



# Douglas County E-Community

**ANNUAL UPDATE**

**April 17, 2019**



# Goals of the E-Community Partnership

- Grow a flourishing, sustainable entrepreneurial environment supportive of business startups and expansions
- Engage and/or develop entrepreneurial resources to meet identified community and business needs
- Create a revolving loan fund to provide matching loans to entrepreneurs and small businesses with local control of decisions and terms



# E-Community Leadership and Partners

- **Leadership Team**

- Baldwin City – Brian Cramer, Lori Gardner
- Eudora – Ami Bruce, Keith Nowland
- Lecompton – Elsie Middleton, Jamin Nally
- Douglas County – Nancy Thellman
- Member-At-Large – Dave Hill

- **Ex-Officio Members and supporters**

- Marlin Bates, Jeannette Blackmar, Hank Booth, Adam Handshy, John Hay, Leslie Herring, Will Katz, Shelly Paasch

# Flourishing, Sustainable Entrepreneurial Environment

- **Leadership Douglas County**

- Targets up-and-coming business leaders from the business, nonprofit and public sectors in Eudora, Lecompton and Baldwin City.
- Offers a four-month program to provide leadership skill training, create a network of informed leaders, and encourage community involvement to solve local challenges.
- Based on the Kansas Leadership Center's principles of leadership.
- Key contributors:
  - Baldwin City Chamber of Commerce
  - Douglas County Community Foundation
  - Leadership Lawrence

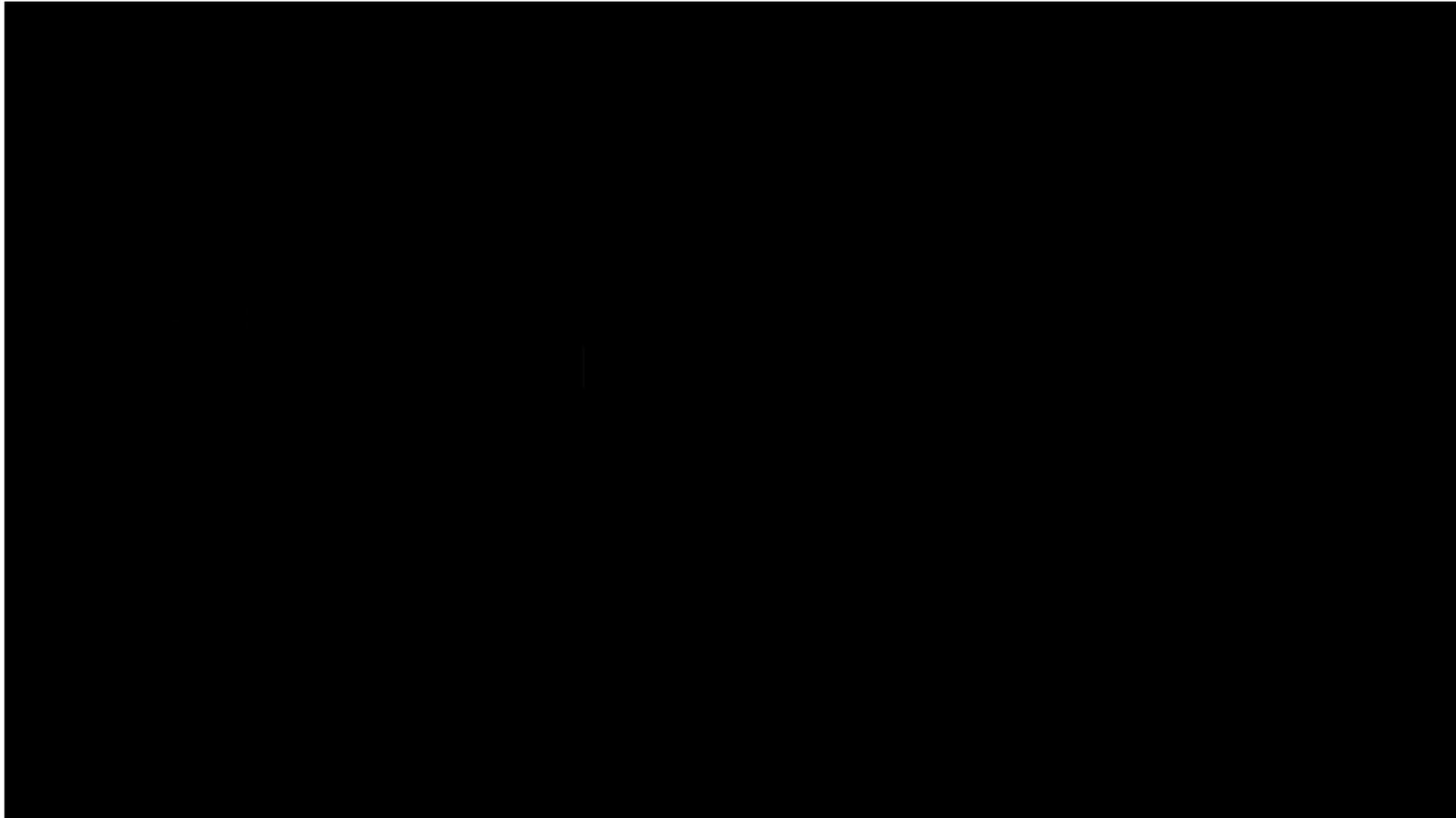
# Engage and Develop Entrepreneurial Resources

- **Destination Graduate BootCamp, March 2019** (Longmont, Colorado)
  - Lori Gardner, Homestead Kitchen and Bakery (Baldwin)
    - *2016 Destination BootCamp graduate*
  - Kathy Paslay, Recollections (Lecompton)
    - *2016 Destination BootCamp graduate*
- **Maker Space BootCamp, March 2019** (Independence, Kansas)
  - Jeannette Blackmar, Baldwin Chamber of Commerce
    - *Update on Baldwin Maker Space*

# Engage and Develop Entrepreneurial Resources

- **Douglas County and Lawrence/Metro E-Community Partnerships**
  - Douglas County Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge 2018/2019, March 1, 2019
    - 2019/2020 December 2020

# Douglas County Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge



# Revolving Loan Fund for Entrepreneurs and Small Businesses

## **2012 - 2018**

- 10 loans disbursed
  - 3 loans paid off in full
  - 2 new loans in 2018
- \$XXXX loans funded
  - Average loan \$20,000
- 4.48% average loan rate

# Revolving Loan Fund –

## Empty Nester's Winery – Lecompton

- Owned and operated by Troy and Vicki Clark
- Locally sourced and produced wine, with storefront and tasting room in rehabilitated building in downtown Lecompton.
  - Anticipated opening in Fall 2019



# Revolving Loan Fund

## **JAW Bats – Baldwin City**

- Owned and operated by Jacob Walters
- High quality custom wood baseball bat manufacturing company, currently selling one of the finest custom wood baseball bats on the market.
- Goal to obtain MiLB/MLB certification to be used in official practice/play.



# Revolving Loan Fund

## Arrowhead Hardware – Baldwin City

- Longtime hardware, garden and rental store purchased and operated by new owner, Kent Schaper.
- Growth opportunities through recaptured loss of sales to surrounding communities (Gardner/Lawrence).
- 3 full-time and 5 part-time employees.
  - ~\$500,000 projected annual revenue



# Looking to 2019/2020

- **Network Kansas Eastern Regional Loan Fund**

- Douglas County is maintains Level 1 E-Community status
- Annual loan fund max: **\$250,000**
- Loan maximum: **\$75,000**
- Loan approvals, terms and all decisions will continue under previous model, conducted by the Financial Review Board
  - *George McCrary, Brian Cramer, Leslie Herring, Jason Hoover, Elsie Middleton, Jamin Nally, Nancy Thellman*
- Access to all board certified programs
  - *Example: Destination Boot Camp*