

dental or mental health care.



ECONOMIC IMPACT OF KANSAS CITY UNIVERSITY

FEBRUARY 2026



TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
EXECUTIVE REPORT	6
IMPACTS FELT NATIONWIDE	11
ECONOMIC IMPACT	11
EMPLOYMENT IMPACT	11
STATE AND LOCAL TAX IMPACT	11
STRENGTHENING THE BI-STATE ECONOMY	12
ECONOMIC IMPACT	13
EMPLOYMENT IMPACT	13
STATE AND LOCAL TAX IMPACT	13
IMPACT ON THE KANSAS CITY METRO	14
ECONOMIC IMPACT	15
EMPLOYMENT IMPACT	15
STATE AND LOCAL TAX IMPACT	15
IMPACT ON THE JOPLIN AREA	16
ECONOMIC IMPACT	17
EMPLOYMENT IMPACT	17
STATE AND LOCAL TAX IMPACT	17
KCU PHYSICIAN ALUMNI IMPACT	18
HEALTHCARE COST SAVINGS	19
KCU COMMUNITY IMPACT	20
APPENDIX A: IMPACTS ON THE STATE OF MISSOURI	22
APPENDIX B: IMPACTS ON THE STATE OF KANSAS	23
APPENDIX C: REPORT TERMS	25
APPENDIX D: METHODOLOGY	26
APPENDIX E: TRIPP UMBACH QUALIFICATIONS	28

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

KCU ECONOMIC IMPACT FY2025

NATIONAL IMPACT

-  **\$498.9 million** generated in economic impact
-  **3,216 jobs** supported and sustained
-  **\$25.9 million** generated in state and local taxes

BI-STATE IMPACT (MISSOURI & KANSAS)

-  **\$409.8 million** generated in economic impact
-  **2,641 jobs** supported and sustained
-  **\$21.3 million** generated in state and local taxes

KANSAS CITY METRO IMPACT

-  **\$225.3 million** generated in economic impact
-  **1,452 jobs** supported and sustained
-  **\$11.7 million** generated in state and local taxes

JOPLIN IMPACT (THE JOPLIN AREA INCLUDES A FOUR-STATE REGION)

-  **\$178.4 million** generated in economic impact
-  **1,150 jobs** supported and sustained
-  **\$9.3 million** generated in state and local taxes

ALUMNI

-  **10,359 alumni** physicians living and working in the United States
 - **2,568 alumni** living and working in the Bi-State
-  **\$33.3 billion** in overall economic impact generated by alumni in the United States
 - **\$8.2 billion** in overall economic impact generated by alumni in the Bi-State

HEALTHCARE COST SAVINGS

-  **\$13.1 billion** in healthcare cost savings by KCU alumni working in primary care throughout the United States

CHARITABLE GIVING AND VOLUNTEERISM

-  **\$3.0 million** in donated time and charitable giving by staff, faculty, and students
- The **\$3.0 million** impact includes:
-  **\$1.1 million** donated to local charitable organizations
 -  **\$1.9 million** in value of volunteer time
- These benefits are in addition to the **\$409.8 million** annual impact that the KCU generates for the Bi-State

EXECUTIVE REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Kansas City University (KCU) is a private, not-for-profit health sciences university with its primary campus in Kansas City, Missouri, and an additional medical education campus in Joplin, Missouri. Founded in 1916, KCU is one of the nation's original colleges of osteopathic medicine and has more than a century-long legacy of educating physicians and health professionals dedicated to improving patient care and community well-being.

KCU's mission is carried out across two campuses and throughout Missouri and the surrounding region, grounded in a commitment to excellence in education, research, patient care, and community service. Through this mission, KCU plays a unique and vital role in advancing the health and economic vitality of both Missouri and Kansas by driving workforce development, knowledge discovery, and cross-sector collaboration.

For more than a century, KCU has been dedicated to educating caring, compassionate osteopathic physicians. Over time, the university's academic portfolio has expanded to include programs in biomedical sciences, dentistry, psychology, and bioethics, reflecting evolving workforce demands and persistent healthcare shortages across the Bi-State region. In response to the growing need for oral health providers, KCU launched its College of Dental Medicine in Joplin, welcoming its inaugural class of 80 students in 2023. The Joplin campus further reflects KCU's long-standing commitment to community-based education, clinical training, and applied research. KCU also plans to introduce a Master of Health Sciences in Anesthesiology Assistant program on the Joplin campus, reinforcing its role in addressing regional workforce needs and advancing collaborative, team-based care.

KCU currently serves more than 2,000 students and employs nearly 600 faculty and staff. As Missouri's largest medical school, KCU is a major contributor to the healthcare workforce and is the second-largest provider of physicians in both Missouri and Kansas. Beyond its educational mission, KCU functions as a significant economic engine for the Kansas City metropolitan area, the City of Joplin, the broader Bi-State region, and communities nationwide. This report demonstrates the growing influence of KCU across these geographies through its contributions to workforce development, economic activity, and improved health outcomes.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

To quantify the economic impacts generated by KCU within Missouri and Kansas, and operations in the Kansas City Metro and the City of Joplin, KCU retained the consulting firm Tripp Umbach¹ to measure and describe the economic impact and community benefits of the University. This formal report serves as an important deliverable for all stakeholders to better understand and identify the significant value, both in quantitative and qualitative terms, of KCU to the Bi-State and local economies and communities.

This report measures the direct and indirect economic impact stemming from KCU's operations for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25). These impacts fall within the following categories:

- Business volume impacts (capital expenditures, operational expenditures, and payroll)
- Direct, indirect, and induced employment impacts
- State and local tax impacts
- Impact of employee and student spending (retail/merchandise, hospitality, etc.)
- Impact of alumni on the economy (including wage premiums and job creation)
- Impact of visitor spending on the economy (wage premiums, job creation, etc.)
- The impact that employees and students have on the community through donations and volunteer work

¹ Established in 1990 in Pittsburgh, PA, and headquartered in Kansas City, MO, Tripp Umbach stands as one of the well-established and highly regarded private consulting firms in the United States. Renowned for its expertise in economic and community development, the firm collaborates with healthcare, education, government, and corporate clients to enhance the economic, social, and physical well-being of communities globally. Tripp Umbach has partnered with more than 1,000 organizations, delivering services including community and economic impact assessments and economic development strategies.



Tripp Umbach's operational economic impact analysis measures the direct, indirect, and induced business volume and state and local tax impacts of KCU's operations throughout the Bi-State, Kansas City Metro, and City of Joplin for FY25. KCU provided Tripp Umbach with the following primary data used to conduct the analysis: capital expenditures, operational expenditures, number of employees, payroll and benefits, and taxes paid to local and state governments.

The direct and indirect employment impacts generated from KCU operations include individuals who work directly and indirectly for the University. Indirect employment represents additional jobs created because of KCU's operations. Local companies that provide goods and services to KCU hire extra individuals to support KCU's purchasing and the purchasing of KCU employees, faculty, students, and visitors. The tax revenue impact of the KCU campus includes taxes paid by the school, such as income, sales, corporate income, and capital stock/franchise taxes, as well as taxes paid by vendors and employees because of their business with KCU, such as real estate, income, sales, and licensing.

Please see Appendix D for a detailed methodology.



IMPACTS FELT NATIONWIDE

ECONOMIC IMPACT

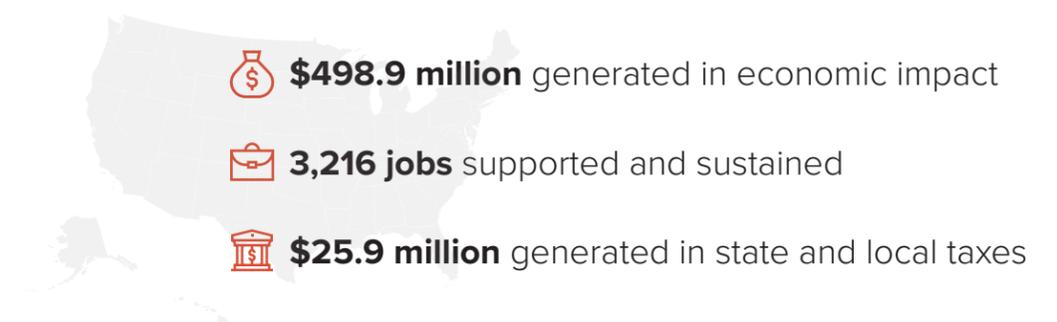
In FY25, KCU's operations generated **\$498.9 million** in economic impact on the U.S. economy. This total represents the direct impact of spending (\$112.9 million), as well as the indirect spending that occurs as a result of the presence of the University (\$386.0 million).

EMPLOYMENT IMPACT

KCU's operations support **3,216 jobs** throughout the United States. This includes the 764 direct employees and an additional 2,452 employees who are all employed because of KCU's operations throughout the nation. This is an annual impact that continues to grow incrementally as the number of graduates increase.

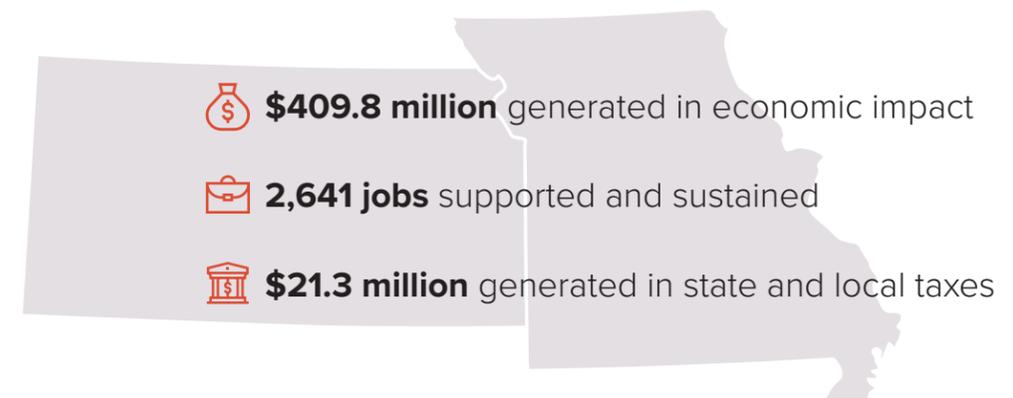
STATE AND LOCAL TAX IMPACT

A major misconception held by business leaders, elected officials, and the public is that universities and hospitals do not generate government revenue. While many of the nation's medical schools and hospitals are not-for-profit institutions, governments still receive substantial revenues as a result of both the direct and indirect influence of these organizations. In addition, the substantial spending with local business generates large-scale revenues for the state and federal coffers in the form of sales tax, corporate net income tax, and capital stock/franchise taxes. The Tripp Umbach model calculated the indirect revenue benefits accruing to the federal government from these sources. In FY25, KCU generated **\$25.9 million** in direct and indirect/induced tax payments on the U.S. federal tax receipts.



STRENGTHENING THE BI-STATE ECONOMY

KCU is a driving engine for medical education in Missouri and Kansas, linked with outreach and engagement with stakeholders and communities across both states. The University's activities generate economic benefits, employment, and government revenue throughout the Bi-State. With two locations—in Kansas City and Joplin—the University contributes significantly to regional and state economies. KCU generates economic and community impact throughout the Bi-State and in localized regions. KCU's impacts are unique to each region and touch the lives of those who live there.



ECONOMIC IMPACT

KCU provides important economic activity throughout Missouri and Kansas. Direct spending by the University system to vendors and employees helps to generate additional spending in the areas of each campus as well as economic activity important throughout the Bi-State. In FY25, KCU's operations generated **\$409.8 million** in economic impact on the U.S. economy. This total represents the direct impact of spending (\$92.7 million), as well as the indirect spending that occurs as a result of the presence of the University (\$317.1 million).

EMPLOYMENT IMPACT

In FY25, KCU directly supported **2,641 jobs** (full-time and part-time) throughout the Bi-State. This includes the 684 direct employees and an additional 1,957 employees who are all employed because of KCU operations throughout the Bi-State. This employment makes a direct contribution to the overall workforce vitality of the Bi-State and bolsters the economy. Those directly employed spend dollars in the state and, therefore, support additional employment. KCU spending on capital projects, development and planning projects, and suppliers support additional indirect jobs throughout Missouri and Kansas.

STATE AND LOCAL TAX IMPACT

KCU contributes significantly to the Bi-State and local tax bases. The University's spending with state and local organizations, support of jobs for University employees living in both Missouri and Kansas, and visitor spending contributes to state and local tax revenues. In FY25, KCU generated **\$21.3 million** in direct and indirect/induced tax payments for state and local governments.

IMPACT ON THE KANSAS CITY METRO

KCU provides students with a distinctive, hands-on learning environment rooted in the communities it serves. KCU's academic mission is anchored in its College of Medicine, which offers doctoral programs in osteopathic medicine and clinical psychology, along with a Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences and a range of specialty tracks and dual-degree options. These programs are designed to align with students' professional interests and evolving workforce needs, while supporting rigorous training across the continuum of medical and graduate education.

KCU offers a comprehensive educational ecosystem that supports medical and graduate students as well as residents, fellows, and postdoctoral trainees. Through its long-standing commitment to excellence in osteopathic medical education and its ability to adapt to a rapidly changing healthcare environment, KCU delivers high-quality training and brings a nationally respected medical education presence to communities across Missouri and Kansas.

The impacts of the KCU campus on the Kansas City Metro² are highlighted on the following page.

² For the purposes of this report, the Kansas City Area includes Bates, Caldwell, Cass, Clay, Clinton, DeKalb, Jackson, Lafayette, Platte, and Ray counties in Missouri and Andrew, Atchison, Buchanan, Doniphan, Douglas, Franklin, Johnson, Leavenworth, Linn, Miami, and Wyandotte counties in Kansas.



 **\$225.3 million** generated in economic impact

 **1,452 jobs** supported and sustained

 **\$11.7 million** generated in state and local taxes

ECONOMIC IMPACT

KCU's impact on the Kansas City Metro includes the direct operational impact of \$51.0 million and the indirect impact of \$174.3 million, amounting to a total overall economic impact of nearly **\$225.3 million**.

EMPLOYMENT IMPACT

KCU sustains and supports **1,452 jobs** in the Kansas City Metro. This accounts for both the 194 direct jobs that are added to the region because of KCU's operations and another 1,258 jobs, which are added because of KCU's local operations in the Kansas City Metro.

STATE AND LOCAL TAX IMPACT

In FY25, KCU's operations in the Kansas City Metro Area created more than **\$11.7 million** in state and local tax impact, which include the direct taxes paid to the states and local economies as well as the additional indirect tax payments.

IMPACT ON THE JOPLIN AREA

Kansas City University–Joplin represents a significant expansion of KCU’s mission to educate healthcare professionals and improve access to care in underserved regions. Opened as the first new medical school in Missouri in 2017, the Joplin campus extends KCU’s long-standing legacy in osteopathic medical education to southwest Missouri and the surrounding Bi-State region.

Anchored by the Farber-McIntire Campus, KCU–Joplin provides students with a hands-on, community-based learning environment supported by state-of-the-art facilities, including advanced simulation and standardized patient spaces. The campus is designed to integrate medical education with regional clinical partners, ensuring students gain early and sustained exposure to the communities they are preparing to serve.

KCU–Joplin supports the university’s broader academic mission through programs in osteopathic medicine and dental medicine, with curricula aligned to regional workforce needs and healthcare shortages. By combining rigorous training, modern facilities, and deep community engagement, KCU–Joplin strengthens the healthcare pipeline in southwest Missouri while reinforcing KCU’s role as Missouri’s largest medical school and a nationally respected leader in medical education.

The impacts of the KCU campus on Joplin City³ are highlighted on the following page.

³ For the purposes of this report, Joplin City includes Jasper and Newton counties in Missouri.



ECONOMIC IMPACT

KCU’s total economic impact on Joplin City includes the direct operational impact of \$40.4 million and the indirect impact of \$138.0 million, amounting to a total overall economic impact of nearly **\$178.4 million**.

EMPLOYMENT IMPACT

KCU sustains and supports **1,150 jobs** in the Joplin City region. This accounts for both the 156 direct jobs that are added to the region because of KCU’s operations and another 994 jobs, which are added because of KCU’s local operations in the Joplin City region.

STATE AND LOCAL TAX IMPACT

In FY25, KCU’s operations in Joplin City created more than **\$9.3 million** in state and local tax impact, which include the direct taxes paid to the states and local economies as well as the additional indirect tax payments.

KCU PHYSICIAN ALUMNI IMPACT

The contributions of KCU graduates are important to the economic vitality of regions throughout the United States. By producing highly educated, engaged, global citizens, KCU continues to shape a skilled workforce that will transform healthcare. Since its founding in 1916, KCU has produced more than 11,000 graduates. While operational impacts are impressive, the impact of KCU's graduates is even greater.

There are more than 10,300 KCU **alumni physicians** who are currently licensed throughout the United States. Tripp Umbach estimates that the KCU physician alumni are generating more than **\$33.3 billion** in economic activity and support or employ **176,130 employees** throughout the United States.⁴

According to Tripp Umbach, each physician in the United States generates approximately \$126,129 in total state and local taxes. Therefore, KCU alumni physicians generate approximately **\$1.3 billion** in additional total taxes annually. These numbers are in addition to KCU's operational impacts presented above.

⁴ physicianeconomicimpact.org



HEALTHCARE COST SAVINGS

KCU's total impact on the economy in Missouri and Kansas goes beyond the annual economic impact presented above. Tripp Umbach estimates that those KCU graduates who receive training in the state and set up a practice in a medically underserved area within the Bi-State area have an additional annual impact of **\$13.1 billion** in healthcare cost savings.

A notable proportion of KCU graduates pursue careers in primary care, placing the university among the top tier of U.S. medical schools based on the share of graduates entering primary care specialties. These physicians save the U.S. economy on unnecessary cost of emergency medical visits and preventive care. These are the physicians who administer the preventative care keeping these patients out of the emergency room with more advanced medical conditions.

While the healthcare landscape continues to evolve, one reality remains clear: primary care physicians are in short supply and in greater demand than ever. Reductions in state support for hospitals, including Medicaid funding, along with cuts to educational programs, have led to fewer services, salary pressures, and workforce reductions. As a result, the continued education and training of new physicians is more critical than ever to safeguarding the long-term health and well-being of communities across the nation.



KCU COMMUNITY IMPACT

KCU's total impact on the Bi-State region cannot simply be measured in financial terms, consequential as they are. Economic impact studies often capture only the impact that can be assigned a quantitative number, but the qualitative value and impact of the University go far beyond its annual multi-million-dollar economic impact.

As a committed anchor in both Kansas City and the Joplin communities, KCU sees opportunity in community-campus partnerships that serve the needs of the surrounding community as well as the Bi-State. KCU provides countless opportunities for faculty, staff, and students to service the community through institutional partnerships, programs, and service-learning projects that deliver significant impacts to the community. Through KCU's service-learning programs, the University has developed partnerships with local charitable and community organizations, strengthening the Kansas City Metro and Joplin City communities while offering unique educational opportunities for KCU students.



KCU's continued mission is to "improve the well-being of the communities we serve." Each of the KCU faculty, staff, and students are dedicated to serving the community and helping better the lives of others. KCU's total impact on the Bi-State and regional communities goes beyond the annual impacts presented previously in this report. Tripp Umbach estimates that KCU employees and students generate **\$3.0 million** annually in charitable donations and volunteer services across the Bi-State. These benefits are in addition to the more than **\$498.9 million** in economic impact that KCU generates for the Bi-State.

These benefits include the following:

- KCU faculty, staff, and students provide thousands of hours of volunteer services. The economic value of such services is estimated at more than **\$1.9 million**.
- KCU students also provide benefits in the form of contributions to local charities. It is estimated that the students donate more than **\$1.1 million** to the local charities.

During the FY25 academic year, employees contributed thousands of hours to community service and volunteer activities. Each of the KCU faculty, staff, and students have a broad and substantial focus on assisting the communities in which they are a part. To further support KCU's mission, University leadership offers four service days for each employee to have the opportunity to engage in additional voluntary community service of their choice—service to the community is embedded in the mission of the University.

KCU provides the larger community with access to faculty experts, adding richness and diversity to the region's activities. It is challenging to assign an exact dollar amount to the outreach and community activities of KCU, but on a daily basis, the lives of those in the surrounding communities are significantly enhanced by its presence in a multitude of ways.

APPENDIX A: IMPACTS ON THE STATE OF MISSOURI

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The total impact that KCU had on the state of Missouri in FY25 was **\$349.9 million**. This includes the direct operational impact of \$78.9 million and the indirect impact of \$271.0 million.

EMPLOYMENT IMPACT

KCU supports and sustains **2,256 jobs** in Missouri. This impact is felt through the 576 direct jobs that are added to the state because of KCU's operations and an additional 1,680 jobs because of KCU's operations in Missouri.

STATE AND LOCAL TAX IMPACT

In FY25, KCU's operations created **\$18.2 million** in state and local tax impact, which included the direct taxes paid to the state and local economies as well as the additional indirect tax payments generated in the state because of KCU's operations.



\$349.9 million generated in economic impact

2,256 jobs supported and sustained

\$18.2 million generated in state and local taxes

APPENDIX B: IMPACTS ON THE STATE OF KANSAS

ECONOMIC IMPACT

KCU's total impact on Kansas in FY25 was **\$59.9 million**. This impact is impressive for a university that is not located within state boundaries. This includes the direct operational impact of \$11.3 million and the indirect impact of \$48.6 million.

EMPLOYMENT IMPACT

KCU supports a total of **386 jobs** in Kansas, including 108 direct positions created through its operations and an additional 278 indirect jobs generated across the state as a result of its economic activity.

STATE AND LOCAL TAX IMPACT

In FY25, KCU's operations created **\$3.1 million** in state and local tax impact, which included the direct taxes paid to the state and local economies and the additional indirect tax payments generated in the state because of KCU's operations.



\$59.9 million generated in economic impact

386 jobs supported and sustained

\$3.1 million generated in state and local taxes



APPENDIX C: REPORT TERMS

Study Year	Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25)
Total Economic Impact	The combined direct, indirect, and induced effects across the economy generated by KCU.
Direct Economic Impact	Spending by KCU, its employees, and its students, and visitors.
Indirect Economic Impact	Re-spending by vendors and suppliers that provide goods and services to KCU.
Induced Economic Impact	Household spending by employees whose wages are tied to KCU, generating activity in housing, retail, food, and other services.
Multiplier Effect	The added economic activity created when KCU's direct spending circulates through local businesses and households.
Direct Employment	The total number of jobs directly supported by KCU, including faculty, researchers, administrative staff, and operations personnel.
Indirect Employment	Additional jobs created through KCU's spending with vendors and suppliers. As these local businesses expand to meet demand, they hire more employees, generating a ripple effect across industries such as construction, transportation, and professional services.
Induced Employment	Jobs sustained when KCU employees, vendors, and suppliers spend their earnings in the local economy. This household spending supports employment in sectors such as retail, dining, housing, hospitality, and other community services.
State and Local Tax Impact	Government revenue generated at the state and local levels through KCU's operations. This includes taxes paid directly by the organization, as well as those generated through employee wages, household spending, and purchases made by vendors and suppliers that support KCU.

APPENDIX D: METHODOLOGY

Methodology Employed in the Economic Impact Study

The analysis was conducted using IMPLAN (Impact Analysis for Planning), one of the most widely accepted economic modeling systems in the United States. Originally developed by the U.S. Forest Service and the University of Minnesota in the late 1970s, IMPLAN is now maintained by IMPLAN Group LLC and used by thousands of universities, healthcare systems, consulting firms, and government agencies.

IMPLAN integrates data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau, and other federal sources. It combines national production functions for more than 450 industries with county-level economic data to estimate how organizations interact with local and state economies. This framework generates multipliers that measure how one dollar of direct spending circulates through the economy, creating additional rounds of activity.

The model captures three levels of impact:

- **Direct impacts** – spending directly attributable to the institution (operations, payroll, and capital investments).
- **Indirect impacts** – supply chain activity generated by vendor and contractor spending.
- **Induced impacts** – household spending supported by employee wages, both within the institution and across related industries.

By combining these effects, IMPLAN provides a comprehensive and conservative estimate of how institutional spending ripples through the broader economy.

Input-Output Analysis and the Multiplier Effect

The study relied on input-output (I-O) analysis, the standard methodology for measuring economic impacts. At its core, I-O analysis maps the flow of resources among industries, households, and governments within a region. It records how dollars enter the economy, how they are spent and re-spent across sectors, and how these transactions generate subsequent rounds of activity. This chain reaction is known as the multiplier effect.

For example, when an institution pays wages, employees spend those earnings on housing, groceries, and services in their community. Vendors supplying goods to the institution purchase raw materials and hire workers who, in turn, spend their income locally. These repeated cycles of spending continue until money “leaks” out of the region (for example, when a good or service is purchased from out-of-state).



Considerations

As with all I-O models, several considerations apply:

- **Fixed-price assumption** – The model assumes that increased demand does not affect prices or capacity, making it appropriate for snapshot analyses.
- **Direct impacts based on actual spending** – Direct expenditures are not modeled but reflect real data reported by institutions. Changes to spending directly alter indirect and induced results.
- **Regional leakage** – The more economically diverse regions, a greater share of spending is retained locally before leaking out. Consequently, measured impacts increase as the geography expands, with state-level impacts exceeding regional impacts and national impacts larger still, since the effects captured at smaller geographic levels are encompassed within broader areas.

Conservative Approach

This study represents a conservative estimate of impact, grounded in actual institutional data and standard modeling assumptions. Results provide a point-in-time snapshot of the contributions of KCU, capturing the ways its operations support jobs, generate tax revenue, and stimulate economic activity across communities statewide.

Additional Analysis

While IMPLAN serves as the foundation of Tripp Umbach’s modeling, the analysis is enhanced with customized components that capture longer-term and nontraditional impacts. For this study, those measures include charitable giving and volunteerism. This comprehensive approach reflects not only the immediate economic effects of KCU but also the lasting value it provides through strengthened communities and improved quality of life.

APPENDIX E:

TRIPP UMBACH QUALIFICATIONS

Founded in Pittsburgh, PA, and now headquartered in Kansas City, MO, Tripp Umbach is recognized as one of the nation's leading private consulting firms specializing in economic and community development. For 35 years, the firm has partnered with more than 1,000 healthcare, education, government, and corporate clients to advance the economic, social, and physical well-being of communities worldwide. Tripp Umbach has completed more than 500 economic impact studies for hospitals, health systems, and higher education institutions across the United States, along with community assessments and economic development strategies.



trippumbach.com 





Kansas City
University