



Q2 2026 NEWSLETTER

Kansas Life Sciences Is on the Move.

The momentum is real and it's accelerating. In just the first part of this year, we have been on the ground, in the field, and in the rooms where decisions are made; connecting companies, advancing policy, and building the infrastructure this industry has been asking for.

What We're Hearing (From You):

- Stronger talent pipeline for lab and manufacturing roles
- Clearer pathways for graduates into life sciences careers
- A centralized way to find and hire qualified talent

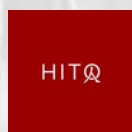
What We're Building:

- Workforce partnerships with BCSI + Rockhurst University
- A region-centric job board connecting companies to Kansas talent
- Expanded training programs aligned to real industry needs

Where We've Been Working:

- Capitol Hill — advocating for Kansas bioscience priorities
- Founder's Forum — connecting founders, investors, and operators
- Site visits — Fagron, MilliporeSigma, Central BioMedia, KU Innovation Park, Wichita State, Link, Great Plains Analytical Laboratory, and more!
- Roundtables/Forums — CROs, universities, and industry leaders across the region

Thank You to Our
Strategic Investment Partners



WHAT'S COMING:

Here's what to put on your calendar:

Golf Scramble Pitch & Putt — May 27 at Ironhorse Golf Club, Leawood. Our annual golf scramble reimagined in partnership with Plug & Play Topeka, featuring live startup pitches at select holes.

CRO Showcase Series — June 9, virtual, co-hosted with KCBioHub. Sequential CRO/CDMO presentations with facilitated follow-up introductions.

Kansas Pavilion at BIO International — June 22–25 in San Diego. Kansas will have a home on the floor of the world's largest biotech conference.

Midwest BRICK — Our rebranded annual conference, now hosted at KU Edwards Campus in Kansas City. The premier gathering for Midwest life sciences research, industry, and innovation.

THE FEEDBACK IS LANDING:

Since we joined AdAstra BIO, the goal has been simple: actually implement the feedback we've been hearing from members for years. The response has been humbling. We're grateful for the engagement, the candor, and the trust. This is your association and we're building it to reflect that.

SPONSORSHIP:

None of this happens without our sponsors and Strategic Investment Partners. Sponsorship is what allows us to create the spaces, the events, the programming, the convenings where real connections happen and real growth follows. When you sponsor AdAstra BIO, you're not just putting your logo on a banner. You're investing in the infrastructure that helps Kansas life sciences companies grow, and the individuals inside them grow personally and professionally. If you're interested in getting involved, reach out. There's a place for you here.

Read on. Then get involved. — Lauren Mages, Director of Member Engagement | Lauren@AdAstraBIO.org | www.AdAstraBIO.org

June 9, 2026 | Virtual | 12:00pm CST

ADASTRA BIO & KCBIO HUB CRO SHOWCASE SERIES



Bringing Biotechs to Kansas: CRO Partnering Forum

The Midwest isn't just cost-effective. It's strategically positioned. Kansas offers diverse and underrepresented patient populations that coastal trial sites often can't access, lower competition for site resources, faster enrollment timelines, and a growing infrastructure of world-class CROs, CDMOs, and research institutions anchored by facilities like NBAF, KU Medical Center, and a thriving biomanufacturing corridor.

Coastal biotechs are discovering what Kansas companies already know: you don't have to be in Boston or San Diego to run a great trial. You just need the right partners.

Diverse Patient Access | Lower Operational Costs | Faster Enrollment

The AdAstra BIO CRO Showcase Series is your direct line to those partners. One morning. No travel. Sequential presentations from leading CROs and CDMOs. Followed by facilitated introductions to the ones that fit your program.



June 9, 2026 | Virtual | Scan to register or visit AdAstraBIO.org
Questions? Lauren@AdAstraBIO.org

**DRIVEN
BY PURPOSE**

Kansas Has a Seat at the World's Biggest Biotech Table. Will Your Company Be in the Room?

BIO International draws 15,000+ attendees from 60+ countries. The largest gathering of biotech, pharma, investment, and policy leaders on the planet. Only a handful of state affiliates show up with a dedicated pavilion. AdAstra BIO is one of them. That means Kansas gets a home base, a flag in the ground, and a seat in conversations that shape the future of the industry.

Sponsorships are limited. Here's how to get in:

Catalyst \$7,500 → Your logo. Your meetings. Your moment.

Accelerator \$4,000 → Maximum exposure, multiple passes.

Activator \$2,500 → Get in the room.

Initiator \$1,000 → Plant your flag in San Diego.

**This is where deals get made, partnerships form,
and Kansas gets noticed.**

Reserve your spot → Lauren@AdAstraBIO.org

May 27, 2026 | Ironhorse Golf Club, Leawood, KS

ADASTRA BIO & PLUG AND PLAY PITCH & PUTT

Kansas Life Sciences Golf Scramble & Startup Pitch Competition



Networking,
innovation, and
friendly
competition all in
one unforgettable
afternoon.

Event Details

In partnership with Plug & Play Topeka, we're putting a fresh spin on the classic golf scramble. The 2026 Pitch & Putt pairs a lively 18-hole scramble with a live startup pitch competition hosted hole by hole on the course.

What to Expect:

- Golf scramble format. All skill levels welcome
- Startup pitches hosted at select holes throughout the round
- Curated connections with investors, CROs, and life sciences manufacturers
- Corporate team and sponsorship opportunities available
- Breakfast and lunch provided

This is one of AdAstra BIO's signature events. A perfect blend of relationship-building and regional innovation on full display.

PLUGANDPLAY



IRONHORSE
GOLF CLUB
EXPERIENCE TROON GOLF®

Workforce Solutions

Solving the #1 problem our members told us: talent.

Finding qualified life sciences talent has never been easy and keeping them trained, compliant, and growing is even harder. AdAstra BIO's Workforce Solutions program is designed to meet you exactly where you are. Whether you need your next hire, intern, or to get your team trained and certified.

TALENT COMMONS:

Your Talent Marketplace

A shared talent marketplace; including a region-centric job board connecting bioscience employers with qualified Kansas candidates. Post your openings, find specialized talent, and reduce hiring friction across the ecosystem.

TRAINING SOLUTIONS:

Expert Training, Delivered

Targeted professional development and compliance training built specifically for bioscience; brought directly to your team. Skills training, safety, and regulatory compliance. We bring the experts to you.

ARISE INTERNSHIPS:

Build Your Talent Pipeline

A structured internship program connecting Kansas companies with credentialed, work-ready students. Meet, train, and evaluate future hires with zero administrative burden. Biocollar jobs. Building Kansas's future.

Partnerships with BCSI and Rockhurst University are already in place. We are building this with the industry and we want your input. Interested in the job board? Be the first to know.

Membership Benefits



As an AdAstra BIO member, you're plugged into BIO Business Solutions (BBS) — saving the life sciences industry over \$700 million annually. Your preferred pricing with top vendors activates the moment your dues are current.

**\$13.9 million total
saved by AdAstra BIO
members**

**Over \$13.3 million in
savings flowed through
Avantor/VWR alone last
year across the AdAstra
BIO membership. That's
the power of collective
buying.**

**21 member companies used
2 or more vendors. They're
stacking savings across lab
supplies, waste removal,
shipping, office supplies, and
more. The more you use, the
more you save.**

The full BBS vendor list with discount details is shared on the next page.. If you haven't activated your BBS access yet, reach out to Lauren today!

**Get Started
Today**

Lauren@AdAstraBIO.org
www.AdAstraBIO.org

Membership Benefits

Saving with Bio 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	Tallored 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, 33% off	35% Discount
ShareVault	Cloud-Based File Sharing	25% Discount
United Van Lines	Moving and Storages	Variable Discounts
UPS Healthcare	UPS Healthcare	Up to 74% Discount
UPS Healthcare	Packed and Storage	Up to 74% Discount

Advocacy in Action

CEO Kevin Mills, Lauren Mages, and Dennis Ridenour of BioNexus KC represented Kansas this week on Capitol Hill as part of the annual BIO State Affiliate Fly-In. We met with Senator Roger Marshall, Senator Jerry Moran, Representative Derek Schmidt, Representative Sharice Davids, and Representative Tracey Mann carrying a unified message: Kansas is open for business, and the Midwest is ready to lead.



**"I always come away inspired and energized."
— Kevin Mills, CEO,
AdAstra BIO**

We are your voice in Washington!

From biosecurity and domestic supply chain resilience to workforce development and the future of biomanufacturing, our meetings covered the full landscape of what it takes to build a globally competitive life sciences ecosystem right here in the Heartland. Kansas has a compelling story and we told it.

We left encouraged. The commitment we heard across the delegation; to science, innovation, education, and economic growth reinforced why this work matters. A heartfelt thank you to Dennis Ridenour of BioNexus KC for his partnership, and to the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) for making these conversations possible.



Get Involved

Lauren@AdAstraBIO.org
www.AdAstraBIO.org

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Manhattan Tech: Providing HIRE Education. Providing HIRE Training.

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Manhattan Area Technical College (Manhattan Tech) is proud to partner with AdAstra BIO for the April Member Spotlight, showcasing the commitment to workforce development in Kansas' growing biotech sector. Each program equips students with hands-on skills for biotech facility operations, directly supporting local industry needs like those at the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) and emerging biomanufacturing firms.

In the heart of Manhattan, Kansas, Manhattan Tech serves as a vital engine for economic growth, workforce development, and community resilience. With an annual 1150 college credit students, approximately two hundred Adult Education participants, and over 2,500 clients at its Regional Testing Center, many from out-of-state, Manhattan Tech is the community and employer's choice for training the 21st century workforce. Ranked consistently in the Top 5 for five years among U.S. community colleges by WalletHub, Manhattan Tech excels in affordability, educational outcomes, and career preparation all while delivering hands-on training that aligns directly with regional employer needs in healthcare, manufacturing, biotech, and skilled trades.

The Mission is simple, to provide high-quality technical, general, and adult education for technologically advanced careers, and has positioned the institution as a leader in upskilling and reskilling adult learners. Programs emphasize critical thinking, problem-solving, and real-world application, with dedicated faculty using innovative equipment to give graduates a competitive edge. As Kansas anticipates growth from facilities like the NBAF, and potential biomanufacturing companies, Manhattan Tech's contributions project \$20 million in annual economic impact from graduate spending, operations, and construction, plus enhanced utility, and franchise revenues.

Comprehensive Academic Programs Fueling High-Demand Careers

MATC offers over 20 Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees and technical certificates across diverse fields, preparing students for immediate workforce entry or further advancement. In health sciences, the Nursing program stands out with a perfect 100% NCLEX pass rate for seven consecutive years, producing qualified professionals to address critical shortages in the Flint Hills region. Popular majors like Nursing, Welding, and Construction Trades reflect student demand, with rigorous curricula featuring real-world assignments and high certification success.

Industrial technologies have expanded dramatically with the 2024 opening of the 47,000 sq ft Advanced Technology Center, doubling capacity in welding, HVAC, Electrical, Plumbing, Construction, Industrial Maintenance Technology, Critical Environment Tech, and opening the door to Biomanufacturing. This state-of-the-art facility includes plans for a Bio-Security Level 3 (BSL3) training room simulating microbiological containment "failures."

Adult Education initiatives since 2018 have upskilled hundreds via high school diploma through GED completion, English Language Learner courses, and tailored workplace training, often delivered on-site to minimize employer downtime and turnover. The Regional Testing Center, accredited for nine national platforms (Pearson VUE, ETS, PSI, Prometric), certifies talent across sectors, amplifying Manhattan Tech's reach beyond Manhattan.

Spotlight on Biotech: Training for Kansas' Bioscience Future

While building on prior successes, Manhattan Tech is intentionally building out a comprehensive biotechnology and biomanufacturing portfolio to serve Kansas' rapidly growing bioscience sector. The college has fully developed curriculum for an AAS in Biotechnology Laboratory Technician and related advanced credentials and is positioned to activate these programs as industry demand and enrollment support launch. In the meantime, Manhattan Tech leverages this groundwork to design short-format trainings and micro-credentials that help employers upskill incumbent workers and prepare new talent for current Good Manufacturing Practice, quality, and lab-support roles tied to facilities requiring the specialized training to operate efficiently.

Manhattan Tech's existing Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) and related health science courses already provide students with strong foundations in lab safety, specimen handling, quality assurance, and clinical testing. Connecting the skills that translate directly into biotech, biomanufacturing, and critical environments. Building on this, faculty and industry partners are collaborating to shape customized modules in areas such as basic molecular techniques, cleanroom practices, contamination control, and documentation, which can be delivered as stand-alone workshops, credit-bearing electives, or stackable micro-credentials tailored to employer needs.

In parallel, specialized Biohazardous Risk Reduction Training and Critical Environments Technologies offerings give facilities and maintenance teams practical tools to work safely in BSL2-4 and other controlled environments. These training courses focus on understanding airflow, pressure relationships, decontamination procedures, and coordinated response when systems do not function as designed, aligning closely with the operational realities of NBAF and regional biomanufacturing and research labs.

The Mobile Career Lab, a 24-foot mobile expandable trailer, extends this vision beyond campus by bringing VR/AR simulations of biotech-adjacent facility operations, safety protocols, and technical skills directly to schools, communities, and employers across the region. Deployed to rural high schools, community events, and industry sites, the unit helps students and adult learners "step inside" virtual cleanrooms, mechanical spaces, and lab environments before ever entering a live facility. This immersive outreach is already building awareness of bioscience careers and will serve as a powerful on-ramp into future biotechnology programs, micro-credentials, and employer-specific training as those offerings come online.

Together, Medical Laboratory Technology, emerging biotech micro-credentials, critical environment training, and the mobile/VR platforms, position Manhattan Tech as a nimble, industry-responsive partner. The college is not only prepared to launch full biotechnology degree pathways, but is also meeting employers where they are today, co-creating training that supports safe, efficient operation of complex bioscience facilities and strengthens the broader AdAstra BIO ecosystem in Kansas.

Strategic Partnerships and Tangible Economic Impact

Manhattan Tech's collaborations amplify its influence: seamless pathways with Kansas State University (MHK Pathway, <https://manhattantech.edu/mhk-pathways>), employer job fairs, chamber networks, and rural sites in Wamego and Junction City. Grants like \$668K from the Patterson Family Foundation (covering eight counties), Perkins, and Title III fund expansions, ensuring equity and alignment with workforce demands.

Economically, Manhattan Tech supports one-in-31 regional jobs through alumni earnings, operations, and construction, mirroring national technical college impacts exceeding \$1B annually. 92% of Manhattan Tech graduates stay in the Region delivering critical need, high demand, high wage services.

Honors like the Wamego Chamber Impact Award affirm Manhattan Tech's legacy. By narrowing skills gaps, upskilling, and reskilling, Manhattan Tech boosts household incomes, reduces unemployment, and enhances health outcomes.



A Vision for Tomorrow's Workforce & How to Join It

Imagine a Kansas where every biotech cleanroom is staffed with skilled talent, every construction site builds faster with skilled welders, and every hospital runs smoother thanks to top-trained nurses; all powered by Manhattan Tech. Our student-centered approach instills core abilities like communication, critical thinking, and technical mastery, then layers on employer-tailored training that turns learners into leaders in a global economy. With a 72% graduation rate, 98% job placement, and national top rankings, we don't just transform individual lives, we ignite regional prosperity, narrowing the skills gap.

Ready to partner? Manhattan Tech is your ally for custom micro-credentials, VR/AI powered immersive experiences, or full program launches in biotech and beyond. Contact us at outreach@manhattantech.edu to schedule a Career Lab demo, co-design training, or explore collaborations that drive your workforce needs. Visit manhattantech.edu today and let's build Kansas' bioscience and innovation future, together.



THANK YOU!

To Our Strategic Investment Partners and to Every Member Who Continues to Show Up.

None of what you read in this newsletter happens without investment; in time, in resources, and in belief that Kansas life sciences is worth fighting for. Our Strategic Investment Partners make it possible for us to host events, build programs, advocate in Washington, and create the spaces where real connections happen. We are deeply grateful.

Thank You to Our Strategic Investment Partners

Visionary leaders advancing the **Kansas bioeconomy**



Building growth. Driving policy. Advancing workforce. Elevating Kansas.



Become a Member | Become a Sponsor | Get Involved
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