Greater Wichita Partnership
PRINTED WEBSITE REPORT









By Emily Younger-Barnwell

How we approach industry opportunities and challenges will dictate the trajectory and economic success of the Wichita region.

For this very reason, the Partnership's August Investor Meeting included a dynamic panel discussion featuring the following six industry leaders:

- Matt All, President and CEO, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas
- Marty Cornejo, Partner, Cornejo Holdings
- Margaret Dechant, CEO, 6 Meridian
- Ben Hutton, CEO, Hutton
- Todd McKee, SVP Supply Chain Management, Textron Aviation

- Kevin Strecker, CEO, Ascension Via Christi



Panelists from left to right: Todd McKee, Textron Aviation; Ben Hutton, Hutton; Margaret Dechant, 6 Meridian; Matt All, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas; Marty Cornejo, Cornejo Holdings; Kevin Strecker, Ascension Via Christi; and moderator Jeff Fluhr, Greater Wichita Partnership.

Opportunities:

- Demand growth in the aviation industry, specifically in the commercial, space and defense sectors.
- Increase in diverse, new construction projects and the revitalization/redevelopment of previously underutilized properties throughout the Wichita region, i.e., ICT21 Industrial Park.
- The local economy is healthy and getting healthier thanks to increased community vibrancy and offerings.
- Advanced technologies like artificial intelligence and data integration are improving the efficiency/effectiveness of patient care and outcomes.
- Newly formed industry and education partnerships are increasing the talent pipeline.

Challenges:

- Workforce/staffing.
- Skills gaps.
- Community confidence.
- Need for increased investment in community projects.

Key Objectives Moving Forward:

- Increase internships, shadowing, and on-the-job training for middle, high school and college students to bolster the talent pipeline.
- Pursue development opportunities that reflect a big vision, exceed expectations and accelerate growth.
- Advance and market the Wichita region's vibrant culture, attractive amenities, entertainment opportunities and innovative educational institutions.





Vice Chair Jon Rolph and co-Chair Aaron Bastian gave opening remarks.

Do you want to make a greater impact on the Wichita region? To learn how to get a seat at the Partnership's next Investor Meeting contact Becca Newman at becca@greaterwichitapartnership.org. We ALL build Wichita.