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## **KTEC ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS for TECH ENTREPRENEURIAL PROGRAM**

*KTEC PIPELINE will foster homegrown technology leaders in Kansas*

Topeka, Kan. (May 10, 2006) – In furtherance of Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation's (KTEC) mission to encourage technology-based economic growth in Kansas, KTEC has unveiled the **KTEC PIPELINE** program and has officially opened the application process ([www.ktec.com/pipeline](http://www.ktec.com/pipeline)). The KTEC PIPELINE will identify talented and entrepreneurial Kansans, match them with best-in-class training, resources and mentors and encourage the PIPELINE "Innovators" to pursue a career as technology entrepreneurs in Kansas.

By ensuring that KTEC Innovators have access to capital, know-how, experienced mentors and talented employees, Kansas will work to provide infrastructure for success that many think is available only in the 'money' centers on the coasts. The KTEC PIPELINE adds to KTEC's comprehensive technology program by ensuring the most important component to any successful economy – a cadre of innovators that will lead the Kansas economy for years to come.

"I know from experience that Kansas enjoys an abundance of emerging talent with interests in technology and business, as well as many entrepreneurial business leaders willing to invest their time and experience into mentoring tomorrow's business leaders," said **Tracy Taylor**, President & CEO of KTEC. "I also have every confidence that **Trish Costello**, Founder of the KTEC PIPELINE, has developed a "best in class" program that leverages her extensive expertise in training entrepreneurs. We are fortunate to have her guidance in developing this technology leadership program."

"While many states have invested resources to attract, grow and retain successful technology businesses, Kansas aims to differentiate in the marketplace for creative business talent by investing in developing future leaders of technology businesses," commented **Trish Costello**, KTEC Entrepreneur in Residence and KTEC PIPELINE Founder. "There is no other state today that is systematically identifying their very best-of-class talent and connecting them in this way so that they will become future leaders."

**Trish Costello**, KTEC's newest Entrepreneur in Residence, is bringing extensive national and international experience and networks to work for her home state of Kansas in the PIPELINE and

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with other projects at KTEC. Originally from Frontenac, Kansas, **Costello** has spent a career in entrepreneurial development. **Costello** is most noted for serving as **Founding Director and CEO** of the Kauffman Fellows Program (Center for Venture Education). She serves on the National Advisory Board and on the selection councils of the National Science Foundation for its Small Business Innovation Research Grants and has also served on the SBA's Advisory Council under **President Clinton**, as well as the SBA Transition Committee under **President George W. Bush**. The United State's recognized her expertise in the area of entrepreneurship and asked **Costello** to represent the U.S. and present at the OECD International Conference on Entrepreneurship in Paris.

#### APPLICATION

Additional information about the KTEC PIPELINE, a complete list of guidelines and the online application is available at [www.ktec.com/pipeline](http://www.ktec.com/pipeline).

#### IMPORTANT DATES

- June 30, 2006 Applications due
- July 31, 2006 Review of applications & finalists selected
- August 15 - 30, 2006 Interviews
- September 8, 2006 Innovators announced
- January 2007 Program begins

To receive additional information about the KTEC PIPELINE, please call 785.291.3199 or email at [pipeline@ktec.com](mailto:pipeline@ktec.com).

#### ABOUT KTEC

The Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation (KTEC) is a private/public partnership established by the state of Kansas to promote technology based economic development. Through support of strategic research and development at our Centers of Excellence, through intense hands-on business assistance at our incubators and through our equity investments in early-stage companies, KTEC serves as an invaluable partner to companies that bring economic growth to Kansas. Learn more at: [www.ktec.com](http://www.ktec.com).

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