



# City of Leavenworth

## 2025 Business Symposium

### *“Getting Further with a Team”*

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2025  
RIVERFRONT COMMUNITY CENTER  
123 SOUTH ESPLANADE STREET  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS  
SESSIONS IN THE RIVERVIEW ROOM (UNLESS NOTED)

**8:30 a.m. – Coffee, Check-In and Networking**

**8:45 a.m. – Welcome: Mayor Holly Pittman**

**8:50 a.m. – Federal Update: Brooke McCanles, Field Representative with U.S. Senator Roger Marshall’s Office**

**8:55 a.m. – “What Regional Growth Means for Leavenworth” and Q&A with Chris Gutierrez, President of Kansas City Area Development Corporation’s SmartPort**

**9:15 a.m. – “Transportation Investments for Business Growth” with Brian Faust, Public Works Director and Kim Portillo, Planning/Community Development Director**

**9:30 a.m. – “Business Panel: Building Your Team” with Sara Kobe, Vice Chair of Grow Leavenworth County Development Corporation (GLC)**

- **Dr. Jonathan Reddell and Dr. Ashley Reddell, Family Eyecare Center**
- **Megan Gilliland and Chad Gilliland, Next to Nature Farm and Retail Store**
- **Aaron Collins, Green Waves Lawn Solutions/2025 Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge Winner**

**10:00 a.m. – BREAK OUT SESSIONS**

**SESSION A (In Women’s Waiting Room) – “Empowering a Strong Start Up” with Carrie Poe, Business Advisor, University of Kansas Small Business Development Center**

**SESSION B (In Main Room/Riverview Room) – “Disaster Preparedness, It Can Happen to You” with Chuck Magaha, Leavenworth County Emergency Manager**

**10:25 a.m. – BREAK (Information Booths Open)**

**10:35 a.m. – KEYNOTE SPEAKER: “Chasing Opportunity, Keeping Community: Lessons for Today’s Entrepreneurs” with Celeste Carlson, Kansas City Lead Organizer for 1 Million Cups and Founder of Growing Good**

**11:15 a.m. – “New State Resources” with Christian Hopkins, Deputy Director, Kansas Department of Commerce Small Business Office**

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**11:35 a.m. – “Taking Advantage of Tourism: New Business Grants, Event Calendar and the World Cup” with Kristi Lee, CVB Director**

**11:45 a.m. – Lunch Buffet Opens**

**NOON – “What’s Changing at the City” with Scott Peterson, City Manager**

**12:30 p.m. – KCKCC Center Director Marcia Irvine Announces Scholarship Recipient for “Finding New Customers: Using Social Media in Business” Class**

**Final Remarks and Close**

**Participating Partners for Session Introductions and Information Booths**

**University of Kansas Small Business Development Center:** <https://business.ku.edu/research-and-faculty/centers/ku-sbdc>

**Network Kansas** <https://networkkansas.com/>

**Grow Leavenworth County Development Corporation** <https://growlvcounty.org/>

**Leavenworth County Development Corporation** <https://lvcountyed.org/>

**Leavenworth Main Street** <https://www.leavenworthmainstreet.com/>

**Leavenworth Convention and Visitors Bureau** <https://www.visitleavenworthks.com/visitors>

**Leavenworth County Register of Deeds**

[https://www.leavenworthcounty.gov/government/register of deeds office/index.php](https://www.leavenworthcounty.gov/government/register_of_deeds_office/index.php)

**Leavenworth County Emergency Management** <https://www.lvsheriff.org/emergency-management>

**Kansas City Kansas Community College** <https://www.kckcc.edu/>

**Workforce Partnership** <https://workforcepartnership.com/>

**Want to Start a Business or Get a City Grant?**

**[www.LeavenworthKS.gov/ED](http://www.LeavenworthKS.gov/ED)**

