



Harvey County
Economic Development Council

2020-2021 Annual Report





As I reflect back on my time as the HCEDC Board President these past two years, it is hard to remember our pre-pandemic normal. As a business owner of both a manufacturing operation and a restaurant, I have felt first-hand the challenges and struggles of our changing economy. For me this meant temporary closures, the inability to get supplies, loss of employees and revenue, combined with navigating new cleaning procedures and daily temperature checks. We were all facing the same unknowns when it came to COVID-19, but thanks to great leadership and support throughout Harvey County and Kansas, we survived.

For the HCEDC Covid-19 meant staying open while other facilities worked from home or closed, to ensure businesses had a point of contact for information and questions. It meant surveys and increased calls to our manufacturers to find out what their needs were and determine ways to assist. It meant understanding each new program that was introduced to assist employers and making sure our manufacturing base had the opportunity to apply. It meant an intentional pivot and focus to make sure all of our manufacturers were still here when the pandemic came to an end. And to this goal, I am proud to say, we were successful.

Although marketing events were canceled, we at the HCEDC were surprised to see project activity increase and even hosted a few socially distanced site visits during the pandemic. There have been several promising conversations with companies looking to relocate and expand in our region, and we also have several local expansions on the horizon. We are fortunate to have a diverse manufacturing base here in Harvey County, and I believe our future looks strong.

I feel fortunate to have been the HCEDC Board President during this time, as I was able to witness our County unite and support each other like never before. When I first joined the HCEDC, the slogan was "Stronger Together." I believe that to be even more true today. We are lucky to have great leadership and a strong, county-wide economic development organization that works closely within our larger region. Thank you all for your support of the HCEDC, and for the opportunity to serve as Board President.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karl Matlack", is shown over a light blue rectangular background.

Karl Matlack

HCEDC Board President 2019-2021

OUR MISSION

Harvey County Economic Development is dedicated to the growth and advancement of Harvey County's economy.

We strive to maintain our economic health by supporting the business and industry we have while continuing the recruitment of new industry. We have a firm belief the vitality of our economy is directly connected to the wellbeing of each resident. We have a local touch that is built on strong partnerships with our leadership and a global reach that ensures we stay in tune with ever-changing industry trends and markets.

BOARD MEMBERS

Karl Matlack *president*
CITY OF BURRTON | STINGER INC.

Jason Jones *vice-president*
City of Hesston | Hesston Wellness Center

Ron Lang *secretary / treasurer*
Newton Area Chamber of Commerce | Union State Bank

Mindy Budde *past-president*
Harvey County | Mackey & Sons

Rod Kreie *executive committee*
City of Newton | Great Plains Biosciences

Joel Gaeddert *executive committee*
City of North Newton | Flint Hills Design

Carl Harris *executive committee*
City of Newton | Carl Harris Co.

Dennis Travis *board member*
City of Halstead / Power Specialties

Ethan Reimer *board member*
City of Halstead

John Carder *board member*
City of Hesston

Melvin Schadler *board member*
Harvey County / Peoples Bank

Tony Wheeler *board member*
City of Walton

Jeremy Ashby *board member*
City of Walton | Newton City-County Airport

Bryan Chapman *board member*
City of Sedgwick / Chapman Construction

Josh Durner *board member*
City of Burrton / State Bank of Burrton

Dr. Jon Gering *board member*
City of North Newton / Bethel College

Randy Hague *board member*
Harvey County

Ken Knepper *board member*
Newton Area Chamber of Commerce / Citizens State Bank

Bob Myers *board member*
City of Newton

Stephanie Ashby *ex officio*
City of Walton

Gary Emry *ex officio*
City of Hesston

Megan Smith *ex officio*
Hesston Chamber of Commerce

Pam Stevens *ex officio*
Newton Area Chamber of Commerce

Anthony Swartzendruber *ex officio*
Harvey County

Zach McHatton *ex officio*
City of Newton

BUSINESS GROWTH

Recruitment, retention, and expansion are core components of our scope of work and one way we measure success in our economic development efforts. During 2020-2021, we have seen new companies locate in Harvey County, as well as existing companies expand. These wins are the result of collaborations with our local and State partners.

**THIS GROWTH
REPRESENTS**

**\$10.6
MILLION**
in Capital Investment

**103
NEW JOBS**

THANK YOU!

To the following businesses for your decision to expand and locate in Harvey County.



BUSINESS RETENTION

In 2017, HCEDC made a deliberate decision to prioritize existing Harvey County Manufacturers.

At that time we began a formalized retention program to ensure that companies who have already made the commitment to locate in Harvey County are happy and healthy. While we still strongly recruit new investment, we also cultivate growth from within. The relationships built since the start of our retention program have proven invaluable throughout the past year and allowed us to easily communicate with the manufacturing base during the pandemic.

In addition to our formalized retention program, the HCEDC communicated through multiple surveys, emails, and phone calls to discuss COVID-19. From making hand sanitizer, purchasing sewing machines and material to make masks rather than laying off employees, to inventing unique face shields for medical professionals, our manufacturers have proven themselves as resilient and resourceful. We are grateful for all of the businesses that call Harvey County home.

HCEDC conducted 47 retention visits with 33 local companies either by phone interviews, zoom calls, or in-person meetings.

AGCO Corporation

Ardent Mills

Budde Enterprises

Bunting Magnetics

CD Custom Enterprises LLC

Doug Bradley Trucking

Excel Industries Inc

Fly Manufacturing

Full Vision

Future Foam Inc

Hardwood Millwork and Supply Inc

Human Plant Solutions

Industrial Metal Fab

Knork

Legg Company Inc

Mackey & Sons

Manufacturing Solutions

Martin Machine and Welding Inc

Mid-Continent Cabinetry

Midwest Transformers

Mill Creek

Millennium Machine and Tool

Park Aerospace Corp

Prestressed Concrete Inc

Southwest & Associates Inc

Standridge Color Corp

Stinger Inc

Sunnyland Kansas

Unruh Fabrication Inc

Voestalpine Nortrak Inc

Weatherly Aircraft

Wilbur-Ellis

Wooten Enterprises

MARKETING

Marketing and networking events are an opportunity to showcase the assets located in Harvey County to the rest of the world. Site Selector engagement, tradeshow, and conferences transitioned to virtual formats, and the HCEDC participated in several throughout the year including:

CONFERENCES

- Economix
- Consultant Connect
- Site Location Partnership 1:1 Meetings
- International Economic Development Council Annual Meeting

VIRTUAL TRADESHOWS

- ProMat
- Fabtech
- MRO
- IFT Food Expo

BROOKS TRADE CENTER SIGNING DAY

HCEDC partnered with Brooks Trade Center to host a new event this past May celebrating our career and technical workforce. Twenty-two areawide students graduated from the CTE program this spring and entered the regional manufacturing workforce or went on to continue their technical education. HCEDC along with our local employers, teachers, and parents, celebrated these students' success during a signing day at Newton High School. This is an event we look forward to continuing and growing in the future.



PANDEMIC RESPONSE EFFORTS

HCEDC worked both reactively and proactively with our partners within Harvey County to address the challenges created by COVID-19.

SPRING 2020

Harvey County created an Incident Plan and assigned emergency support functions.

HCEDC led ESF-14 which focused on long-term economic recovery.

HCEDC partnered with the Newton and Hesston Chambers of Commerce, and the Newton Convention and Visitors' Bureau to send out a COVID impact survey assessment.

Business outreach to provide information on PPP loans, EDIL loans, PPE, etc.

SUMMER 2020

Harvey County created the Harvey County CARES Committee. This was a 7 person committee created to assist in the distribution of the \$7M of CARES Act Funding dedicated to Harvey County. The HCEDC represented Business and Industry within this group.

Needs assessments for HC CARES funds were submitted and the Committee worked to create program buckets, qualifications, and dollar amounts for each sector represented.

The CARES Committee worked to assist in finalizing the County's Direct Aid Plan.

FALL 2020

The Harvey County Commission and the CARES Committee established six grant programs to distribute CARES funds.

Public Health Grant • Community Support Grant • Community Testing • Private Schools and Colleges • Long-Term Care Support • Senior Center Sustainment

The County partnered with the Community Foundation to help with the grant application process and the CARES Committee assisted in reviewing applications.

Funds were awarded and distributed to eligible applicants.

WINTER 2020 - PRESENT

HCEDC worked with local partners for coordinated vaccine clinics for our manufacturing community.

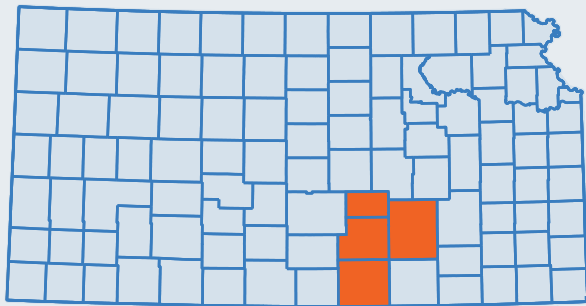
As restrictions have lifted, HCEDC is working closely with our local industry to address on-going challenges to businesses following the pandemic.

FUTURE

As the landscape of economic development changes, so do the needs of businesses when evaluating sites. The current top site location factors are:

Highway Accessibility	Corporate Tax Rates	Environmental Regulations	Proximity to Major Markets
Availability of Skilled Labor	Energy Availability and Rates	Quality of Life	Occupancy or Construction Costs
Labor Costs	Tax Exemptions/Incentives	*Source: Area Development Corporate Survey	

REGIONALISM



HCEDC is a member of the GWP's Strategic Advisory Team, actively participates in the Regional Area Economic Partnership, and is part of the executive committee for South Central Kansas' Economic Development District.

HCEDC recognizes the strength of being part of the Wichita MSA. We are a strong region and we are only getting stronger. The HCEDC supports regional initiatives led by the Greater Wichita Partnership (GWP) which include the Talent Marketing Blueprint, the Regional Growth Plan, and Project Wichita.

As our region is growing stronger, so is our State. The Kansas Department of Commerce has recently increased staff and revamped the State's incentive programs. We are proud to be a member of the Kansas Economic Development Alliance, and to participate in Team Kansas' marketing efforts.

For Harvey County Economic Development Council, we continue to be "Stronger Together."

HCEDC STAFF

We are a small team with a large reach. We strive to meet the ever changing needs of the business community, recruit and assist new growth, and support regional initiatives. We could not do what we do without the support of all of the communities in Harvey County that help us in making this a place where people and businesses want to locate and grow. Please stop in and visit with us or drop us a line.



Beth Shelton

executive director

Office: (316) 283-6033

beth@harveycoedc.org



Jennifer Mueller

retention & expansion specialist

Office: (316) 283-6033

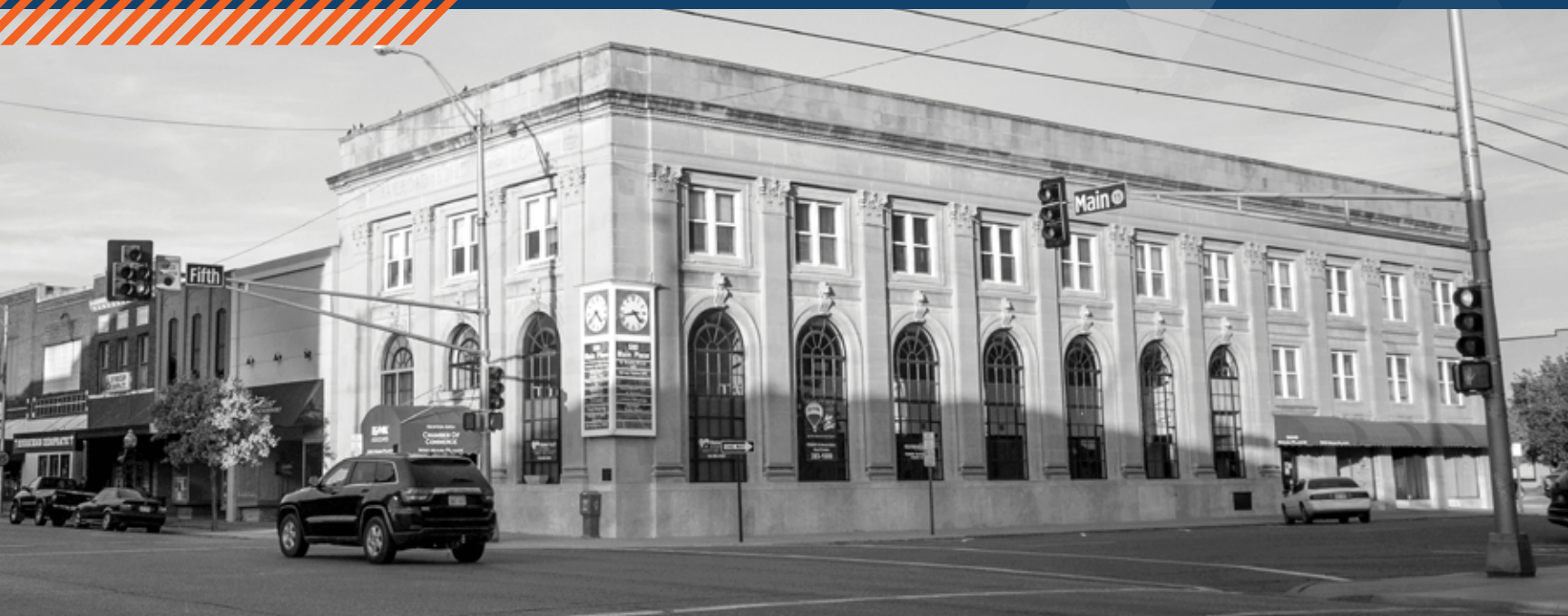
jennifer@harveycoedc.org



John Waltner

regional relations

Office: (316) 283-6033





**Harvey
County
Economic
Development**

Collaborative • Global • Growth

500 N. Main, St. 109
Newton, Kansas 67114
harveycoedc.org

