



A BETTER WAY TO GIVE. A BETTER KANSAS CITY.

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**NEWLY RELEASED *TIME TO GET IT RIGHT* FIVE-YEAR UPDATE OUTLINES NEXT STEPS  
AND CELEBRATES REGION'S PROGRESS**

*Time to Get It Right Efforts Focus on Fostering an Environment Where Kansas City Can Compete in the  
New Economy*

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Immediate action items and mid-course corrections have been recommended for Kansas City's regionally accepted strategic road map for staying competitive in the new economy, in the newly released five-year update of *Time to Get It Right*.

While the general assessment of author Dr. Jim Duderstadt is to stay the course, he stresses the importance of sustaining momentum, commitment and progress toward the challenging long-term strategy of securing Kansas City's future as a competitive, world-class city in the global economy. Duderstadt, third generation Kansas Citian, was a member of the Blue Ribbon Task Force, which issued the original *Time to Get It Right* report.

In the fifth year of this ambitious decades-long agenda, the update provides an assessment of remaining challenges and possible mid-course corrections based upon in-depth interviews of more than 60 community leaders of Kansas City foundations, businesses, educational institutions, health systems, government and civic organizations, and is augmented by independent progress assessments provided by many of the organizations involved in the *Time to Get It Right* project.

"The five-year update report makes it clear that we must sustain the momentum and our commitment toward the goals of *Time to Get It Right*," said Jean-Paul Chaurand, senior vice president of the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation. "The progress that has been made during the past five years is very encouraging, and if we adopt the corrections outlined in the five-year update and stay the course, we will foster an environment where Kansas City can complete globally."

"Each of the more than 3,000 funds under the Community Foundation's umbrella furthers the charitable causes that matter most to the donors who established the fund. What's important to our donors is important to us," said Laura McKnight, president and CEO of the Community Foundation. "Sometimes donors ask the Community Foundation for advice about smart charitable investments that can leverage the greatest good for the future of our region, which is precisely why we engage in community leadership work based on the priorities articulated in the *Time to Get It Right* reports."

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The challenges of a rapidly changing national and global environment that stimulated this effort have continued to intensify. The recent recession has provided even more evidence that regional advantage in a hypercompetitive global, knowledge-driven economy requires both a highly educated and skilled workforce and an environment that stimulates creativity, innovation and entrepreneurial behavior. It also requires an unusual degree of cooperation, collaboration, strategic focus and commitment by a region's people and its institutions, including governments, business, labor and foundations.

"The progress we have made in integrating existing collaborations and on-the-ground efforts into an overarching vision for the community is noteworthy and respectable," said Anne St. Peter, incoming board chair for the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation. "The *Time to Get It Right* report has galvanized our region and we can catapult Kansas City into a major global player by maintaining focus and demonstrating a new level of collaboration."

### **Immediate Recommendations for the Kansas City Region**

The immediate recommendations below are detailed in the five-year update of *Time to Get It Right*, which is available on the Resources page of [www.gkccf.org](http://www.gkccf.org).

Today (now):

1. The joint effort by the University of Kansas Medical Center, area medical centers and the Stowers Institute to achieve National Cancer Institute Designated Cancer Center status must remain the highest near-term priority.
2. While there are many elements of the *Time to Get It Right* effort in the three major areas of life sciences, urban education and the need for a comprehensive research university, it is important that the city's major leadership organizations (civic, business, foundation, research and educational) participate in each major category where they are needed and capable of impact.
3. The degree of collaboration and cooperation, while commendable, still falls short of what will be needed to achieve the goals of the *Time to Get It Right* report. It is time to set aside historical divisions and competition to embrace a new spirit of trust and engagement.

Tomorrow (within the year):

4. It is essential that faculty members and research investigators in Kansas City's key life sciences organizations, e.g., universities, the Stowers Institute, area medical centers and life sciences businesses, be strongly encouraged to work together. Every effort should be made by organizations to remove those factors that hinder such intellectual collaboration.
5. As public funding declines in the wake of the current recession, it is important that private philanthropy step in to provide support for those programs and institutions key to the region's urban education needs. In particular, the activities of the University of Missouri-Kansas City to transform itself into an urban-focused institution, the needs of the area's community colleges and those activities aimed at improving K-12 public education should be given high priority.

6. The chancellor of the University of Kansas and presidents of Kansas State University and the University of Missouri System should begin meeting (along with their key officers) to develop a strategic plan to address Kansas City's urgent needs for those resources that can only be provided by world-class comprehensive research universities.
7. A more concerted and effective strategy needs to be developed and implemented to convince the state governments of Missouri and Kansas about the importance of providing adequate support of public higher education as absolutely critical to the future of their states—particularly during the post-recession period.

In addition to these next steps, the report includes detailed recommendations for future years in the areas of life sciences, urban needs for higher education, the need for a world-class comprehensive research university, philanthropy and public support.

### **Background**

In 2005, several of the city's foundations, led by the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, commissioned a study of the future higher education needs of the Greater Kansas City community. This effort, chaired by Dr. Benno C. Schmidt, Jr., former president of Yale University, developed a blueprint for addressing these needs within the context of the unusual opportunities characterizing the region (e.g., a highly diverse economy, an educated and increasingly entrepreneurial workforce, existing educational infrastructure and an unusually strong tradition of philanthropy, as evidenced by the creation of the Stowers Institute (an unprecedented investment in life sciences research) and its existing challenges (the absence of a world-class comprehensive research university, the educational challenges faced by its urban populations, and the politics of a community divided across state lines and municipalities)). The resulting report was *Time to Get It Right: A Strategy for Higher Education in Kansas City*. This report is available on the Resources page of [www.gkccf.org](http://www.gkccf.org).

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The **Greater Kansas City Community Foundation** offers a better way to give by streamlining the giving process so donors can focus on the causes they care about. The Community Foundation, including its affiliates within the Greater Kansas City area, ranks among the top ten largest community foundations in America and is recognized as a national leader in making sure every philanthropic investment returns the greatest emotional, civic and financial benefit possible. Since its establishment in 1978, the Community Foundation and its donors have given more than \$1.25 billion in grants. For more information visit [www.gkccf.org](http://www.gkccf.org).