



Watch Out, World! Kansas Is Becoming the Next Big Hub for Life Sciences.

The momentum is real and AdAstra BIO is helping lead the charge. As the Midwest steps into the nation's spotlight for life sciences manufacturing, our mission is clear: connect companies, innovators, and advocates to build the future of biomanufacturing right here at home. From policy and workforce development to cost-saving vendor programs and community-building events, we're making sure our members have the tools and connections to thrive.

We've also been listening and hear our community loud and clear: career resources matter. That's why we are putting our creative caps on and creating a Career Resources & Talent Commons. This will be a dedicated space within our website where companies can post open roles, professionals can share resumes, and we'll highlight tools, training, and opportunities that strengthen Kansas' life sciences workforce. Stay tuned!

BioKansas remains our active 501(c)(3) education arm, focused on workforce development, STEM engagement, and training. AdAstra BIO, as the 501(c)(6)

affiliate, carries the membership, advocacy, and policy side of the mission. Together, the two organizations form a powerful partnership. BioKansas prepares the talent, and AdAstra BIO builds the environment where they can grow and succeed.

Thank you for being part of this community. With your patience, support, and generous investments we're building something special in Kansas, and it's only just beginning.

So, grab your coffee and enjoy diving into what we've been working on — from our partners at Wichita State to our friends at BBS and more. There's a lot happening, and we're just getting started. **Happy reading!**

With gratitude,

Kevin, Lauren, & Tisha



A Note From Kevin

The first half of 2025 has been nothing short of transformative for Kansas biosciences. With the launch of AdAstra BIO as the state's new bioscience trade association, and the renewal of BioKansas as a hub for education and community outreach, we've built fresh momentum and a stronger foundation for the future.

Already this year we've grown our membership, deepened our engagement, and expanded our voice. From a packed Innovation Festival to meetings with lawmakers in Topeka and Washington DC, to representing Kansas at the BIO International Convention in Boston, our impact is being felt at every level. We've forged new alliances with universities, collaborated with peer nonprofits, and



welcomed two dynamic new staff members to our team.

We are especially proud to have launched the Heartland Bio-Innovation Challenge. A brand-new regional science fair that engages high school students in biology, biotechnology, engineering, and entrepreneurship. Created with partners including KU Edwards, Science City, the KC STEM Alliance, BioNexus KC, and the Biosciences Core Skills Institute, this program is already inspiring the next generation of innovators.

These wins are just the beginning. The peaks ahead are even higher and together, with the community we serve, we will reach them.

Onward and upward,

Kevin Mills

CEO, AdAstra BIO

Upcoming Events!

It's an exciting month for AdAstra BIO and BioKansas as we strengthen connections across Kansas and beyond. From manufacturing to pharmaceutical engineering to research networking, our members are leading conversations that bridge innovation and industry.

We encourage everyone to take advantage of these upcoming opportunities. Whether it's joining Kevin and Lauren at the SWOT Summit, connecting with peers at the KC RiBS networking event, or leveling up your career with ISPE and BioKansas at K-State Olathe. These events are great ways to build relationships, share expertise, and grow our life sciences ecosystem together.

KANSAS CITY MANUFACTURING NETWORK

SWOT

BREAKOUT SESSION #2

1:00 - 2:00 PM

SUMMIT

October 14, 2025  Lenexa, Kansas

AdASTRABIO

#2B: Bridge the Gap: Manufacturing Meets Biomanufacturing



KEVIN MILLS, PHD.

Compare traditional and biomanufacturing practices and discover how manufacturers can leverage shared foundations, workforce crossover, and AdAstra BIO network opportunities.



Kansas City RiBS



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kcresearchers.org

Networking Event

Who: KC RiBS

When: October 22, 2025

Where: 39th St Brewery

Time: 5:30–7:30 pm



*Join
-US-*

Networking & Collaboration: Foster connections between academia, industry, and the local community, promoting talent retention and career opportunities.

RSVP



Sponsored by:



A Special Event by: _____

BIOKANSAS



LEVEL UP YOUR PHARMA ENGINEERING CAREER

A career development event focusing on young professionals in the pharmaceutical engineering space. This will be a panel discussion followed by a BioBreak style networking event at K State, Olathe. We will be serving Jack Stack BBQ and beer/wine/soft drinks. The event is specifically targeting young professionals in the ISPE Midwest network, but is open to all AdAstra BIO members.



THURSDAY

October 23, 2025



START AT

5:00pm - 8:00pm

- Food from Jack Stack BBQ
- Beer/Wine/Soft Drinks
- Bring Your Business Card

Location:

K-State Olathe

22201 W Innovation Dr,
Olathe, KS 66061



Scan to
Register



Real Impact for Kansas Life Sciences

As we wrap up a busy stretch of events and networking, it's inspiring to see how those connections are translating into real impact for our members.

In the past year alone, life science companies across Kansas saved over \$13.2 million through BIO Business Solutions® (BBS). This is money that's staying right

here in our ecosystem. One small biotech with just six employees saved more than \$140,000 on lab and imaging equipment, allowing them to reinvest directly into their research and growth.

Through AdAstra BIO's partnership with BBS, we're helping companies of every size stretch their resources further, strengthen operations, and focus on what really matters, advancing science and innovation in Kansas.

Make sure you take a look at this list below and ensure your team is taking full advantage of these savings opportunities. These vendor partners are here to support you offering exclusive discounts and benefits that can make a real difference to your bottom line

Saving with Business Solutions®

Saving the life sciences industry over \$700M annually.

Vendor	Services	Cost Savings
ADP	HR Solutions and R&D Tax Credit Assessments	Waived Fees and 25% off HR Solutions
Airgas Healthcare	Packed Gas and Equipment	Variable Discounts
ALT (American Laboratory Trading)	Refurbished Lab Equipment	15% Discount
AON	Workforce Consulting	10% Discount
Avantor (delivered by VWR)	Lab Supplies	Up to 75% Discount
BREX	Corporate Credit Card	Tailored Rewards
CHUBB	Business Insurance	10% Discount
CleanHarbors	Waste Removal	40% Discount
Nikon	Microscope Systems	15% Discount
ODP	Office Supplies	Up to 75% Discount
PSC Biotech	Quality and Validation Services	10% Discount
PSC Software	Cloud QMS	35% Discount
ShareVault	Cloud-Based File Sharing	25% Discount
UniFirst	Workwear and Cleanroom Services	50% Discount
United Van Lines	Moving and Storage	Variable Discounts
UPS Healthcare	Shipping	Up to 74% Discount



Kendra Christman Receiving the President's Award

A Look Back, A Step Forward: Innovation Festival

This year's Innovation Festival was an incredible success. A true celebration of collaboration, creativity, and connection across the life sciences ecosystem. We want to extend a heartfelt congratulations to Emmanuel Bijaoui and Treat Therapeutics for winning the Pitch Competition, and to our Community Award recipients: Amanda Bratton, Kendra Christman, Stephanie Moran, and Brittany Martinez.

We're also grateful to everyone who participated in the poster session, exhibited, or attended. Your energy and engagement made the event special.

Next year, we're taking all of your feedback to make this event even better. Expect a new rebranded experience at a more intimate venue designed for deeper networking, more engaged conversations, and better visibility for exhibitors and sponsors. Our goal is for every attendee to walk away with something meaningful; a new



Amanda Bratton Receiving the Pollinator Award

partnership, investor, talent connection, or opportunity.

Stay tuned for exciting updates as we finalize next year's plans. We can't wait to share what's coming next!



Brittany Martinez receiving the Meadowlark Visionary Award

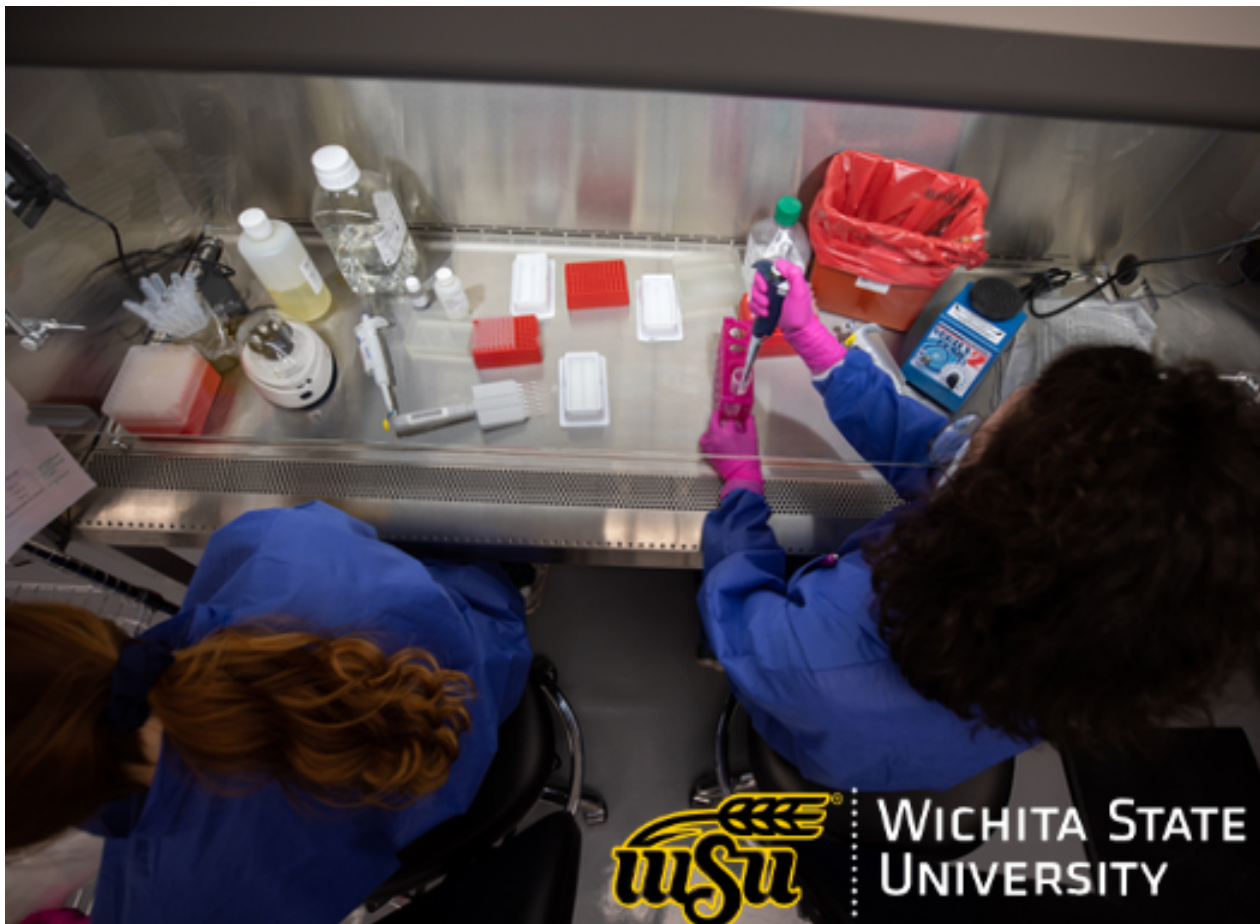


Stephanie Moran receiving the Sunflower Stewardship Award

Introducing Our New Member Spotlight

We're excited to launch a new feature in our newsletter, the Member Spotlight, highlighting the outstanding work and impact of our Elite Members across the life sciences ecosystem. This initiative was created to share visibility on the innovative projects, collaborations, and advancements happening within our community.

Kicking things off, we're proud to feature Wichita State University and Rob Gerlach, Associate Vice President of Tech Commercialization & Industry Engagement, for their leadership in driving innovation and industry partnerships in Kansas.



Pipetting Work Being Performed at WSU's Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory

Wichita State University's Strategic Evolution in Life Sciences

While Wichita State University has long been recognized as a powerhouse in aviation research through its renowned National Institute for Aviation Research, the university has made a bold and strategic decision in recent years to expand its research portfolio, establishing itself as a formidable force in Kansas' life sciences ecosystem. This transformation signals WSU's commitment to addressing critical workforce needs and driving innovation in health sciences, forensic biology, and advanced diagnostics. The university has a strong reputation for innovation-driven education and industry partnerships, and its recent emphasis on the life sciences reflects its broader mission: to create distinctive pathways for applied learning and research that directly address real-world challenges. This philosophy has enabled WSU to rapidly develop programs that educate the next generation of scientists and fill critical workforce gaps.

Pioneering Forensic Biology Education in the School of Criminal Justice

WSU's School of Criminal Justice recently received approval for a groundbreaking Master of Science in Forensic Biology degree, set to launch in fall 2026. This degree represents a significant milestone for the university, positioning it uniquely within the national higher education landscape. The timing of this program is noteworthy given

WSU's criminal justice heritage. Founded in 1934, the criminal justice program at Wichita State University holds the distinction of being the second-oldest program of its type in the United States.

The degree will leverage the university's strong partnership with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The ATF is currently constructing a national forensic laboratory on WSU's Innovation Campus, scheduled to open in early 2026. The forensic laboratory will utilize cutting-edge DNA processing technology for firearms and ballistic evidence analysis, adding approximately 120 life sciences jobs to the region for students and full-time staff.

Students entering the Master of Science in Forensic Biology program will benefit from direct collaboration with the ATF laboratory, gaining experience with the latest DNA processing technologies and ballistic evidence analysis techniques. The program is currently enrolling students for fall 2026, offering a unique opportunity to be part of this pioneering educational initiative.

Expanding Diagnostic Capabilities at WSU's MDL

WSU's Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory (MDL) has significantly expanded its capabilities, including a state-of-the-art pathology division as well as new microbiology services. Established in 2020 to address COVID-19 testing needs, MDL has evolved to address critical gaps in the healthcare system while offering invaluable hands-on training for students. The laboratory now focuses on three service areas: providing pathology grossing and histology services, collaborating with local and rural hospitals to process microbiology specimens, and providing professional and consulting services to help smaller institutions with laboratory inspections, certifications, and other compliance needs.

This expansion addresses a significant need in Kansas' healthcare infrastructure, particularly for rural communities that often struggle with timely access to diagnostic services. By working with small, rural hospitals to process their microbiology specimens, MDL ensures these communities have access to essential and timely diagnostic services. The laboratory's CLIA certification demonstrates its commitment to maintaining the highest standards for laboratory testing.

MDL's evolution also provides exceptional learning opportunities for students pursuing careers in medical laboratory sciences, clinical microbiology, and related healthcare fields. Students gain hands-on experience with state-of-the-art equipment and real-world diagnostic challenges, preparing them for immediate contributions to the healthcare workforce upon graduation.



WSU School of Criminal Justice Applied Learning Student Performing Forensic Laboratory Work

The Wichita Biomedical CampusSM Vision

WSU's life sciences ambitions extend far beyond individual programs to encompass a transformative vision for healthcare education and research in Kansas. The planned Wichita Biomedical CampusSM represents an approximately 471,000-square-foot, \$300 million health sciences facility that will create a thriving healthcare corridor in downtown Wichita.

This collaborative venture between WSU and the University of Kansas will establish a comprehensive health sciences hub in the heart of the city. The campus will be strategically located in downtown Wichita, where health care services, education, research and technology can be established near existing private hospitals and health care providers. This proximity is designed to strengthen collaboration and support interprofessional healthcare learning while creating opportunities for partnerships in emerging research fields.

Looking Forward: A Model for Innovation

WSU's emphasis on life sciences represents a strategic investment in Kansas' future. The university's initiatives directly address workforce shortages in critical fields while creating new opportunities for economic development and innovation.

"WSU recognizes the immense importance and value of increasing life sciences capacity in our region," said Rob Gerlach, associate vice president of Tech Commercialization and Industry Engagement at Wichita State. "From an economic development standpoint, we're building pathways for sustainable job growth and innovation that will benefit our region for decades to come."

This transformation reflects WSU's broader mission as an essential educational, cultural, and economic driver for Kansas and the public good. By strategically expanding into life sciences while maintaining its aviation research excellence, WSU

is creating a diversified portfolio of expertise that strengthens both the university and the broader Kansas economy.

Together, Science Is Unstoppable

Every win we celebrate. From new partnerships to policy progress is powered by our members.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. Let's keep building Kansas into a national leader in life sciences manufacturing and innovation.

