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KANSAS BIOSCIENCE LEADERS CONVENE TO ESTABLISH BIOSCIENCE GOALS FOR 2007

MANHATTAN, KS (Nov. 14, 2006)— The Kansas Bioscience Organization (**KansasBio**) convened its annual meeting of statewide bioscience industry leaders and announced its goals for 2007. The meeting took place at Kansas State University and drew leadership from across the state and industry.

The goals set for the 2007 year fell under three categories:

- **Workforce Development** – KansasBio formed a workforce development task force, which will provide industry recommendations to state groups currently developing workforce development programs. The bioscience industry members expressed a deep need for an ample and well-trained workforce to address current and future growth in the Kansas bioscience industry.
- **Connectivity** – KansasBio is committed to intensifying its efforts to connect Kansas bioscience stakeholders. The Intellectual Communications Task Force will work to expedite collaboration to enhance existing research and commercialization efforts in the state. This group will utilize web-based solutions and leverage existing state resources. The end result being to “get further, faster” by working together.
- **Education and Awareness** – KansasBio will continue its important role in expanding awareness - both within the state and across the nation - regarding the important work being done in the biosciences in Kansas. KansasBio put this effort into high gear during 2006 and garnered significant state and national attention. KansasBio will intensify this role by developing an educational outreach program for groups and communities within the state, as well as work to promote the Kansas Bioscience Industry during “BIO 2007” -the world’s largest bioscience convention (May 6-9, 2007 in Boston). Additionally, KansasBio will work this year to identify opportunities to elevate Kansas biosciences leaders on the national stage.

“KansasBio has made significant strides in the past year to connect our industry in order to enhance our work in the biosciences,” said KansasBio Chair, Dan Richardson. “KansasBio is determined to significantly enhance this process. Kansas bioscience companies are keenly aware of this need to connect on related research projects, for example, those involving a specific genome or in an area such as of nutrigenomics. The resulting connectivity will enable all of us to collaborate and advance our work efficiently and expeditiously.”

“At ICM, we’re about to surpass the 500-employee mark,” said Dave VanderGriend, ICM, Inc., President and CEO. “Finding skilled employees is one of the most important business challenges to our growth at ICM. We’re committed as members of KansasBio to enhance the workforce pool and training systems in Kansas. It’s just good business for ICM.”

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The bioscience industry leaders met during a daylong event hosted by Kansas State University. The event included a tour of the K-State Biosecurity Research Institute and a presentation by **Dr. Bill Neaves**, President and CEO of the Stowers Institute for Medical Research. The meeting also focused on recent “wins” for business attraction, such as **Ventria Bioscience** locating its bio-processing facility in Junction City, and **Onclmmune** choosing Lenexa as the headquarters for their North America office.

“This is an extremely exciting time for the Kansas bioscience industry,” said Angela Kreps, President of KansasBio. “KansasBio has doubled our membership in the past year for one big reason - there is a distinct need for Kansas to understand what the industry needs to continue to grow and thrive. As Kansas has prioritized growing this industry, our voice needs to be cohesive, clear and constant. We are working at every turn to provide this voice, while contributing to the solutions, as well.”

The KansasBio Board of Directors also elected a new Chair, **Mike Beckloff** (Beckloff Associates) who will replace Dr. **Dan Richardson** (Hill’s Pet Nutrition) in 2007. **Cary Christensen** (Bayer Animal Health) was elected Vice Chair and **Dave VanderGriend** (ICM, Inc.) was added to the board. Other board members include: Dr. Arlin Bostian (Bayer CropScience); Rick Donahue (Schroer Manufacturing); Dr. Bill Duncan (KCALSI); Stephen Gound (Labconco); Rod Kelly (SAFC Biosciences); Dr. Ted Knous (KUMC); Dr. Olga Koper (Nanoscale Materials); Dr. David McDonald (Wichita State University); Jim Millis (Cargill); Dr. Jim Roberts (University of Kansas); Dr. John Siebert (CyDex); Dr. Lee Southard (Vasogenix Pharmaceuticals); Tracy Taylor (KTEC); Dr. Ron Trewyn (Kansas State Univeristy); Dr. Luanne Wolfgram (Johnson County Community College).

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KansasBio is a unified voice for the Kansas bioscience community representing the bioscience research to commercialization process; accelerating the growth of the human, animal, plant and industrial biosciences; enhancing the state's bioscience business and research climate; and encouraging and enabling the attraction and retention of bioscience talent and companies.

For more information, visit www.kansasbio.org.