

Opinion



A Kansas Viewpoint

Kansas must harness brainpower

From The Kansas City Star

Kansas does a good job of getting young people into and through college.

But bright, young graduates leave in droves for jobs elsewhere. Meanwhile, Kansas employers complain about a shortage of educated workers.

The state must do a better job of harnessing its brainpower.

Recent strategies have shown promise.

— Hospira, a pharmaceutical company, announced plans to add 172 good-paying jobs to its plant in McPherson, Kan.

Officials had worried about luring college graduates to a town of 14,000 persons. But the Kansas Bioscience Authority — an agency created to encourage job growth — agreed to put up \$155,000 over a three-year period. The money will help graduates of Kansas universities pay off student loans.

That strategy raised some eyebrows on the Kansas Legislature, which funds the Bioscience Authority. But other states are offering or considering loans and tax credits as incentives to young adults.

The economic gains of the McPherson jobs should quickly exceed the state's investment.

— The state's universities are making efforts to convert research and knowledge into commercial opportunities.

In Manhattan, an institute uses patents donated from corporations and patents obtained by Kansas State researchers to set up new businesses.

Reggie Robinson, president of the Kansas Board of Regents, said universities also are becoming more deliberate about offering courses that give students the tools to start businesses.

These strategies are productive and should be expanded. Business and community leaders also must reach out to young people who grew up in Kansas, moved away, and might be enticed to return.

Many states conduct job fairs in other states.

Kansas doesn't have a waterfront, like Seattle, or mountains, like Boulder, Colo.

But it has affordable housing prices and easily traveled roads. And it has enough smarts to figure out how to keep its graduates from leaving.

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U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. 202/224-6521

U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, 2443 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. 202/225-2715 or Fax 202/225-5124

State Rep. Jim Morrison, State Capitol Building, 303 SW 10th St. Rm. 171-W, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7676 e mail: jmorrison@ink.org web: www.ink.org/public/legislators/jmorrison

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Home is where the heart is

"I put down the money when I picked up the keys. We had to keep the stove on all night long so the mice wouldn't freeze. You put our names on the mailbox and I put everything else in the past. It was the first place we had to ourselves I didn't know it would be the last."
— from the 1989 Grant Hart song "2541"



John Van Nostrand

• Line in the Dust

Tisha's story Monday about the bicyclists riding across the country to raise funds and awareness for Habitat for Humanity, unfortunately, was not about the organization itself.

Habitat for Humanity is a nationwide organization that organizes volunteer labor and donated funds and materials to build houses for low-income families. I've lived in towns that have Habitat for Humanity chapters and have always been impressed by what they have been able to accomplish.

According to its Web site, "Habitat for Humanity has helped change the lives of more than 30,000 American families since its first U.S. affiliate was founded in San Antonio, Texas, in 1978. Habitat affiliates build in all 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Each affiliate is an independent, locally managed organization which coordinates local construction and selects partner families without regard to race, religion or eth-

nic group."

The houses Habitat build are nothing extravagant but are a treasure to the families that are awarded one. Size of the houses vary, but three-bedroom houses are common. Habitat houses in the States can cost about \$60,000. Families who receive a Habitat house do not get it for free either.

Families apply for a Habitat home and the families' needs, economic status and willingness to get involved in the construction of the house are considered.

That's the best part. The family that lives in it, must also help build it. That's called sweat equity. Then the families' income relates to how they can pay for some of the house and to Habitat.

In the towns I have lived in that have Habitat chapters, those families have been vocal and

appreciative of the group. They have not been afraid to explain what happened in their lives from the massive medical bills that took money away from the rent or the sudden loss of a job and not able to find a job or income to maintain the house they had.

Habitat house stories get even better watching the varied groups who volunteer a day or two to help construction. Church groups, civic groups and others show up and might do the work in a day that would usually take several days to finish.

On one morning you will see the foundation and by the end of the day you may see at least the frame standing.

Purchasing a home can be a detailed, lengthy task. I've done it twice, but not under the circumstances Habitat families are under. I feel fortunate for what I have been able to do with my houses. My wife Jennifer's room-painting skills make our houses even better.

Habitat for Humanity is painting a new life for families.

For more about Habitat for Humanity, go to www.humanity.org or write Humanity International 121 Habitat Street Americus, GA 31709-3498 telephone: (229) 924-6935

Your turn

Nothing but 'good old boy' politics

Vernon and Linda Wranosky Colby

The entire theme of Dr. Hildyard's case is moonshine! As 35 year Thomas County residents we have witnessed a progressive medical community, potentially a hub of northwest Kansas medical arts, deteriorate resulting in a non-sensical mess. Medicines internal essence in our populous is being consumed; it does not require a hyper-brain to comprehend the stubbornly persistence weevil's intent.

Patient concerns are a paramount issue, must be addressed and positive goals established to rectify issues affecting performance outcomes of any physician. Dr. Hildyard can be rightfully proud of his erudite medical background, and practice, supported by non-ceasing efforts striving to uphold the, "patient as number one." We have analyzed (read the entire document twice) the Board of Healing Arts summation concerning Dr. Hildyard's case; found it wanting, and begging the question of complaint factual authenticity regarding comprehension of what the entire case is about.

Regretfully, "good old boy" politics, road-rage effected frustration, based on a modality of "my way or the highway" mentality, from a

rogue band of pseudo-elites, attempting a coup, cannot yet come to grips with the results, that it (the coup) in effect boomeranged, as supported by the review document. Dogmatic luminescent trial balloons pressurized with fiction may momentarily bedazzle spectators, but always burst releasing an innocuous gas.

As Dr. Hildyard's patients, via a retrospective analysis regarding his ethical professionalism, we cannot site a single issue of questionable, enigmatic, misleading, or non-informative medical guidance. As our family physician he is, in affect, on 24-7-365, call. Numerous family medical conditions from the mundane non-stop nose bleed, car accident ER call, pregnancy checkups, and other medical maladies have always been met with, "OK, I will be right there" or "call the nurse and we will squeeze you in today."

As participants of Colby's health care delivery system we have kinship with a plethora of Dr. Hildyard's patients and join them in cognition of negativism when perceived personality conflicts burgeon into political wars losing sight of common goals. Conventional wisdom would suggest personal attacks be kept sparse while a medical tapestry be woven about a central theme

of community health.

The relative measure of an overall successful health program is not mirrored by dogma but by its institutional superstructure. As members of a community health system beguiled by the question of "Whose side are you on?" we have become pawns in a game of health care chess resulting in cash flow problems for the players, precious time wasted on hearings subtended by hearsay, frivolous lawsuits, and a plague of misinformation regarding the value of Colby's health care situation.

Members of the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts we have reviewed your present cases pending via the internet and simply cannot fathom Dr. Hildyard's plight. His entire case pales and speaks to prolonged circumstances of non parallel actions in light of inferences concerning other Kansas physician actions as posted on the internet. The panel should embolden its member's conclusion, not yield to an accumulation of local adjunct ideology reflecting patient base numbers - i.e., financial greed.

The good citizens of Colby and surrounding area rely on a focus of improving medical practice, political quagmire avoidance, and your prudent - concise handling of this case.

Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley

