



February 19, 2019

Emily Compton
President/CEO
Goodwill Industries of Kansas, Inc.
3351 N. Webb, Wichita, KS 67226

Dear Emily,

The Workforce Alliance is one of five Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) in the state of Kansas that are primarily funded through the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). These funds are used to help low skilled adults, out of school youth and dislocated workers overcome barriers to employment through targeted employment and training programs. The LWDBs, in partnership with the Kansas Department of Commerce, operate the 23 Workforce Centers in Kansas.

As you are aware, the Workforce Alliance LWDB is led by a group of business leaders and includes representatives from community based agencies, organized labor and education/training institutions. Recognizing that workforce development is a significant issue with a large number of stakeholders, the long standing operating philosophy of the Workforce Alliance is to leverage resources and align services to best meet the needs of employers, job seekers and students. This strategic approach includes aligning state and local policies targeting workforce development such as the Excel in Career and Technical Education, expanded employment services to individuals with criminal backgrounds and Registered Apprenticeship.

The Workforce Alliance LWDB is very proud of the partnership with Goodwill Industries of Kansas. Outcomes from NexStep, the highly successful Adult Education program, continue to make a big impact in the community. However, there is still a need to help job seekers earn the credentials and skills needed to meet the employment requirements for employers in the region.

If the Kansas Legislature approves SB 199, the "A-Ok to Work" bill, it will be one of the policy levers the Workforce Alliance would seek to leverage with WIOA funding to create significant community impact. Every day there are job seekers coming to the Workforce Centers that would benefit from this legislation.

I thank you for all that Goodwill does to support the development of a skilled workforce in our community. I look forward to continuing the partnership between our respective organizations and please do not hesitate to let me know how we can support your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Keith Lawing".

Keith Lawing, President & CEO
Workforce Alliance