



UMKC Innovation Center

Reaching out to help people start and grow businesses

A key part of the Bloch School's mission of outreach, the UMKC Innovation Center partners with the university and the community to spark entrepreneurial efforts within the region and across the country.

With a suite of high-impact programs, the center helps emerging and existing business owners hone their business basics, evaluate commercialization opportunities, and connect with the right resources at the right time.

Key Metrics	FY08	FY09
Small Business Clients Served	2,803	4,920
Business Starts	18	34
Jobs Created	215	484
Commercialization Grants Received	\$136,811	\$3,897,872
Government Contracts and increased sales	\$113,263,016	\$109,200,957
Debt/equity infusion	\$6,741,866	\$8,278,158

Key Programs

KCSOURCELINK connects aspiring, emerging and existing business owners to a network of more than 145 nonprofit resource partners in the Kansas City region that offer business-building services. Through **U.S.SOURCELINK**, UMKC has licensed this collaborative model to many areas of the country.

The Missouri Small Business and Technology Development Center and University of Missouri Extension provide technical assistance to start-up and existing businesses through one-on-one consulting and training. This group specializes in technology commercialization and second-stage businesses.

Through training, one-on-one consulting, and a special bid-matching system, the **Heartland and Missouri Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTAC)** help local businesses gain \$100 million in government contracts each year.

4747 Troost Avenue is home to other groups that support entrepreneurs in the Kansas City region including: UMKC Entrepreneurial Legal Services Clinic, First Step Fund, One KC for Women, Helzberg Entrepreneurial Mentoring Program, International Trade Council of Greater KC, Inc. and SCORE.

The **Whiteboard to Boardroom** program is a partnership between UMKC, KU, William Jewell College and Johnson County Community College created to explore and develop a technology commercialization process that maximizes the ability of institutions with less than \$50 million in research funding to create spin-outs.

UMKC's Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) program has been successfully winning at regional competitions for the past two years. This year a trip to China is in the works, expanding the reach of this group internationally.

Awards

- **2007 Excellence in Economic Development Award for Enhancing Regional Competitiveness**, U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration for KCSOURCELINK

About the Director



Maria Meyers

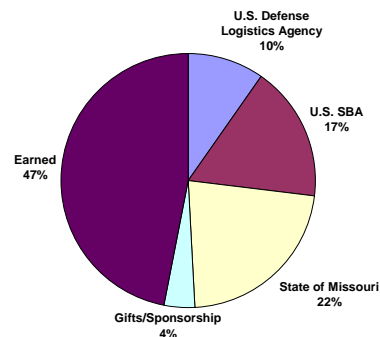
joined the Bloch School in 2003, when she launched KCSOURCELINK. The successful launch in Kansas City led to the

adoption of the SOURCELINK model in more than 20 regions across the country, resulting in licensing fees that continue the program.

Meyers currently leads the UMKC Innovation Center and was instrumental in establishing The Bloch School's Institute for Entrepreneurship.

She has held executive positions in a variety of start-up businesses including key roles for an early stage biotech company and the \$241 million project to create Science City at Union Station, in Kansas City, MO. She has a degree in physics from Iowa State University.

UMKC Innovation Center Funding Sources



Partners

Support and funding for the UMKC Innovation Center comes from:

- U.S. Small Business Administration
- U.S. Defense Logistics Agency
- Missouri Department of Economic Development
- Missouri Technology Corporation
- University of Missouri Extension
- University of Missouri Small Business and Technology Development Centers
- Brush Creek Enterprise Center
- KCMO Economic Development Corp.
- Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
- U.S.SOURCELINK licensing fees