



ASSOCIATION OF
PUBLIC &
LAND-GRANT
UNIVERSITIES

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY



OUR CAMPUS

CECE

INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AWARDS PROGRAM

2023
CASE
STUDY

IEP CATEGORY - PLACE

Kansas State University

Establishing Place at the Edge of Collaboration District

ABOUT THE EDGE COLLABORATION DISTRICT

The Edge Collaboration District is a partnership between the university and the Manhattan community to inspire and facilitate industry collaboration along the northern edge of K-State's campus. It's where industry, research, and talent come together to produce meaningful innovations and tangible outcomes to Kansas and beyond. The goal is to fuel



1880 Building of the Edge Collaboration District

partnerships in an innovative research environment expanding in anticipation of the opening of NBAF in a location where talent, hard work, and passion fuel successful teams and build a workforce for tomorrow. The Edge provides space for industry collaboration, including offices, laboratories, and shovel-ready sites. The district includes the nearly completed USDA National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF), the K State College of Veterinary Medicine, the K-State College of Agriculture's Grain Science Complex, the Kansas Department of Agriculture, the K-State Biosecurity Research Institute (BRI) and other national and international partners.

Benefiting the Tenants and K-State

Locating in the Edge District is about more than just leasing space. All partner tenants must strengthen Kansas State University in some way. Here are just a few of the valuable opportunities for companies:

- Access to talent pipeline — Employ students and interns who often transition to full-time employment after graduation.
- Student mentoring — Provide opportunities for students to carry out research and collaborate with professionals, host student networking and recruiting events, present to classes, or mentor/host fieldwork.
- Faculty collaboration — Partner with K-State faculty and graduate students to conduct research to grow your business or develop new technologies.
- University sponsorship — Sponsor university competitive teams, events, clubs, and campus spaces such as studios and collaborative places.



- Serve on campus advisory boards — Help ensure curricula are relevant to professional and research settings, so students are prepared for real-world jobs.
- Advance K-State's innovation and research — Contribute products, services, and professional knowledge to help students and faculty with discoveries and developments.

Commitment from the Key Players

The City of Manhattan and K-State committed \$50+ million to improve the public infrastructure in the district, including the widening of Kimball Avenue, Denison Avenue, College Avenue, and North Manhattan Avenue. The improvements will also enhance pedestrian accessibility and vehicle safety in the area, making it more desirable for both public and private sector growth opportunities. K-State anticipates investing in 2.1 million square feet of new buildings on campus, and the K-State Foundation has developed a 56-acre master plan, all of which is part of the Edge.

The focus of these public improvements is to capture the potential of NBAF-related companies, private sector growth, and K-State's growth in research activities. As compounding global food needs intersect with technological innovation, K-State, Manhattan, and the State of Kansas have unprecedented opportunities to leverage K-State's Agricultural and land-grant Heritage and global strengths in food, agriculture, animal health, bio/agro security for economic growth in the state. A cornerstone to the strategy will be advanced research facilities, streamlined research collaboration with companies, attraction of global corporate R&D operations, emerging company attraction, science, and technology commercialization, and start-up company creation.

To date, the City and University have committed \$10 million over the next 20 years from City sales tax generated on campus towards the \$50 million. The City has committed an additional \$30 million to the project for roadway improvements. K-State Athletics has committed \$3 million for streetscape improvements, and the Kansas Department of Transportation has committed \$7.1 million. Of the total 13 phased project, the City has completed phases 1-10, and is currently preparing final design for Phase 11. Since the decision to move forward with infrastructure improvements, nearly \$56,000,000 of building investment has been made in the corridor, not including K-State projects. Overall, two billion dollars of current and planned infrastructure investment will further inspire new collaboration in this area over the next decade, which is anticipated to generate 5,000 jobs by 2035.

To attract corporate partners who desire to work and conduct research with K-State, the K-State Foundation developed an office park master plan. The strategic expansion leverages proximity



to K-State and NBAF, located cornerwise to the office park. This allows for unique opportunities for the industry to engage in sponsored research, tap into knowledge, and recruit talent.

Two of the five phases of the K-State Office Park have been completed, which will, in total, add 310,000 square feet of flexible space for research and commercial enterprises. One of the first buildings primarily houses the offices and functions of the Foundation. It also contains commercial space that companies can lease. The second building in the Office Park totals 59,000 square feet. It includes flexible move-in-ready lease space to accommodate up to 35 tenants, intentional co-working areas, and space for a restaurant. Tenants can enjoy amenities such as a full-service restaurant open to the public, event space and common areas to encourage collaboration, balconies with views of Bill Snyder Family Stadium, event and conferencing space available for tenant use, an on-site fitness center, reserved parking for K-State home football game days, ATM, and a UPS Drop Box. In 2023, it was announced that additional commercial office space would be added to the Edge district. The 80,000 square-foot building will increase office and lab space for industry partners to 300,000 feet in the Edge district and provide office space to 250 employees. To date, the Edge has created 1,400 jobs with a predicted additional 3,600 jobs and will deliver \$1.5B over the next 20 years to the region.

The City of Manhattan was highly engaged and committed to the Office Park master plan developed by the K-State Foundation. The commission showed this by approving \$800,000 in economic development loans and incentives toward the project. The city staff's economic development modeling numbers showed that this investment will add \$93 million in economic benefit over the next 20 years to the region.

LINKS TO FURTHER INFORMATION

Supporting Information:

- [The Edge Home Page](#)
- [The Edge - Commercial Real Estate](#)

Articles:

- [Strengthening K-State and the Kansas Economy](#)
- [The Edge Receives Approval to Expand Footprint](#)



ABOUT APLU

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) is North America's oldest higher education association. APLU is a research, policy, and advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing the work of public universities in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. The association's membership consists of public research universities, land-grant institutions, state university systems, and affiliated organizations.

APLU's mission is to expand access and improve student success to deliver the innovative workforce of tomorrow; advance and promote research and discovery to improve society, foster economic growth, and address global challenges; and build healthy, prosperous, equitable, and vibrant communities locally and globally.

Based in Washington, DC, the association's work is furthered by an active and effective advocacy arm that works with Congress and the administration as well as the media to advance federal policies that strengthen public universities and benefit the students they serve.

ABOUT THE IEP PROGRAM

APLU and its [Commission on Economic and Community Engagement \(CECE\)](#) established the Innovation and Economic Prosperity (IEP) Program to help higher education institutions codify, elevate, and advance their campus enterprise supporting economic and community development.

The **IEP Designation Program** recognizes institutions that have demonstrated a meaningful, ongoing and substantial commitment to economic and community development, growth, and economic opportunity.

The **IEP Awards Program** recognize exemplary and innovative projects in university-based economic and community engagement:

- Talent and workforce development
- Innovation, entrepreneurship, and tech-based economic development
- Place development through public service, outreach, and community engagement

Learn more at: www.APLU.org/IEP

