

TALENT CONNECT SUMMIT 2025



Overland
Park
Chamber™

WELCOME

Welcome to the Chamber's second annual Talent Connect Summit.

Last year, we unveiled our comprehensive workforce study, one of the major deliverables of Opportunity NOW. This analysis provides a deep dive into our community's workforce data, providing powerful information for our business and community partners. This data has also proven invaluable in shaping the Chamber's strategies to support area businesses with their talent attraction and retention efforts.

This year, we have utilized that study, along with our strategic vision and guidance from the Talent Council, to develop some outstanding programs and initiatives we believe will support your workforce efforts. Today's 2025 Talent Connect Summit showcases some of the highlights, including the new All In OP website and Livability publication. Additionally, our breakout sessions provide additional resources and best practices to plug into your business.

Thank you for joining us at this year's summit!

Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE, IOM
President & CEO
Overland Park Chamber of Commerce

ABOUT THE OVERLAND PARK CHAMBER

The Overland Park Chamber of Commerce is a leading voice for business in the Kansas City region. The Chamber supports more than 800 businesses in Overland Park, KS and beyond, serving as a resource, advocate, convener, and changemaker. The Chamber works daily towards its vision to make Overland Park Prosper.

ABOUT OPPORTUNITY NOW

Opportunity NOW is a 5-year community and economic development initiative of the Chamber. Through priorities around workforce, economic development, and advocacy, the strategic plan helps ensure Overland Park's competitiveness as a community.

SCHEDULE

7:45 AM - 8:30 AM

Check-In & Networking

8:30 AM - 8:45 AM

Welcome

8:45 AM - 9:40 AM

All in Overland Park Reveal
Talent Reimagined Overview

9:40 AM - 10:00 AM

Break

10:00 AM - 10:50 AM

Breakout Track 1

10:50 AM - 11:10 AM

Break

11:10 AM - 12:00 PM

Breakout Track 2

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

Lunch & Networking

12:30 PM - 1:25 PM

Keynote Speaker:
Amanda Ellis, Editor-in-Chief
Livability.com

1:25 PM - 1:30 PM

Closing



All in OP.

OVERVIEW

The Overland Park Chamber of Commerce partnered with MBB to help deliver a live, work, play, learn, and invest website that is both visually appealing and information packed. In today's competitive environment for talent, it becomes increasingly more important for communities to have marketing collateral that accurately reflects the benefits of their quality of life. This new website features photos, videos, testimonials, cost of living comparisons, job searches, a community catalog and more!

MBB is an independent, full-service advertising agency founded in 1982 and headquartered in Overland Park, Kansas. We unite brand strategy, creative, paid media, digital, social, PR, and in-house video/motion to drive measurable growth. Our philosophy is simple: create work that matters.

mbb.

TALENT REIMAGINED

OVERVIEW

Talent Reimagined allows businesses to rethink their approach to talent for the entirety of an employee's career cycle. This Chamber initiative, in partnership with Dovetail Solutions, LLC., helps businesses through the process of analyzing and redefining their approach to talent development and recruitment by focusing on skills based. Over the course of 10-weeks, participating companies learned about skilled-based foundations before doing a deeper dive into change management and job pathways. Finally, participants looked at skills and competencies and then ultimately developed a plan for implementation and sustainability.

Dovetail Talent Solutions partners with organizations to build stronger talent and engagement programs, drawing on deep experience working with both private and public sectors. Founded by Anna Hennes, Dovetail blends strategy and people-first solutions to help organizations connect, align, and put their workforce plans into action. Services include program design, stakeholder analysis, coaching, evaluation, and collaborative project management, all delivered with friendly expertise and a focus on lasting impact.





NOTES

IMPORTANT TAKEAWAYS:

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

BREAKOUT TRACK ONE



DEVELOPING EARLY TALENT PIPELINES WITH K-12 PARTNERS

Room 225 | Salvador Ocampo, Program Leader, Kauffman Foundation | Mariah Presley, Education and Industry Program Lead, Trane Commercial | Ethan Kushnir, Director of Operations, Paymore | Erica Cohan and Logan Swank, Science Dept. Chairs and Educators, Olathe Northwest High School

Building a strong workforce starts well before college or career entry. This panel discussion will highlight how businesses can engage with K-12 schools to create meaningful real-world learning experiences that connect students to future career opportunities while strengthening your talent pipeline. Panelists from Trane, Paymore, and Olathe Public Schools will share proven strategies, available resources, and the ROI organizations are realizing through these partnerships. Attendees will walk away with practical insights on the “why” and the “how” of collaborating with schools to invest in the next generation of talent.

TECH TALENT BY THE NUMBERS: KC INSIGHTS FOR HR

Room 215 | Kara Lowe, CEO, KC Tech Council

Staying ahead in technology-driven industries requires up-to-date insights on workforce trends, skills gaps, and emerging opportunities. This session will offer an in-depth look at the TechSpecs Report from the KC Tech Council, highlighting key data and actionable takeaways for talent strategy and workforce planning. Attendees will learn how to leverage these insights to make informed hiring decisions, develop skills pipelines, and position their organizations for long-term success in the Kansas City tech ecosystem.

EFFECTIVE HUMAN PERFORMANCE THROUGH SUCCESSFUL INNOVATION

Room 125 | Marilu Goodyear, Director Human and Organization Performance Effectiveness Program, KU | Mark Terry, Instructor, KU | Laura Evans, Geiger Ready Mix Co

Productivity often rests on the ability to deliver on innovative ideas. What if we knew at the beginning of a process which ideas would be effective? Come learn four key questions that define effective performance and the five elements to analyze when considering whether or not to move forward with an innovation. Together, these tools will enable you to provide a structure for delivering on the investment in innovation.



NOTES

SESSION TOPIC:

IMPORTANT TAKEAWAYS:

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

BREAKOUT TRACK TWO



CREATING SYSTEMS FOR VETERAN HIRING

Room 225 | [Kim Konecny, Talent Acquisition Manager, Evergy](#) | [Andrew Rigor, US Army](#)

Veterans bring valuable skills, discipline, and leadership to the civilian workforce—but tapping into this talent pool requires intentional systems and strategies. In this session, attendees will gain insight into the “why” behind veteran hiring, along with innovative approaches employers are using to successfully integrate transitioning service members into their organizations. Featuring hiring insights from Evergy and a current Service Member, this session will provide attendees with practical tools to strengthen their hiring practices while building a more diverse and resilient workforce.

MAXIMIZING YOUR CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Room 125 | [Dave Dyer, Membership Director](#) | [Andrew Weisberg, Director of Talent](#)

Your Chamber membership is more than a networking tool—it’s a gateway to workforce development resources that can strengthen your talent attraction and retention strategies. In this session, attendees will gain insights into programs, partnerships, and tools offered by the Overland Park Chamber that support workforce growth and organizational success. Attendees will leave with practical ideas on how to leverage Chamber resources to build a stronger, more competitive workforce.

WORKFORCE INSIGHTS: PEER ROUNDTABLES ON TALENT STRATEGIES

Room 220 | [Open Discussion](#)

Collaboration drives innovation in talent management. This interactive roundtable session will give participants the opportunity to share experiences, challenges, and solutions with peers while exploring current trends and resources in workforce development. Attendees will discuss hot topics in talent attraction and retention, gaining actionable ideas and best practices to implement within their own organizations.



NOTES

SESSION TOPIC:

IMPORTANT TAKEAWAYS:

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

COMMUNITY EDGE BY LIVABILITY

OVERVIEW

This keynote presentation will explore innovative strategies that cities are using to attract and retain top talent, offering valuable lessons for businesses and HR professionals alike. Attendees will gain fresh insights into how communities position themselves as hubs of opportunity and what organizations can learn from these approaches to strengthen their own recruitment and retention efforts. The session promises to deliver actionable takeaways for anyone looking to stay ahead in today's competitive talent landscape.

As Editor in Chief of Livability.com, Amanda Ellis leads the site's content strategy and voice, reaching millions of site visitors every year with content about our nation's small-to-medium sized cities and why they're great places to live.



**SCAN THE QR CODE
TO ACCESS OVERLAND
PARK'S LIVABILITY PAGE**



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IMPORTANT TAKEAWAYS:

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

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