Approved: _	March 9, 2009

Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lana Gordon at 3:30 p.m. on March 4, 2009, in Room 711 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Pat George- excused Representative Sharon Schwartz- excused Representative Valdenia Winn- excused

Committee staff present:

Doug Taylor, Office of the Revisor of Statutes Reed Holwegner, Kansas Legislative Research Department Ann Deitcher, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Representative Jeff King,
Peter Ellenstein, Artistic Director, William Inge Center for the Arts
Carole Jordan, Senior Director, Rural Development, Department of Commerce
Stan Compton, Assoc. State Dir., Kansas Small Business Development Center.,
Department of Commerce

SB 1, William Inge Theatre Festival designated as official theater festival of the State.

The Chair introduced Representative Jeff King, who in turn introduced Peter Ellenstein who told the Committee that he offered his testimony in support of <u>SB 1</u> on behalf of the hundreds of students, citizens, volunteers and theatre artists who continue to support the William Inge Center for the Arts and the thousands of patrons who attend their events each year. (<u>Attachment 1</u>).

Mr. Ellenstein said that the William Inge Theatre Festival's reputation has grown so much that they have even become a verb. At the Dramatist Guild, when an honoree is chosen, the other playwrights pronounce that they have been "Inged!"

Telling of the reputation of the Festival, Mr. Ellenstein said that it had been featured in articles, newspapers and magazines across the country. It has also been the subject of two PBS short documentaries, the Jim Lehrer NewsHour for our 25th Anniversary, in the NY Times Crossword Puzzle and even as a Jeopardy question (which was answered correctly).

Saying that the Festival has proven so successful that festivals in other states have been modeled after them. Mr. Ellenstein told the Committee that these included the Last Frontier Playwrights' Conference in Alaska, the Great Plains Theatre Festival in Omaha and the Horton Foote Theatre Festival in Waco, TX. He said that they each owe their beginnings, in part, to the William Inge Theatre Festival.

Questions and answers followed.

When asked if they would be requesting funds from the Legislature, Mr. Ellenstein explained that they were funded through an endowment of the Arts Commission.

The hearing on **SB 1** was closed.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Economic Development And Tourism Committee at 3:30 p.m. on March 4, 2009, in Room 711 of the Docking State Office Building.

Carole Jordan appeared next offering an overview of Rural Policy Commission and Kansas Rural Development Efforts. (Attachment 2).

Saying that the Rural Development Division in Commerce was created on September 4, 2008, Ms. Jordan explained that the division was an umbrella under which are grouped some 30 programs and 20-plus employees that deal with some aspect of rural development. These subdivisions include agriculture marketing, community development and the offices of rural opportunity. She said that what they have in common is they add value to agriculture and to rural communities; thus they add value to the state of Kansas.

Addressing the Committee next was Stan Compton who offered an overview of the Kansas Small Business Development Center. Mr. Compton spoke in place of Wally Kearns who was unable to attend. (Attachment 3).

Telling the Committee that their agency's mission was to increase economic prosperity in Kansas by helping entrepreneurs and small business owners start and grow their businesses through professional consulting Speaking of NetWork Kansas, Mr. Compton told the Committee that the Kansas Business Center is a one-stop source for information, resources, registration filings, licenses and permits for doing business in Kansas.

Mr. Compton said that current or future business owners can access critical information that will guide them through the important items need to consider and compete for a Kansas business. NetWork Kansas connects you to the expertise, education and economic resources that are needed. He said tht since 2006, NetWork Kansas, in collaboration with its funding partners, has provided 67 businesses with \$1.5 million in StartUp Kansas matching loans and grants; \$9.3 million was leveraged with the \$1.5 million.

Questions and answers followed.

Copies of written only testimony in support of $\underline{SB\ 1}$ were distributed from Marcia Cebulska, a playwright. (Attachment 4).

Also distributed were copies of a response to questions asked of Secretary of Labor, Jim Garner by Representative Owen Donohoe in the Economic Development/Tourism Committee meeting of February 25, 2009. (Attachment 5).

A motion was made by Representative Hill and seconded by Representative Slattery that the minutes of the meetings of January 14, 21, 26, 28, February 2, 9, 11, 16, 25 and March 2 be approved as read. The motion passed on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 9, 2009.



The William Inge Center for the Arts

Honoring Playwrights Since 1982

Jerome Lawrence

William Gibson

Robert Anderson

John Patrick

Garson Kanin

Sidney Kingsley

Robert E. Lee

Horton Foote

Betty Comden

Adolph Green

Edward Albee

Peter Shaffer

Wendy Wasserstein

Terrence McNally

Arthur Miller

August Wilson

Neil Simon

Stephen Sondheim

John Guare

A. R. Gurney

Lanford Wilson

John Kander

Fred Ebb

Romulus Linney

Arthur Laurents

Tina Howe

Sheldon Harnick

Christopher Durang

March 4, 2009

House Economic Development and Tourism Committee State Capitol Building, Room 711 Docking Topeka, KS

RE: SB1: declaring the William Inge Theatre Festival as Kansas' official state theatre festival.

William Inge, Kansas' most famous playwright, grew up in Independence. He brought the country to a closer understanding and appreciation of Middle America and the struggles of ordinary people by drawing deeply complex and humane characters. His remarkable talents made him the most successful American playwright of the 1950's with four consecutive hit plays: "Come Back, Little Sheba," "Picnic," "Bus Stop," and "The Dark at the Top of the Stairs." (Each was made into a successful movie with the biggest stars of the day.). He won a Pulitzer-Prize for "Picnic" and an Oscar for his original screenplay, "Splendor in the Grass". He died in 1973, but his plays continue to be performed all over the country and the world.

William Inge's entire library, manuscripts, artwork and assorted materials were left to Independence Community College (ICC) which he attended prior to graduating from KU. ICC, working with the National Endowment for the Humanities, catalogued the material which is now available to researchers from all over the world.

In 1982, Margaret Goheen, Inge's longtime friend and theatre instructor at ICC, partnered with the great playwright Jerome Lawrence, the writer of "Mame" and "Inherit the Wind." They decided to salute the legacy of William Inge by honoring a great American playwright each year with the *Distinguished Achievement in the American Theatre Award*. Starting as a half-day event, it grew over two decades into a four-day festival filled with performances, educational workshops and a scholars' conference. Now in its 28th year, the William Inge Theatre Festival has welcomed to Kansas nearly every major American Playwright of the last half of the 20th century: Including Arthur Miller, Neil Simon, Wendy Wasserstein, August Wilson, Kansas City native John Kander and Fred Ebb, and dozens more.

P.O. Box 708 • Independence, KS 67301 Phone (620) 331-7768 • Toll Free (800) 842-6063, ext. 5835 • Fax (620) 331-9022 • info@i

Economic Development & Tourism

Attachment # /-/

Joining these world renowned playwrights are the finest theatre artists from across the country. Oscar, Tony, Emmy and Grammy winners, along with other noted theatre, film and television artists travel to Independence for this extraordinary event. A virtual "who's who" of Broadway and Hollywood has visited Independence over the years. Their visits have created a lasting appreciation and respect between Kansas and the theatre world.

The William Inge Theatre Festival's reputation has grown so much that we have even become a verb. At the Dramatist Guild, when an honoree is chosen, the other playwrights pronounce that they have been "Inged!"

Beginning in 1990 the William Inge Theatre Festival also created the *Otis Guernsey New Voices Playwriting* award. This award recognizes up-and-coming playwrights, and has developed a distinguished alumnus of those past winners, with many productions on and off-Broadway. Some of these winners include David Ives, Adam Bock, Teresa Rebeck, and David Hirson, among others.

The Festival has been featured in articles, newspapers and magazines across the country, been the subject of two PBS short documentaries, the Jim Lehrer NewsHour for our 25th Anniversary, in the NY Times Crossword Puzzle, and even as a Jeopardy question (and incidentally, answered correctly).

The William Inge Theatre Festival is known and respected throughout the nation by the theatre and entertainment Industry, colleges and universities and the theatre-going public. Visitors from all over the country and the world attend each year, sharing in a celebration of the best theatre in the world and the best of small town hospitality. The Festival's secret is the unique collaboration between Independence Community College, the William Inge Festival Foundation, the hundreds of community volunteers and the very finest theatre artists America has to offer.

For four days each year, the Festival becomes a haven, far from the bright lights and the big city, to celebrate American theatre, and revel in the true graciousness of small-town Kansas hospitality. Every participant discovers or rediscovers the uniqueness and commonality regardless of where they live. We have learned that it is often difficult to get someone from out of state to attend the Festival the first time; but it's never hard to get them back.

The Festival has proven so successful that festivals in other states have been modeled after us. Our "step-children" include the Last Frontier Playwrights' Conference in Alaska, the Great Plains Theatre Festival in Omaha and the Horton Foote Theatre Festival in Waco, TX. They each owe their beginnings, in part, to the William Inge Theatre Festival.

Since 2001, the William Inge Theatre Festival has expanded, and is now one of the many year-round events produced by the William Inge Center for the Arts. The William Inge Center for the Arts offers year-round arts and arts-education programming. We've partnered with prominent educational and arts institutions, such as the Lincoln Center Institute for the Arts in Education,

the 24-Hour Plays in New York City, and the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival in Washington, DC.

We have become a major player in helping to develop and create new plays for America. This year marks our 30th professional playwright residency, where the playwrights live in William Inge's home, work on their new plays and teach both at Independence Community College and a local high school. Professional guest artists aid the playwrights as they work on their new plays, and also offer workshops to the students. Many plays developed or researched during our residencies have gone on to full productions across the country. In fact one play, first seen in a workshop at the William Inge Center for the Arts goes into previews next week Off-Broadway.

The William Inge Center for the Arts is located on the campus of Independence Community College (ICC). Through our programs, ICC has developed one of finest two-year theatre programs in the region, featuring the best playwriting program in the nation. Nowhere else in the country can a student study with eight professional playwrights, and work with scores of guest artists, over two years; as they do through the William Inge Center for the Arts. The program has recruited very talented students not just from Kansas but from across the country. Most recently, this collaboration presented the world premiere of "Gathering Blue," a musical version of a best-selling novel by double Newbery Award-winner, Lois Lowry. A Grammy winning composer worked with the students and Lois Lowry herself spent several days with the students and the community.

The William Inge Center for the Arts is a unique example of collaboration. ICC's President and Board of Trustees works with the William Inge Festival Foundation, a Community Volunteer Steering Committee and a National Advisory Board made up of America's greatest theatre practitioners. Together with the Inge Center's small staff, these forces combine to provide an event that benefits the town of Independence, the citizens of Kansas, the entire region, and the theatre community throughout America. It generates tourism for the town, notoriety for the college, and leaves all of our out-of-state visitors with a new appreciation of what our state has to offer. For all of these reasons, I ask your consideration to bestow the great honor of declaring the William Inge Theatre Festival, the official State Theatre Festival of Kansas. Founders, Margaret Goheen (who passed away in 1990) and Jerome Lawrence (2004) would be so proud to know that their little Festival had grown to such renown and acclaim. I've no doubt that William Inge himself would be deeply honored to know that his beloved home state had honored him in this way. On behalf of the hundreds of students, citizens, volunteers and theatre artists who continue to support the William Inge Center for the Arts and the thousands of patrons who attend our events each year, I offer this testimony in support of passage of Senate Bill 1. I am happy to answer any questions at the conclusion of testimony.

Testimony to the House Economic Development and Tourism Committee March 4, 2009 Overview of Rural Policy Commission and Kansas Rural Development Efforts

Carole Jordan, Director, Rural Development Division Kansas Department of Commerce and

Stan Compton, Associate State Director Kansas Small Business Development Center

- Creation of a Rural Development Division in Commerce on Sept. 4, 2008.
- The division is an umbrella under which are grouped some 30 programs and 20-plus employees that deal with some aspect of rural development.
- Those subdivisions include agriculture marketing, community development, and the offices of rural opportunity.
 What they have in common is they add value to agriculture and add value to rural communities; thus they add value to the state of Kansas.
- Some of those programs are:

Agriculture value added loans

CDBG grants to build city parks, infrastructure, fire stations and the like

Rural business development tax credits

Enterprise Facilitation

Main Street

IWW

Agritourism and food trademark programs

CDBG urgent need—Greensburg and floods, Chapman and Jewell this year

KSBDC

NetWork Kansas, and you will hear more about those two programs in a few minutes.

Rural Policy Commission

- SS 453 passed in the 2008 Kansas Legislature session, creating a Rural Policy Commission.
- It will be a stand-alone group; a think tank on rural policy issues. Commerce will help it get up and running.
- Nine voting members named to various terms by the governor, speaker of the house of representatives, president of the senate, minority leader of the house and minority leader of the senate.
- Key areas of expertise: agriculture, oil and gas, aviation, finance and banking, tourism, job creating, value added business, leadership, wealth retention and generation, entrepreneurship, youth retention and health care.

Patty Clark, Kansas Leadership Center, Wichita, appointed by the Governor to a four-year term.

Richard Veach, Ulysses, appointed by the Governor to a four-year-term.

Sen. Marci Francisco, Lawrence, appointed by the Governor to a four-year-term.

Rep. Bill Light, Rolla, appointed by the Speaker of the House to a three-year-term.

Dr. Robert Moser, Tribune, appointed by the Speaker of the House to a three-year-term.

Steve Baccus, Kansas Farm Bureau, appointed by the Speaker of the House to a three-year-term.

Catherine Domsch, Bird City Century II Development Foundation, appointed by the Senate President to a three-year-term.

Jerry Karr, Emporia, appointed by the Senate Minority Leader to a two-year-term.

Rep. Ed Trimmer, appointed by the House Minority Leader to a two-year-term

Ex Officio

Secretary of Commerce

Secretary of Agriculture

CEO of Kansas, Inc.

Requirements for KBI background checks and Senate confirmation are not quite complete. We are working with a team of several of our partners to plan their first meeting as soon as possible within the confines of schedules and when they can legally take action.

Rural Policy Commission

- Recognizes that rural Kansas is important to the economic and social health of the state of Kansas and says "The purpose for which the commission is created is to make rural Kansas the most desirable area in which to conduct, facilitate, support and finance rural business, cultural development and entrepreneurship, and to make Kansas a national leader in the creation and implementation of strategies to foster leadership, the retention of youth, development of entrepreneurship and encouragement of local wealth generation, to create new jobs, foster economic growth, advance knowledge and improve the quality of life for the citizens of the state of Kansas. To accomplish this goal, the Kansas commission on rural policy will develop recommendations for rural economic development based on national best practices and benchmarking..."
- After their inaugural meetings, they will report back to the legislature.

Office of Rural Opportunity

- Created by the 2007 legislature, providing for "in the field" employees who will work specifically with rural Kansas communities of 5,000 and under.
- Their vision: Rural Kansas communities will reach their full potential.
- Their mission: To support the efforts of rural Kansas communities to achieve their goals by increasing awareness and access to available resources.
- Given office space through cooperative agreements with community colleges, they serve four regions and are: Carol Meyer, SW Kansas, Garden City
 James Foster, NW Kansas, Colby
 Renee Lippincott, Sterling
 Barbara Chalker, Chanute
- Credit belongs to the communities.
- In the short span since program inception, Office of Rural Opportunity staff made initial contact with the 569 qualifying communities in the state. In addition, they have followed up on inquiries and physically visited communities in every county in Kansas. At least one resource has been offered to 165 communities as of the end of 2008. This initial activity is just the beginning of efforts to support these communities in discovering technical and financial assistance available for rural Kansas communities.
- Gathering data about available resources and resources that are not available. Housing, health care and infrastructure are issues we hear every day.

Office of Rural Opportunity

- From day one they have been collecting information about wants, needs and burning issues of rural Kansas. They
 believe the characteristics of a successful community are:
- "Specific characteristics were total inclusion of all community members; excellent communication before, during and after, projects; the ability to really look at long-term needs (visionary), and commitment to seeing the plan through, while adding new needs as they become aware of them."
- "To me, a successful community is one that has made the move to step up its responsibility for the future, actively works on solutions to issues from within first and then from without, has a strong base of community leadership, shows a sense of pride in their community. It might not be pretty, it might have problems, but the fact that the commitment has been made to make things better is the most important move that community can make."
- "With this experience I found that Community Development isn't just a matter of being successful in obtaining a grant, but instead it is a long-term process whereby people who are living within the same community work together to identify their needs and create change which will improve the quality of life for the community and the society of which they are a part. Success isn't always measured in the amount of grant monies they may receive, but instead measured by the improvements that are made, whether made with money or sweat equity. Belief, work for results, commitment in the community and leadership are common qualities."
- They believe. They don't say they believe-- you can feel and see that they believe, so attitude is important.
 - -They don't care about credit-- they want results.
 - -The sense of community/commitment, like the old saying, is the difference with the pig and the chicken's involvement with the ham and egg breakfast. The chicken is involved, but the pig is committed!

Thank you for your attention....Partner Wally Kearns of KSBDC will talk about efforts specifically aimed toward entrepreneurship and existing businesses.



Presentation to the House Economic Development and Tourism Committee

Testimony presented by Wally Kearns, State Director Kansas Small Business Development Center February 4, 2009

Mission

- Increase economic prosperity in Kansas by helping entrepreneurs and small business owners start and grow their businesses through professional consulting, training and resources.
- · Currently have eight regional and five outreach centers.
- Thirty-four team members.
- Kansas' growth is dependent upon the growth of small firms.
- Among state funded economic development programs, only the KSBDC network works with firms in all sectors of the economy and in all stages of the business life cycle, from start-up through mature and growing existing businesses.
- The majority of those starting businesses have no prior business management experience and no formal training in how to start and operate a business.
- Constantly evolve through professional development training and new tools to meet the changing needs of entrepreneurs.
- The KSBDC draws upon the resources of NetWork Kansas and the vast array of other resource partners that are in Kansas including state agencies, certified development corporations, chambers of commerce, local and regional economic development agencies and tourism organizations, banks, the cooperative extension service, local accountants and attorneys, and the 1000 plus other SBDCs across the country.

Overview of the Kansas Small Business Development Center Impact of the Current Economic Situation

- Increased demand for services from entrepreneurs and existing businesses.
- Offering workshops, "Thriving in a Challenging Economy".

Entrepreneur Activity 2007 Vs 2008

- Clients, increased by 6.0%, from 1,999 to 2111.
- Counseling hours, increased by 4.0%, from 12,139 to 12,632.
- Workshops, increased by 50.0%, from 463 to 692.
- Attendees, increased by 12.0% from 4,652 to 5,193.

Economic Impact CY 2002 – CY 2008

ITEM	CY 2002	CY 2003	CY 2004	CY 2005	CY 2006	CY 2007	² CY 2008	TOTAL
New Businesses	183	257	292	301	261	263		1,557
New Jobs	894	1,367	1,245	863	898	1,365		6,632
Saved Jobs	377	1,506	2,051	1,236	1,272	938	æ	7,380
Change in Sales (Million)	40.5	59.6	79.3	64.2	59.0	49.7		352.3
Clients Assisted with Financing	237	463	540	551	355	316		2,462
Financing (Million)	22.5	38.1	44.7	35.9	42.7	38.2		222.1
Equity Injection (Million)	4.7	10.4	16.9	9.2	6.8	8.2		56.2
Return On Investment (ROI):								
KDOC (\$ to 1)	8.6	18.6	22.6	17.1	17.1	17.1		16.8
Federal/SBA (\$ to 1)	9.1	39.8	18.3	14.6	15.2	17.7	2	19.1
State/KDOC (\$ to 1)	2.2	4.2	4.4	3.5	3.4	3.4		3.5
Job Creation % ¹	5.1 vs -3.0	51.8 vs 1.1	35.8 vs 2.0	20.6 vs 1.2	35.4 vs 1.0	NA NA		29.7 vs .5
Sales Growth % ¹	19.5 vs -1.8	37.4 vs 17.7	28.3 vs 2.7	23.0 vs 3.8	26.2 vs 5.2	34.9 vs 3.8		29.1 vs 5.2
Clients	2,425	2,633	2,782	2,559	2,229	1,999	2,111	16,738
Hours	14,164	14,125	15,840	16,350	13,008	12,139	12,632	98,258
Workshops	237	219	262	412	439	463	692	2,724
Attendees	3,793	3,193	3,680	5,220	4,659	4,652	5,193	30,390

¹KSBDC Clients average change compared to the average change of all businesses in Kansas

www.kansas.gov/ksbdc

The above does not take into account businesses saved and business start-up prevention where an individual planned to invest in a business idea before determining the idea had no market potential after receiving KSBDC assistance.

² For calendar year 2008 some data will not be available until March 31, 2009.

Center for Applied Economics at University of Kansas Job Creation in Kansas 1990 – 2004

- 57% were startup businesses.
- 39.8% were expansions of existing businesses.
- 3.2% of new jobs created by companies moving into Kansas.

Business Survivability Rate

- Legislative Post Audit Report 2008 The report surveyed 60 KSBDC clients that received services in 1998. Fifty of these 60 individuals were only considering starting a business and only 10 were actually in business in 1998. When those same individuals or companies were asked if they started or were in business in 2003, 20 of them said yes, for a gain of 10 businesses. Of those 20 businesses, 14 were still in business in 2007.
- Business Employment Dynamics Data: Survival and Longevity: 31% survive at least 7 years; the rate was constant for different industries.

KSBDC Outreach Centers

An outreach center is a very cost effective strategy for establishing collaborative partnerships and expanding KSBDC services because it minimizes the overhead and maximizes the delivery of KSBDC consultant services. For example, Cloud County Community College (CCCC) is an outreach center host; the outreach center is a collaborative partnership between CCCC and Wichita State University KSBDC. The full-time consultant located at CCCC is an employee of WSU and all administrative paperwork and reporting requirements are the responsibility of WSU, the regional center host.

New in 2007 and 2008 - Outreach Centers/Consultants:

- 1. Two Full-time Consultants Wyandotte County and Kiowa County in Greensburg.
- 2. Iola Allen County Community College.
- 3. Independence Independence Community College.
- 4. Wetmore.

Additional Outreach Centers to be staffed and opened in 2009:

- 1. Andover Butler County Community College.
- 2. Cowley County Cowley and Sumner County and Cowley County Community College.
- 3. Liberal Seward County Community College and City of Liberal.

Work in Progress:

- 1. Goodland Colby.
- 2. Dodge City.

KSBDC Tools

ProfitCents

- A Web-based intelligence expert system that converts complex financial data into plain language.
- Produces a simple and easy-to-understand report purposely written in plain language.
- Provides suggestions for improving the business.
- Real-time industry data used to conduct comparative analysis.
- Easy-to-read visual graphs.
- Scoring for a "report-card-like" for how the business is doing.

KSBDC Tools

Franklin Covey's "The 7 Habits for Small Business Managers"

- A unique, new approach to management development that helps a management team move from getting good results to getting great and enduring results.
- An intensive application-oriented learning experience that focuses on the fundamentals of great leadership.
- Includes a Management Essentials Book, an audio CD with Stephen Covey explaining how the 7 habits apply to managers, and paper and electronic versions of the tools introduced in the workshop.
- Two KSBDC teams are certified facilitators.

KSBDC Tools

SBDCNet (SBDC National Information Clearinghouse)

- Market research data, articles and financial ratios.
- Demographic information for market analysis.
- Online patent/trademark research.
- Sample business plans.
- Ring analysis.

KSBDC Tools

Free Online Courses for Current and Potential Small Business Owners

- Enable potential small business owners and existing business owners to access virtual training courses for free at www.ksbdc.biz.
- Courses offered on the site address three main subject areas: Starting Your Business, Managing Your Finances, and Foundations of Marketing.
- The courses take between 30 and 120 minutes to complete.
- Each course provides audio, high-end graphics, case studies and worksheets. There are 23 courses offered in Spanish and 26 courses in English.
- Simple registration process required. Participants will be asked to complete an optional and brief evaluation form after completing each course.
- Launched in May 2008, had 533 courses accessed since May; 177 of those Developing a Business Plan.

Projects – Upcoming Key Events

- Participated in the redesign of the Kansas Business Center (KBC), the state's online "one-stop shop" for
 information that is vital to starting and growing a business in Kansas. We enclosed a fact sheet in the KSBDC
 folder that describes the KBC and has information about the KSBDC's redesigned Web site.
- Agritourism conference in Great Bend on March 25 and 26.
- Succession Planning resources collaborating (KDOC, KU, K-State, NetWork KS,KSBDC) to respond to economic development directors.
- Region VII SBDC Conference two presentations on succession planning.
- Involved in the planning of the Kansas Economic Development Conference in Junction City on May 20-21.
- ASBDC Accreditation Review, summer of 2009; required by Federal statute.
- SBA Financial Review.
- Kansas Marketplace in November 2009.

NetWork Kansas

The Kansas Business Center is a one-stop source for information, resources, registration, filings, licenses and permits for doing business in Kansas. Current or future business owners can access critical information that will guide them through the important items needed to consider and complete for a Kansas business.

NetWork Kansas connects you to the expertise, education and economic resources you need when you need them!

StartUp Kansas

• Since 2006, NetWork Kansas, in collaboration with its funding partners, has provided 67 businesses with \$1.5 million in StartUp Kansas matching loans and grants; \$9.3 million was leveraged with the \$1.5 million.

Entrepreneurship (E) Community Partnership

- The first six communities are: Great Bend (Barton County), Anderson County, Cowley County, Thomas County, Sterling/Alden (Rice County), and Rawlins County. Some E-Communities are the city as noted; the others are a county-wide collaboration. Raised \$1.634 M.
- Since April 21, 2008, NetWork Kansas has worked with the initial six E-Communities to provide nine businesses
 with \$269,400 in E-Community matching loans and grants, and to leverage \$3,803,200 in additional capital from
 other sources (including StartUp Kansas, Partner matches, BD, additional public capital, private capital and owner
 carry).
- Six more communities that are rolling out the E-Community program: Kiowa County, Linn County, Bird City, Chase County, Augusta (Butler County), and Marion (Marion County), and one reapplication by Anderson County. Raised \$1.03 M.

We are thankful for the opportunity to have served your constituents and the state of Kansas since 1983, both in our traditional role, as well as being involved in helping KSBDC clients look at the recession as a way to increase creativity and look at business practices that will help them not only survive difficult economic times, but possibly learn innovative ways to maintain and grow their businesses.

If you would like to speak with me or your local center director, please contact me at 785-296-6514.

Marcia Cebulska 217 SW Woodlawn Topeka KS 66606

Members of the House Economic Development and Tourism Committee Docking State Office Building Room 711 Topeka, KS

For four days in April, Kansas becomes the center of the American theatre world. Each year at the William Inge Theatre Festival, an honored distinguished playwright is present (for example, Arthur Miller, Neil Simon, Stephen Sondheim, August Wilson, Wendy Wasserstein); new plays are given readings and productions; scholars deliver research papers; artists give and attend workshops on their profession; and theatre artists from New York City, Los Angeles and everywhere else picnic, hobnob, network, hone their craft, share trade secrets, celebrate the transformative art of theatre and enjoy the warm hospitality of small-town Kansas.

I have brought Washburn playwriting students to the Festival who thought they would sit at the feet of their idol, Tina Howe, and instead found themselves chatting casually with her at lunch. I have forged artistic relationships at the Festival which resulted in my working with director Kevin Willmott and visual designer Michael Wood on the premiere production of *Now Let Me Fly*, a play written as playwright-in-residence at the Festival, premiered here in Topeka for the 50th anniversary of *Brown v. Board*, and since been performed nearly a thousand times nationally and internationally, filmed by a French film maker and highlighted in *American Theatre magazine*. I was honored to be commissioned by the Festival to write TOUCHED, which premiered there and allowed me to work with outstanding professional artists from Los Angeles and the state of Kansas. At the Festival, I have shared playwriting experiences with America's greatest playwrights, I have dined with the editor of the Best American Plays volume, I have argued with the biographer of Kansas' most famous playwright William Inge, I have driven around the home town of Independence with the Director of Theatre for the National Endowment of the Arts, and I have danced with Broadway stars. I have learned and taught, I have experienced artistic triumphs and have been moved to tears.

The William Inge Theatre Festival brings us all together, lets us be accessible to one another, whether we be student or honoree, workshop attender or movie star, Kansas playwright or L.A. screen writer. We are there together, townspeople, theatre friends and colleagues, working, meeting, and learning from one another. The William Inge Theatre Festival is a national phenomenon and a state treasure. We Kansans deserve to be truly proud of the William Inge Theatre Festival.

Marcia Cebulska, playwright

Attachment # 4

Econo	mic D	eyelor	ment	&	Tourism
Date:	3-	4-0	9		





www.dol.ks.gov

2 March 2009

Representative Lana Gordon, Chairperson House Economic Development & Tourism Committee State Capitol, Rm. 142W Topeka, KS

Dear Chairperson Gordon:

Thank you for the opportunity last week to address your committee regarding the Kansas Department of Labor, unemployment claims, and how we work with the Kansas Department of Commerce.

Representative Donohoe asked two questions to which I promised a response to the committee. First, he asked about our current workload. For the week ending February 21, 2009, we processed and reviewed 4,967 initial claims and 43,058 continued claims. We paid out \$13,895,292 in unemployment benefits for that week. For the previous week, week ending February 14, 2009, we processed and reviewed 5,793 initial claims and 41,630 continued claims. We paid out \$13,273,030 in unemployment benefits that week.

Filing online is the quickest and easiest way for Kansans to file their initial claims. For the week ending February 21, nearly 2,000 initial claims were filed online, compared to only 817 a year ago.

Representative Donohoe also asked how qualifying earnings for unemployment benefits is determined. I have enclosed a graph that depicts how those earnings are calculated. This was taken from page 18 in the Employer Handbook for Unemployment Insurance, www.dol.ks.gov. To qualify for benefits the claimant must have been paid wages from insured employment in at least two quarters with total wages of at least thirty times the weekly benefit amount. I hope this graphic helps to explain this process.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns. You can also contact KDOL's Government Affairs Liaison for assistance, Megan Ingmire at 296.3594.

Thank you.

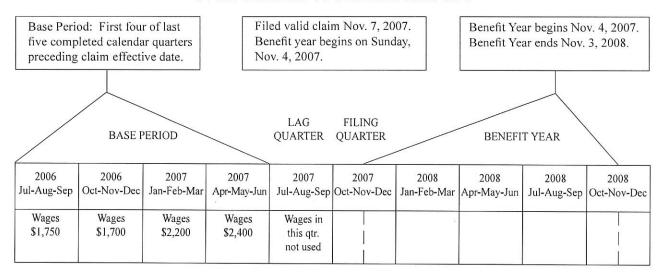
Very truly yours,

Secretary

Economic Development & Tourism

Attachment # 5-

COMPUTATION OF BENEFIT AMOUNT



Weekly Benefit Amount

The claimant had the highest earnings (\$2,400) in the April-May-June quarter of 2007.....\$2,400 x 4.25% = 102 WBA

Qualifying Earnings

Total Benefit Amount

\$1,750 + \$1,700 + \$2,200 + \$2,400 = \$8,050 = Total Base Period Earnings 1/3 of <math>\$8,050 = \$2,68326 x \$102 (Weekly Benefit Amount) = \$2,652

QUALIFYING FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

\$2,652 is the Total Benefit Amount since it is less than \$2,683.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Claimant eligibility is based upon certain conditions. An unemployed individual is eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits if:

- a. The individual has made a claim for benefits.
- The individual has registered for work.
- c. The individual is able to work, available for work and is actively seeking work.
- d. The individual has been unemployed and has claimed a waiting period of one week which occurs within the benefit year.
- e. The individual has received wages from insured employment in two or more quarters of the base period, and has total base period wages equaling at least 30 times the weekly benefit amount.

- f. The individual's employment was for services not specifically excluded by the act.
- g. The individual is not disqualified in accordance with provisions of the law.

Certain Exceptions to Qualifying for Benefits

A self-employed individual is not eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.

A corporate officer of a small closely-held corporation is normally not eligible. A corporate officer is not considered unemployed when the corporation is still active and the individual is not receiving a salary. An example is: A small corporation in the construction business does not have contracts during the winter months; however, the corporate officers are still considered employed because they are actively seeking new contacts and performing other services for the corporation.

A corporate officer may be eligible if the business is totally discontinued or sold to another party and the services of that individual are no longer required.