



Press Release: September 30, 2022

UMKC TalentLink Announces Partnership With South Kansas City Workforce Development Center

Finding skills-focused employee training for businesses and career-advancing skills development for workers just became easier in South Kansas City.

Kansas City, MO – UMKC TalentLink and the South Kansas City Workforce Development Center (WDC) announces a partnership to provide employee training programs at the Center. The 5,000 square-foot facility is based in the Blue River Commerce Center, the former site of the Bannister Federal Complex at 95th and Troost Avenue.

TalentLink's expert-led courses and programs include the Essential Skills for First Time Supervisors Series scheduled for November 7, 9, 14, and 16 from 2-4 pm at the Center. Participants who complete all four sessions earn a certificate and gain valuable leadership skills applicable to their career. The Series addresses a training need evident during the tight labor market coinciding with upheaval in hiring and career changes over three years.

"TalentLink's professional development includes valued skills for those recently promoted to leadership roles and in-demand technical skills," says TalentLink Executive Director Jake Akehurst. "We are here to connect with businesses seeking to upskill employees and help people eager to learn and advance their career potential."

Starting October 13, TalentLink hosts office hours at the WDC on the 2nd and 4th Thursday, 12-4pm, every month. TalentLink will consult with businesses to determine professional development needs. They will register and coordinate TalentLink-led training programs offered at the site, online, and off-site for custom training.

The South Kansas City Chamber of Commerce leads the coalition of community organizations operating at the WDC. The Chamber's role is to "create and operate" a facility that provides workforce development services for area businesses and residents. Other WDC partners include NorthPoint Development, Full Employment Council and Metropolitan Community College - Longview.

"We're a good partner for businesses," says Vickie Wolgast, president of the Chamber and the Workforce Development Center. "Companies are having a hard time finding employees with the skills that companies need. There is nothing like the WDC providing workforce development in this area."

UMKC TalentLink will also host a Community Launch event at UMKC's Student Union, Room 401 (5100 Cherry St.), on **Friday, October 21, 2022, 8-9:30 am**, featuring guest speaker Jennifer Schnack, T-Mobile Vice President of Employee Talent, Development & Experience. Complimentary breakfast buffet and networking included. TalentLink celebrates the October launch of its website, developed by local firm Propaganda 3, and a new registration system during UMKC Engagement Month.

More details and reservations, and location information is available at umkctalentlink.com/launch.

For images and interview requests, please contact UMKC TalentLink Marketing Coordinator Pete Dulin, 816.914.1184, petedulin@umkc.edu.