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THE RISKS AND REWARDS OF MERGING

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**REJUVENATED RAINBOW**

**UNLIKELY LANDLORD**  
TELECOM CO. GIVES REAL ESTATE A GO

# KC BUSINESS

KANSAS CITY'S SOURCE FOR BUSINESS INSIGHT, INNOVATION & INSPIRATION



## Voices of Reason

**FIVE REAL ESTATE LEADERS TALK ABOUT  
WHAT IS WORKING FOR THEM IN THIS ECONOMY  
AND WHAT NEEDS WORK**

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# Good Advice is Easy to Find

In this issue we proudly present a distinguished group of businesspeople who have graciously agreed to be members of the first-ever KC Business advisory board. These board members will act as the eyes and ears of the magazine out in the community, reporting back on occasion to help us find and identify trends, show us opportunities, comment on new business development, and help us discover innovators and entrepreneurs. It's also a networking group for individuals who will learn from each other as they work in concert to find the best ways to inform and educate readers about business in Kansas City.



**Ellen D'Amato**

D'Amato is the president and CEO of **The Central Exchange**, a nonprofit organization formed in 1999 to promote the personal and professional development of women. Formerly D'Amato was an attorney for several corporations, served as general counsel for a **Sprint** subsidiary and later served as a vice president in that organization's corporate law department. D'Amato is currently a member of the **Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce** and the **Downtown Council**, and she sits on the board of the **Downtown Community Improvement** district.

**Jeff Chambers**

Chambers is the vice president of regional marketing for **M&I Bank** in Kansas City. His responsibilities include public relations, strategy and brand development for the 15 M&I Bank offices in Kansas City and the nearby communities. Chambers' career began in 1998 and includes four years in strategic planning for the engineering and architecture industry, as well as eight years in banking with institutions in the Kansas City area. A native of Kansas City, Chambers serves on the board of directors of the **American Heart Association** and is board chairman for the **National Kidney Foundation**.



**F. Nicholas Franano**

Franano founded **Proteon Therapeutics**, a biopharmaceutical company, in 2001 and served as CEO of that organization until 2006. He is most recently the cofounder of **Novita Therapeutics**, a biopharmaceutical and medical devices company. In 2009 Franano was named an **Ernst & Young**

**Entrepreneur of the Year** for the Central Midwest Region. He completed a residency in diagnostic radiology and a fellowship in interventional radiology at **Johns Hopkins Hospital** in 1999, and later invented Proteon's permanent vasodilation method while serving on the faculty.



**Deborah Goodall**

Goodall was named the president of **Metropolitan Community College's (MCC)** business and technology campus in January 2010. She had served as interim president since June 2009. Goodall started at MCC in 1995. She has since served as both director of career and technical education, and as dean of student development and community relations. The president has also overseen the **Career Education Consortium** and **Project Lead the Way**.



**Nathan Benjamin**

Benjamin is the principal and founder of **PlanetReuse**, initially an Internet-based material brokerage company and now a bricks-and-mortar brokerage and consultancy business. Benjamin created PlanetReuse to make it easy for designers, builders and owners to use reclaimed materials and keep those materials out of landfills. He has a degree in architectural engineering and is focused on sustainable and LEED-certified projects. He is also a **KC Business 2010 Rising Star**.



**Jason Grill**

Grill is a member of the Missouri House of Representatives where he is one of the youngest members of the General Assembly, an attorney at King Hershey law firm, and an adjunct professor of MBA and business law/legal analysis courses at Park University. He was named one of Missouri's top up-and-coming lawyers by *Missouri Lawyer Weekly* in 2008 and a 2010 Rising Star by *KC Business*.



**Rosana Privitera Biondo**

Biondo is president and owner of Mark One Electric Company, a specialty electrical contracting firm. She currently oversees the day-to-day operations of the company and has eight departments reporting directly to her. Mark One's work on the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts is one of the many projects under Biondo's supervision.

**Geri Higgins**

Higgins is president and CEO of Portfolio Kitchen & Home, a kitchen, bath and home design studio. In addition to the daily duties inherent in the management of her company, Higgins also directs Portfolio's business development, marketing and charitable activities. Known for her progressive approach, Higgins has built strategic local, national and international business alliances to further Portfolio's growth. Portfolio and its brand have shown considerable growth and success recently in the commercial and lifestyle analytics divisions.



**Sandy Johnson**

to help streamline the manufacturing process.

Johnson is CEO of MidAmerica Manufacturing Technology Center (MAMTC), which is funded by Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation and assists small to mid-sized manufacturers in improving their competitiveness and profitability. She directs the MAMTC in the provision of training about innovative methods such as lean manufacturing



**Kathryn McDaniels**

McDaniels is the cofounder of ColorMark Printing, which started in 1990 and is now one of the largest woman-owned businesses in Kansas City with 53 employees. ColorMark prints a variety of products, including brochures, labels, posters, and saddle-stitched and perfect-bound annual reports. She is a member of Women Impacting Public Policy, which represents the interests of women business owners at both the state and national levels, and was named to *KC Business*' 2010 class of Influential Women.

**Marc Maun**

Maun is the chairman and CEO of Bank of Kansas City, which has offices in Overland Park, Lee's Summit and the northland, as well as on the Country Club Plaza. Prior to assuming his role with Bank of Kansas City, Maun served another BOK Financial subsidiary, Bank of Oklahoma, for 22 years and had a variety of roles and responsibilities. Maun currently serves on the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art's business council, the Kansas City Sports Commission and the Kansas City Area Development Council's board of directors.



**Laura Lake**

An author, teacher and columnist, Lake is a marketing and social media consultant for businesses. She is a former editor and guide for Internet communications for About.com, a *New York Times* company. Lake's specialty is the development and creation of successful campaigns and strategies through the use of interactive and traditional marketing techniques. She was named a 2010 Rising Star by *KC Business*.