celebrating the doers, shakers and makers of industry that make our state economy strong.

**OCTOBER 3 | GREAT BEND**



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