



May 27, 2025

Dear Partner,

The DeSoto County Economic Development Council is planning the annual Bridging the Gap: DeSoto County Career Expo. As you may recall, the DeSoto County Economic Development Council, with generous support last year, was able to bring an **interactive, hands-on career expo for ALL 3,000 10th graders across the county** over two days at the Landers Center. We look forward to hosting the Career Expo at the Landers Center on October 29 and 30, 2025, and will open it up for optional 11th and 12th graders and their parents on the second day. We will also invite our Membership to stop in prior to our Membership Luncheon at the Landers Center at noon on October 30.

The Bridging the Gap: DeSoto Career Expo experience is a great opportunity for DeSoto County's students to take important steps in planning their future. As we prepare for this year's event, we will feature the following Pathways, showcasing our local business community, and aligned with the DeSoto Career Technology and Northwest MS Community College program curriculums:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Architecture and Construction
- Automotive
- Distribution & Supply Chain Logistics
- Energy & Telecommunications
- Engineering
- Health Science
- Information Technology, Aviation, and Archeology
- Insurance & Finance
- Law & Public Safety

This critical effort will ensure we can sustain our growth, and better inform our students of local job opportunities. We are confident this will be a rewarding and motivating experience for all stakeholders. It takes your generous sponsorship to fund the event budget of over \$60,000, and we need your help. Your investment is timely to renew the enthusiasm of our future workforce! **The expo, along with our Connect DeSoto Internship Program, for juniors and seniors, allows students to experience potential career paths.**

Please see the attached corporate sponsorship levels to determine where you can assist to ensure this event continues to be a success. I assure you that your contribution will pay valuable workforce dividends for your company and offer hope to our youth of career opportunities in their own backyard.

We appreciate the leadership role you play in our community, and we look forward to working with you as we build DeSoto's workforce of the future!

Yours truly,

Jim Flanagan
President/CEO