PARTNERSHIP ADVANCES OPPORTUNITIES FOLLOWING KEY AEROSPACE AND SPACE INDUSTRY EVENTS

By Emily Barnwell

Members of the Partnership's economic development team, along with booth partners, represented Wichita's Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) industry at MRO Americas in Atlanta.

Brandon Wilcox, economic development project manager for the Partnership, attended the Space Symposium in Colorado Springs, engaging with businesses in the space industry.

Following the Space Symposium in Colorado Springs and MRO Americas in Atlanta, the Partnership's Economic Development team has returned with strong leads, new projects and an energized network of national and global connections.

Both events showcased the Wichita region's aerospace expertise, talented workforce and growing innovation ecosystem. At MRO Americas, 10 booth partners and sponsors helped the Partnership showcase why south-central Kansas continues to be a competitive and compelling location for investment, expansion, and collaboration.

Here's a quick look at the impact:

- **25+ meetings** with aerospace and space leaders, suppliers and key decision-makers.
- **2 new projects opened** during the events.
- **Nearly 40 job seekers** expressed interest in relocating to the Wichita market.
- **2 national site selection consultant meetings** to share about the region's assets and project-ready sites.
- **2 successful networking events** created even more opportunities for meaningful conversation and collaboration.

Trade shows such as these don't just provide visibility; they fuel momentum. With promising leads in the pipeline and continued collaboration among local, regional, and national partners, the Partnership is confident that the energy from these events will continue to convert into tangible opportunities.

Thank you to the partners who helped tell the Wichita story on the global stage.

Ricki Ellison, director of talent, workforce development, and community engagement for the Partnership, attended MRO Americas to attract talent to the greater Wichita region.

WSU Tech's Aerospace Maintenance Council Competition team competed at MRO Americas in Atlanta, showcasing the greater Wichita regions's deep talent pipeline and strong commitment to innovation.