



JUNCTION CITY
GEARY COUNTY
K A N S A S

ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION

America's Business Center

Economic Development's *Grow JC*

Talent, Logistics and Diversity

Our investment profile featured in *Kansas-From the heart of America*, magazine is an excellent showcase for Junction City/Geary Co. If you are interested in reading the full article, you can find pages 34-35 in the magazine, or contact us for a copy.

The article informs readers about the connection with people, place and things as strong assets in Junction City/Geary Co. With our proximity to Topeka, Wichita, Kansas City and other major markets. There are numerous opportunities for business development in Junction City/Geary Co. For instance, Mark Burriss is placing his bets on Junction City by moving his oil manufacturing company to our community. Ventria Bioscience Inc. brought their business to our community. Scott Deeter, CEO of Ventria stated, "We made the decision to locate our business in Junction City because of the access to sophisticated workers in our field". To quote Scott Deeter again, we are glad to be in Junction City," he said, "It's a hidden gem".

We couldn't agree more. With our access to transportation, available land and talent, we feel we have the attributes needed in Junction City/Geary Co. to grow!



Ventria Bioscience is a biopharmaceutical company located in Junction City with a product pipeline including both therapeutics and products used in the manufacture of vaccines, cell therapies and biomedical research. Ventria's therapeutics are developmental as novel treatments for inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). There are more than 1.5 million Americans who suffer from IBD. It is Ventria's goal to develop superior medicines for IBD that are convenient, safe and effective.

Ventria also makes products used by some of the world's largest biopharmaceutical companies. These products improve the productivity and safety of cell-based vaccine and biotech drug manufacturing. These products are sold worldwide by InVitria, a division of Ventria.

During 2017, Ventria plans to expand its operations in Junction City by expanding its molecular biology lab, greenhouses, process development and analytical lab and processing capacity. This will be an investment of more than \$1.5 million and will increase Ventria's local workforce by more than 50%.



What is E-Community in Junction City/ Geary County?

A NetWork® Kansas E-Community makes a commitment to cultivating an entrepreneurial environment by identifying and developing resources to help local entrepreneurs start or grow businesses. Selected communities will partner with NetWork Kansas to establish a locally-administered loan fund to assist entrepreneurs with capital, to increase connectivity to resources available to assist entrepreneurial and small businesses, to initiate activities to generate entrepreneurial development, and to participate in a statewide partnership with other E-Communities.

Geary County applied and was awarded partnership into the E-Community in 2015. We are currently working to build and establish this culture in Junction City/ Geary County. For more information call the EDC office at (785) 762-1976.

Junction City 1st Update

The Junction City First group has been busy supporting the Economic Development of Junction City and Geary County the last several months. In case you missed it, their first big contribution was \$100,000 to the Children's Mercy project which officially broke ground last month.. "Children's Mercy is going to be an incredible asset to our city and region, JC First is proud to help with this project", stated Leon Osbourn..

JC First has also been strongly supporting the EDC efforts of late by sponsoring the Military Workforce Summit, contributing to the Investment Profile Ad in *Kansas-From the Heart of America* magazine, and other opportunities. Coming up next, JC First has committed to support the "Mini-Shark Tank" project, designed to grow entrepreneurial opportunities in Junction City/ Geary Co. They are even sending a board representative on the Inter-Regional Visit with our neighboring communities. It is good to see this support and activity. Thank you, JC First!

Editorial

As an economic development professional, I hear all the time, "How can you grow without the workforce? Our Unemployment rate is so low". As many of you can imagine there are many opinions surrounding the development and growth of the workforce. A shortage of skilled labor is not endemic to just Junction City and Geary County, it is a national issue. Granted there are some populace areas of the country that have more labor availability, but overall the United States suffers from this dilemma.

I recently read the May/June edition of *Trade and Industry Magazine*. There is a graph featured in the front section of the magazine with the following question; "How does the shortage of an available, skilled workforce affect your site location decisions?". 27.27% said it has held the company back from expansion, 63.64% said they use it in their decision-making process, and 9.09% said it didn't carry heavy weight in their location or expansion solutions. This again will enforce the importance of having a labor force, but also companies know in today's age that labor follows jobs so you need to have a balance.

As a community, we must work to grow both areas, reminiscent of climbing two ladders at once. You need to balance growing jobs and companies while recruiting labor to supply the business needs. Labor will start to develop in areas where there are good jobs available and coming. So, the age-old adage applies to the job versus labor issues of "the chicken vs. the egg". I contend one doesn't come before the other, but that you work to build them simultaneously in the community. We here in Junction city and Geary County will continue to climb both ladders of labor and jobs.

Yours,



Hot Jobs

- **Superior Products** has recently located to the Junction City area and is looking for experienced, full-time, CNC Operators and Programmers. Apply in person at 2106 Old Highway 40 or email a resume to info@sup-prod.com.
- ♦ **Ventria Bioscience INC.** has a Protein Purifications Lab Technician position available. Protein Lab Technician works with Ventria's ExpressTec Biomanufacturing technology in the protein purification laboratory. This is a position working with colleagues to develop new processes to purify recombinant proteins. Please send resume in PDA format by email to Careers@Ventria.com
- ♦ **Ventria Bioscience INC.** has a Maintenance Operator Position. The maintenance operator works for the facilities manager and maintains facility infrastructure, lab equipment, mechanical systems such as plumbing, HVAC and electrical. This is a position that requires a skill set including previous experience with a variety of maintenance operations. email resume in PDF format Careers@Ventria.com

For more information contact:

Mickey Fornaro-Dean

Economic Development Director

222 W. 6th St, P.O. Box 26

Junction City, KS 66441

O: 785-762-1976

C: 316-641-6296

Mickey.Dean@jcacc.org

www.jcacc.org