



# PIPELINE

KTEC'S ENTREPRENEURIAL FELLOWSHIP

**EMBARGOED UNTIL THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**

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## **KTEC PIPELINE INNOVATORS ANNOUNCED**

*Charter class of entrepreneurs to spend year in groundbreaking Kansas technology fellowship*

**Wichita, Kan** (Sept. 7, 2006) - The KTEC PIPELINE announced its charter class of PIPELINE "Innovators" today, marking the first year of Kansas' cutting edge technology entrepreneurial fellowship program. The select group of 10 was unveiled today in Wichita during the "Kansas Day of Innovation" - a daylong event designed to celebrate the state's commitment to innovation.

The application process for the KTEC PIPELINE drew candidates from across the state who competed for the opportunity to participate in this inaugural year. The charter class of Innovators represents a cross-section of information technology and the biosciences. The 10 Innovators are as follows: **Clint Batman**, Lawrence; **Joey Blue**, Wichita; **Tim Donnelly**, Leawood; **Dr. Debra Ellies**, Kansas City; **Dr. Lisa Friis**, Lawrence; **Jay Humbard**, Pittsburg; **Dr. Olga Koper**, Manhattan; **George Laurence**, Lawrence; **Dr. William Rosenberg**, Overland Park; and **Toby Rush**, Lenexa.

"The KTEC PIPELINE has drawn the 'best of the best' in this inaugural year," said Joni Cobb, President of the KTEC PIPELINE. "When looking at the makeup of this talent-packed charter class, it is clear that Kansas has the most critical component to creating a successful technology based economy - the right people. Now we are going to put our all into surrounding these Innovators with the resources, training, mentors and networks necessary to give them their best chance for success."

The PIPELINE Innovators will spend one year in the technology entrepreneurship program. During this year, the charter class will receive cutting edge education, skill building and networking, as well as access to accomplished mentors. Additionally, the year will include self-assessments, individualized growth plans, field trips and bonding processes. The KTEC PIPELINE will also provide the group access to venture capitalists with the capabilities of financing early stage technology companies.

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"This charter group of PIPELINE 'Innovators' represents what we were hoping to see - a very sophisticated and accomplished group of emerging technology entrepreneurs who have been diligently focused on creating and commercializing new technologies and establishing growth companies," said **Trish Costello**, KTEC PIPELINE founder. "I've had the opportunity to work with extremely talented entrepreneurs and venture capitalists around the world - and this charter class rates among the best I've seen."

"The KTEC PIPELINE is the perfect program to kick off KTEC's twentieth year of fostering technology-based economic development in Kansas," said **Tracy Taylor**, KTEC President & CEO. "This program assists and emphasizes Kansas' most important asset - our people. We are confident that the PIPELINE will create a technology leadership cadre that will provide great results for the state of Kansas for years to come."

The 10 KTEC PIPELINE Innovators spent their first orientation day attending the **Great Plains Capital Conference**. After the daylong orientation and exercise, they attended the KansasBio "State of the Bioscience State" dinner and forum. The second day of the orientation will be held at the **Cessna-Textron** headquarters in Wichita.

*Editor's Note: The attached pages include the KTEC PIPELINE "Innovators" photos and bios.*

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The **KTEC PIPELINE** is an innovative new program, designed to identify talented and entrepreneurial Kansans, match them with best-in-class training, resources and mentors and encourage them to pursue a career as a technology entrepreneur in Kansas. For more information, visit [www.ktecpipeline.com](http://www.ktecpipeline.com).

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