



# KANSAS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

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## **GOVERNOR SEBELIUS OUTLINES "NEXT STEPS" FOR KANSAS BIOSCIENCE AUTHORITY *NOMINEES FROM KANSAS AND ACROSS THE NATION CONVENE IN JOHNSON COUNTY FOR INAUGURAL EVENTS***

MISSION, KANSAS (September 22, 2004)--Governor Kathleen Sebelius today, joined by Kansas Bioscience Authority nominees from both Kansas and across the nation, outlined the "next steps" for the Kansas Bioscience Authority in its work to guide the state in building a world-class bioscience industry.

The Governor spoke at a media conference attended by Authority nominees and prominent leaders in the areas of technology, science and economic development from Kansas, and the region. The Authority was created by the Kansas Economic Growth Act to guide the state in developing an infrastructure that makes Kansas a center for bioscience research, innovation, and commercialization.

The Kansas Senate will hold a special confirmation hearing on Thursday, September 23rd in Overland Park. Immediately following the confirmation, the Kansas Bioscience Authority will hold its first meeting to orient and inform the newly confirmed board about the organization's mission, resources, opportunities and challenges.

Governor Sebelius, who partnered with Kansas legislative leaders and the Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation (KTEC) to form the Board said: "We are truly fortunate to have such extraordinary people with us today who are willing to dedicate their time and talents to build a competitive bioscience industry in Kansas. As leaders and innovators in their respective fields, these individuals bring with them the experience, skill and stature to help position Kansas as a leader in the bioscience industry."

"It is especially rewarding to see innovators such as Stephen O'Connor, a Bioscience Authority nominee, here with us today. Stephen, a native Kansan, is an example of the type of scientific innovator that we want to be able to retain in our state. The Authority will help us in the pursuit of that goal," stated Governor Sebelius.

Tracy Taylor, President and CEO of Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation (KTEC), an organization dedicated to stimulating technology-based economic development in Kansas, said:

“KTEC looks forward to supporting the implementation of the Bioscience Authority’s mission – and delivering results sooner, rather than later. In addition to significant resources, we now have a group that can guide Kansas in turning research into products and businesses that will create higher paying jobs, economic prosperity, and enhance quality of life for all.”

The Kansas Economic Growth Act, passed during the last legislative session, has as one of its critical components the establishment of a successful bioscience industry within the state. The first step in this process is to establish the Kansas Bioscience Authority. The Authority will focus on strategically selected research and development, and fund the commercialization of products and businesses generated by the research.

Stephen O’Connor, president and chief executive officer of Nanostream, a California-based biotech company, explained his reasons for returning to Kansas to serve on this Board:

“The significant resources in the area, including the state’s position as a leader in the fields of animal health and plant research, its quality research-based universities and their proximity to the Stowers Medical Research Institute- creates an exceptional opportunity to put Kansas on the map in the bioscience field,” said O’Connor, recognized as one of the world’s top 100 young innovators by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Magazine of Innovation. “I truly believe these resources, along with the creation of the Kansas Bioscience Authority, have positioned Kansas to be competitive and successful in the bioscience industry.”

The bioscience industry is estimated to comprise 15 to 18 percent of the country’s economy in the next 20 years. Although many states are positioning themselves to garner their share of this fast-growing industry, the Kansas Bioscience Authority will move quickly to capitalize on the region’s strengths. After Senate confirmation and their first official board meeting, the Kansas Bioscience Authority will be determining the appropriate strategic focus for the state with assistance from New Economy Strategies, a Washington D.C.-based consulting firm specializing in developing bioscience strategies.

For photos of appointees, biographies and background information, visit:  
[www.ktec.com/bioauthority](http://www.ktec.com/bioauthority).

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# **KANSAS BIOSCIENCE AUTHORITY APPOINTEES**

Photos and biographies of appointees available at [www.ktec.com/bioauthority](http://www.ktec.com/bioauthority).

## **Governor Kathleen Sebelius**

*Victoria Franchetti Haynes, Ph.D.  
Sandra Lawrence*

## **Senate President Dave Kerr**

*Bill Sanford  
Clay Blair, D.Ed.*

## **House Speaker Doug Mays**

*David Franz, D.V.M., Ph.D.  
Dolph C. Simons, Jr.*

## **Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley**

*Senator Jim Barone*

## **House Minority Leader Dennis McKinney**

*Dan Glickman*

## **Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation (KTEC)**

*Stephen O'Connor, Ph.D.*

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