

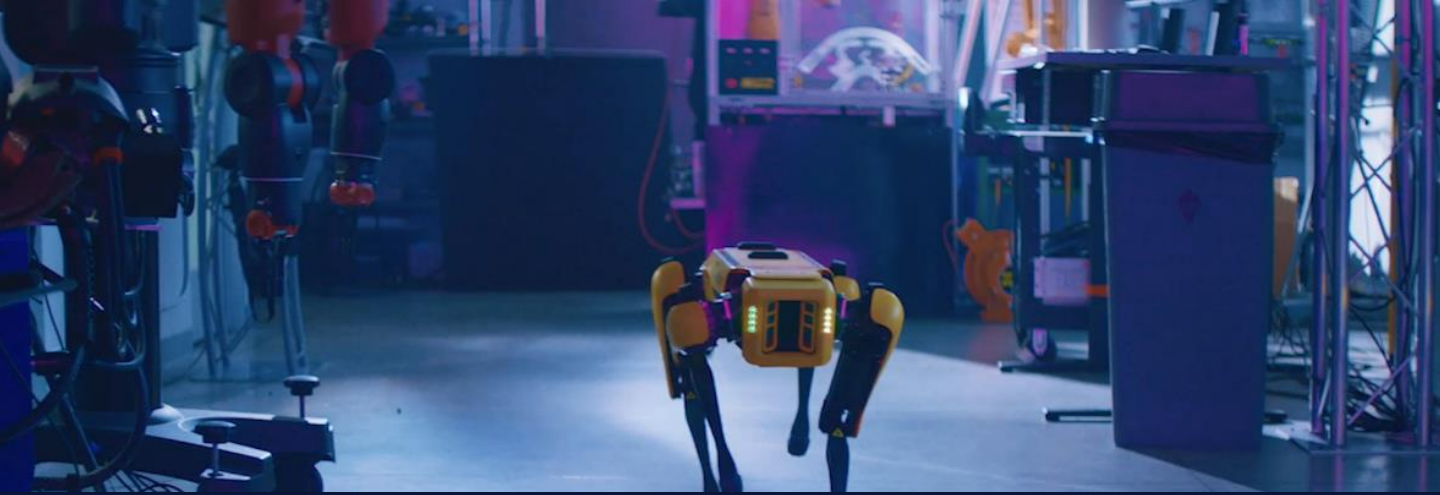
KANSAS

COMMERCE



Chief Innovation & Strategy Officer Topeka, Kansas *

* The selected candidate may be based anywhere in northeast Kansas.



About the Kansas Department of Commerce

Supporting Economic Development in the State of Kansas

As the state’s lead economic development agency, the Kansas Department of Commerce strives to empower individuals, businesses, and communities to achieve prosperity in Kansas. Commerce accomplishes its mission by developing relationships with corporations, site location consultants, and stakeholders in Kansas, the nation, and the world. Their strong partnerships allow them to help create an environment for existing Kansas businesses to grow and foster an innovative, competitive landscape for new businesses.

#1 Most Business Investment Per Capita

Site Selection Magazine





The Impact of the Kansas Department of Commerce

Creating a Prosperous Future for the People of Kansas

The mission of the Kansas Department of Commerce is to create jobs, attract businesses, and foster a vibrant and prosperous economy for the people of Kansas. Here are some key functions and responsibilities of the Kansas Department of Commerce:

Business resources: The Business Development team creates customized incentive proposals based on capital investment, job creation, employee compensation, and training. They also coordinate with community and economic development professionals to develop proposals that include local incentives such as discounted building and land purchases, property tax reductions, build-to-suit agreements, and other financing packages.

Quality of Life programs: The Quality of Life Division works hard to foster the development of vibrant communities, and it is central to their approach to growing the local economy. Economic development requires a holistic approach focused on strong communities, with a good quality of life to attract new businesses, residents, and families to Kansas.

International programs: The International team assists Kansas businesses in expanding their global markets through export promotion and trade-related programs. The International Division works with foreign-based companies to secure foreign direct investment to the state.

Workforce services: The state of Kansas aims to connect businesses, job seekers, educational institutions, and training providers to ensure the state's workforce is equipped to meet industry needs and to help create economic success for Kansas residents and businesses.

Tourism: Kansas Tourism actively works to build Kansas as a top destination for non-resident travelers, unify and lead industry partners and inspire in-state advocacy and pride.



The Opportunity

The Kansas Department of Commerce Seeks a Passionate Chief Innovation & Strategy Officer.

35%

- Leads the development of the Office of Innovation, including identifying innovation trends, stakeholders, business opportunities, and program expansion/creation.
- Oversees delivery of data resources and research.
- Seeks opportunities for growth.
- Makes policy recommendations regarding startups, entrepreneurship, and innovation to the Secretary.

20%

- Works with state university partners to further develop the commercialization of innovation and technologies via university and community resources, with a particular focus on tech transfer.
- Partners with state universities to align research priorities and other initiatives with the Framework for Growth.

10%

- Builds the Office of Innovation including hiring key positions and supervising existing staff.
- Establishes performance expectations and priority outcomes, evaluates performance, provides employee guidance, and assigns work.
- Makes staffing recommendations to the Secretary.

20%

- Manages and oversees the implementation of the Framework for Growth, the state's economic development strategy.
- Develops strategies and policies to direct state investments to develop the state's target sectors and regions to align with the Framework for Growth.

15%

- Works collaboratively with regional partners and private industry to align initiatives and investments around the Framework for Growth.
- Coordinates with Department of Commerce divisions and other state agencies to develop and implement programs and budget objectives that support the growth objectives outlined in the Framework for Growth.

5%

- Other duties as assigned.



The Candidate

Qualifications and Skills

Experience:

- Proven leadership experience in a strategic role, preferably at the executive level.
- Demonstrated success in developing and implementing innovation and economic development strategies with a strong understanding of emerging trends and technology.
- Experience in technology, bioscience, research and development, or other related field.

Strategic Planning:

- Strong ability to develop and implement strategic plans, particularly in the context of economic growth and innovation.

Collaboration and Networking:

- Extensive experience collaborating with diverse stakeholders, including government agencies, universities, industry partners, and community organizations.
- Excellent networking skills to build and maintain relationships critical to the success of innovation and economic development initiatives.

Project Management:

- Proficiency in project management, including overseeing the successful implementation of complex initiatives.

Communication Skills:

- Exceptional communication skills, both verbal and written, to effectively convey complex ideas and strategies.
- Ability to engage with and present to diverse audiences, including policymakers, industry leaders, and the public.

Budget Management:

- Experience in budget development and management to ensure resources are allocated effectively.

Visionary Leadership:

- A visionary leader with a passion for fostering innovation and driving sustainable economic growth.

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Submit your application at

<https://driwaterstonehc.com/position/chief-innovation-and-strategy-officer-kansas-department-of-commerce>

Compensation

Salary: \$90,000-\$100,000 per year.

The salary listed is one component of the total compensation package for employees.

Location

Topeka, Kansas or Kansas City metro are preferred.

Equal-opportunity Employer

The Kansas Department of Commerce provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment and prohibits discrimination and harassment of any type on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local laws. This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including recruiting, hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leaves of absence, compensation, and professional development.

DRiWaterstone has been exclusively retained for this engagement. All first-round interviews for this position will take place via video conference with DRiWaterstone.

About DRiWaterstone

DRiWaterstone is a women-founded and led executive search firm recognized by Forbes magazine as one of the leading executive recruiting firms in the U.S. With a focus on purpose and mission-driven organizations, we provide executive search and strategic consulting services to help regional, national, and international clients grow, thrive, and excel.