



# Building a Future

Higher Education and K-State's Plan for Economic  
Development

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July 30, 2021

Kansas Board of Regents  
Building a Future for Kansas Families, Businesses and the Economy



# Kansas economy faces long-term challenges

- Stagnant employment
- Sluggish GDP and wage growth
- Slow population growth
- Outmigration
- Lagging wages



Higher education is  
poised to be an effective  
partner and has made a  
commitment to grow the  
state's economy



# Building a Future

- Board's strategic plan
- Development began with series of focus groups
- Met with business leaders and students/parents
- Three priorities emerged – helping Kansas families, supporting Kansas businesses and advancing the state's economic prosperity



# Economic Prosperity

- Unique capacity to encourage growth
  - Workforce education
  - Research enterprise
  - Business and industry partnerships
- Universities are hubs of innovation



# Economic Prosperity

- System focused on direct investment and direct jobs
- Statewide
- Plan leverages the core strengths of each university
  - Historical expertise
  - Emerging capabilities



# System Core Strengths



Cybersecurity



Medical Research



Food & Ag Systems



Rural Health



Biosecurity



Aviation & Advanced  
Manufacturing



Polymers and  
Advanced Materials



Small Business  
Development



# K-State's Plan

- Key areas
  - Food and Agricultural Systems Innovation
  - Digital Agriculture and Data Analytics
  - Biosecurity and BioDefense
  - K-State105
- Aligns with state priorities and state, national and global market opportunities





## K-State's Objective

**3,000 direct jobs and \$3 billion in direct investment in the state within the next 10 years**

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# Jobs and Investment

	<b>Baseline (2019)</b>	<b>2 Years 2020-2021</b>	<b>3 Years 2020-2023</b>	<b>5 Years 2020-2024</b>	<b>10 Years 2020-2029</b>
<b>Direct Jobs (FTE)</b>	587	1,000	1,100	1,500	3,000
<b>Direct Investment</b>	\$154M	\$400M	\$550M	\$1B	\$3B



# Framework

Within each area of focus, K-State has identified

- Key differentiators
- Strategic activities and implementation plan
- Partners, facilities and resources
- Gaps and needs



# Food and Agricultural Systems Innovation

1. Stimulating economic growth and job creation
2. Establishing profitable, regenerative and sustainable food and agriculture systems
3. Fostering disruptive technology and innovation
4. Improving Kansas community health through nutritional security



# Digital Agriculture and Data Analytics

1. Artificial intelligence for production agriculture
2. Scale-independent precision agriculture, current and emerging threats to crops, and precision livestock production
3. Leading an initiative in DAAA



# BioSecurity and BioDefense

1. Beef cattle
2. Swine
3. National Bio and Agro-Defense facility (NBAF)
4. Biosecurity Research Institute (BRI)



# K-State105

1. Economic development liaison network
2. Regional, community and business support liaisons



# Moving Kansas Forward

- Statewide, 105 county focus for the system
- The Board and K-State's plan focused on long-term, sustainable growth
- Partnerships key