

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Terri Huntington at 3:30 P.M. on February 18, 2008 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Lana Gordon, excused  
Gary Hayzlett, excused  
Don Myers, excused

Committee staff present:

Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Ryan Hoffman, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jason Long, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Matt Todd, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Janet Henning, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Stan Ahlerich, President, Kansas Inc.  
Justin Marlowe, Ph.D., Department of Public Administration/Institute for Policy and Social Research, University of Kansas  
Richard Caplan, NetWork Kansas

Stan Ahlerich, President, Kansas Inc., told Committee members a major component of Kansas, Inc.'s statutory requirement is that they periodically assess the effectiveness of the various economic development initiatives throughout Kansas. (Attachment 1)

Dr. Justin Marlowe, Department of Public Administration, University of Kansas, served as principal investigator for the Evaluation of the Department of Commerce and provided an overview of the evaluation to Committee members. The evaluation was designed to answer the overall question of whether Commerce business assistance activities are achieving their stated mission of "advancing prosperity for all Kansans." (Attachment 2) (Attachment 3- Evaluation of the Kansas Department of Commerce - on file Kansas, Inc.) (Attachment 4 - An Evaluation of the Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship - on file Kansas, Inc.)

Richard Caplan, NetWork Kansas, reported to Committee members on the Evaluation of the Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship. Mr. Caplan stated that NetWork Kansas has worked diligently to develop procedures, policies, and approaches to provide budding entrepreneurs with tools that are user-friendly and practical, and that avoided creating a bureaucracy-based organization. (Attachment 5)

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 19, 2008.