

2020 has started with great momentum! To date, the KSMO region has already held three significant events for MBEs and Corporate Members. Thanks to Anita Paige, Senior Vice President of the Edge Advisory Group, we were able to host two workshops on Strategic Planning at our Lenexa office at the end of January. Due to our renewed relationship with Chris Kelly, MCC Program Coordinator of Supplier Diversity, the Council held our annual KSMO Town Hall at MCC-Penn Valley where we had phenomenal attendance and participation.

The Council is on the MOVE and the KSMO Region is growing significantly. **Here are a few of the highlights for 2019:**

- New MBEs for KSMO are up more than **10%** including MBE Subscription Services.
- The **Federal Reserve Bank-KC, TMC, Cerner, Boyd Gaming** joined as New Local Corporate Members.
- **The MBEIC was reactivated** with Albert Gonzales, President of Gonzales Consulting Services, serving as the Chair and a visit with KSMO Corporate Members was held to better understand concerns and opportunities for the local market.
- Operated by the Council under a special federal grant, The Denver MBDA assisted MBEs with **more than \$150M in access to capital and contracting opportunities.**
- **Libby Allman**, V.P. of Manufacturing & Procurement for Hallmark and **Jennifer Matney**, Senior V.P. of Operational Risk Management for UMB, were elected to the Board of Directors.
- **Sol Ybarra** is the new MBE Services and Development Coordinator for the Council since the departure of Ann Albergotti who now works for an Atlanta-based MBE.
- Cerner hosted the 2019 BOE where we boasted nearly **200 attendees**, a record for recent years. Collaborative MOUs were executed with the State of Missouri, Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce, Alt-Cap, and the SBA.
- MBE University will launch in April as a result of a unique partnership with the University of Nebraska.
- The Council has a new and improved website thanks to MBE, Blu Bambu.
- The 2020 Calendar for the KSMO Region is set and filling up.

More than 60 attendees were present at the Town Hall demonstrating that the Council is moving forward in the KSMO region just as it is throughout our four state area.