

Testimony by David Rosowsky, Vice President for Research, on K-State's Economic Prosperity Plan**Jan. 2023**

As we closed out the calendar year, we marked one year since the launch of K-State's bold *Economic Prosperity Plan*, or EPP, at a ceremony that included remarks from our newly named president, Richard Linton, the chair of the Kansas Board of Regents, and others.

Our EPP is K-State's commitment to leveraging our research strengths, unique facilities and capabilities, and faculty expertise to drive statewide economic development and advance the global competitiveness of Kansas and Kansas businesses in select industry sectors. Our ambitious plan – built upon our land-grant mission, heritage, and commitment – has bold goals. We will create 3,000 new jobs and bring \$3 billion of new investment into Kansas in 10 years.

At this one-year anniversary, we thought it was appropriate to provide a brief update on our progress and share information about our plans for the coming year.

The EPP focus areas are: food and agriculture systems innovation, digital agriculture and advanced analytics, and biosecurity and biodefense. An additional focus area, "K-State 105: Every Town to Gown," is our commitment to engaging in new and meaningful ways with all 105 counties in Kansas to assist in economic development planning, thinking, and initiatives, connecting them to K-State's expertise/resources and leveraging those of partnering organizations). You can learn more about the Plan and its components, partnerships, initiatives, and progress on the EPP website. See: www.k-state.edu/economicprosperity/.

The 10-year benchmarks included in the plan set a goal to create 1,100 direct jobs and \$550M in direct investment into Kansas by the end of 2022 – year 3 after the established baseline year (2019). As of this month, we have created 1,107 direct jobs and \$650 million in direct investment. An additional 616 direct jobs and \$942 million in direct investment have been announced. A highlight of 2022 was the announcement of Scorpion (Scorpius) Biological Services selecting Manhattan for their new manufacturing facility. Once construction of the 500,000 square feet of manufacturing space has been completed, the new facility is expected to employ more than 500 people. But there have been more successes to celebrate, including HydroGraph, a K-State technology-based startup; Canopy, another K-State technology spin-out; and a \$2 million Economic Development Administration grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce to K-State's Technology Development Institute to expand our region's digital manufacturing capabilities.

Efforts to focus, leverage, and promote K-State's research in the EPP focus areas also have been paying dividends, with tens of millions of dollars of new competitively awarded funding for research in these areas received in recent months. K-State also learned that its \$20 million Artificial Intelligence Institute proposal to the National Science Foundation (on the topic of AI in climate adaptive agriculture) was advanced to the finalist round for consideration for funding.

As part of our commitment to the Board of Regents to invest our own resources in helping to drive the Economic Prosperity Plan, we launched K-State's *Game-Changing Research Initiation Program*, or GRIP, earlier this fall, committing \$3 million over three years to invest in the most promising transdisciplinary research initiatives. At least one of the funded projects will have direct connection to the goals of the EPP. Other projects may also have economic development components to them. And last week, here in the State House in Topeka, we announced a major statewide partnership, the first of what we expect will be many, that will support and enhance, animate and accelerate our K-State 105 efforts.

And working closely with our partners, K-State Innovation Partners, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Kansas Department of Commerce, we are continuing our efforts to recruit, create, and expand companies in our community, region, and state. Our 2023 pipeline already is quite full and interest is strong in both the biodefense/biosecurity and agricultural industry sectors. We look forward to more announcements in the coming year.

I want to thank Governor Kelly for including in her 2023 budget (\$5 million recurring) funding to support Biomanufacturing Training and Education.

Kansas State University will develop a Biomanufacturing Training and Education Center (BTEC) to meet the needs of new bioscience and biomanufacturing industries locating in Kansas as a result of the expertise at Kansas State University and the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF), Scorpion Biologics, as well as USDA and other companies currently being recruited to Kansas. The BTEC will require renovation of two adjacent rooms to make one 2,000+ square foot laboratory. This space will contain a comprehensive biomanufacturing line that supports all phases of modern biomanufacturing processes.

The BTEC will be configured with equipment and software that prepares students for immediate transfer to industry. Upstream processing is the first stage of biomanufacturing and focuses on cell line development and cultivation to culture expansion of cells in bioreactors. Downstream processing begins with cell harvesting followed by testing, purification, and processing to create valuable biological products such as therapeutic proteins, antibiotics, hormones, enzymes, and amino acids. Equipment needs for downstream processing include cell extraction, solid-liquid separation, fractionation, and purification equipment in addition to bioprocess/bio-separation analysis equipment to confirm product.

Not only will creation of a dedicated biomanufacturing program support the current and anticipated needs of these Kansas businesses, but it will establish a career path to retain students in the state with well-paying positions. Internships will pique student interest and training programs can serve many transitioning military personnel.

This will position Kansas State University, and the State of Kansas, as a regional engine for workforce development in this critical industry sector, whether it's animal health or human health, veterinary or human medical diagnostics, or vaccine development for human, animal, or zoonotic infectious disease.

K-State is also requesting state support and investment in the broader K-State 105 initiative, as launched last week right here in the State House. State funds are needed to fully activate the K-State 105 initiative set and achieve on our bold goals for economic prosperity statewide. There is tremendous excitement across our State, in all 105 counties, among business leaders and community leaders, for the new K-State 105/Network Kansas partnership we announced last week (and which was the focus of President Linton's Shawnee County community visit right here in Topeka earlier this week). Now is the time to invest in the partnership, shared vision, shared commitment, action, and outcomes.

As part of K-State's bold, ambitious *Economic Prosperity Plan for Kansas*, the university has forged a partnership with NetWork Kansas to: (1) address locally identified community vitality needs that hinder economic growth prospects, and (2) provide needed services to help entrepreneurs and existing companies to advance their businesses.

Defined, meaningful, measurable, and reportable metrics have been established to track 105's progress over time including: (1) the creation of direct jobs, (2) attraction and leverage of capital and equity investments, (3) establishment or expansion of businesses, and (4) technical assistance and funding for businesses, entrepreneurs, and communities. These metrics are aligned with the K-State's EPP goals of creating 3,000 direct new jobs and attracting \$3 billion in new Kansas investment by 2030.

Thank you for inviting my testimony today. And thank you for all you do for Kansas State University and for Kansans. Kansas State is committed to being our state's economic engine; leader in research and discovery; workforce engine and talent magnet; and the university *for* Kansans.

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