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**The Voice of the Biosciences
Community in Kansas**

January 20, 2006

Dear fellow Kansans:

More than a year ago, leaders and top scientists from Kansas' private, academic and public sectors came together to discuss our state's strategy to stake our claim in a rapidly expanding field of opportunity: Bioscience. Our collaborative work with the *Kansas Bioscience & Innovation Roadmap* represents a first step in assessing our state's opportunities in this important field. The process involved more than 700 Kansans who dedicated in excess of 3000 hours to this statewide process. Many participants are actually founding members of Kansas Bioscience Organization (KansasBio).

KansasBio is a trade organization whose mission is to encourage and enable the successful attraction, creation, commercialization, and growth of bioscience technologies, products and services in Kansas. KansasBio works alongside the Kansas Bioscience Authority by representing the voice of the bioscience community. The Bioscience Authority is tremendously important to our state, leading our statewide investment in the bioscience industry. We at KansasBio are delighted to have the Bioscience Authority's support.

We echo Chairman Blair's thanks to those involved. Such broad participation in the *Kansas Bioscience & Innovation Roadmap* demonstrates our enthusiasm and dedication to the biosciences industry and what it means for our state. Thank you to each and every one of you who made this such a unique and successful process. **A complete copy of the 66 page roadmap is available online at www.kansasbio.org/info/information.htm.**

I would like to single out and thank KTEC, a KansasBio founder, for taking a leadership role with the foresight to engage in asset mapping. This work was designed to assist the state in getting the best possible start with the bioscience initiative. Access to this information will help everyone dedicated to success in this industry. KTEC's early stewardship of this statewide initiative was critical and we will certainly reap the benefits of their hard work for years to come.

For those of you who were part of the *Kansas Bioscience & Innovation Roadmap* process, we encourage you to stay involved through KansasBio. We are a rapidly growing trade organization representing industry, research, and civic interests in our state. Our Board of Directors is completely engaged in generating successful outcomes across Kansas. Our voice will continue to expand as we add even more new members who support our collective bioscience initiatives related to:

- ✓ *Informing state and local officials about the positive attributes of biotechnology;*
- ✓ *Fostering the development, attraction, and retention of a skilled bioscience workforce;*
- ✓ *Advocating legislation that promotes and encourages life sciences research;*
- ✓ *Supporting funding for science-related public education -- especially higher education;*
- ✓ *Creating incentives and a business environment conducive to the development of biotechnology start-up companies; and*
- ✓ *Celebrating our successes.*

You represent Kansas' bioscience stakeholders: a diverse and broad group of leaders who work together and candidly discuss how to significantly and successfully advance our state's current and future bioscience achievements. The roadmap is a picture of this moment in time—and we know the landscape will continue to change and grow as we move ahead. As these changes occur, KansasBio will serve as a facilitator and a central point for dialogue. I look forward to working with all of you during this exciting time for Kansas.

Best regards,

Angela Kreps
President, KansasBio
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