AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR ALL

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The Trajectory of Economic Opportunity in America

1860 - President Lincoln:

“We do wish to allow the humblest man an equal chance.”

2014 – .01%er Nick Hanauer:

“Unless our policies change dramatically, the middle class will disappear.”
In 2015 70% of Kansans say that they are “very concerned” (41%) or “somewhat concerned” (29%) that the Kansas economy will seriously threaten them or their family’s welfare.

2013: 32% “very concerned.”

Source: Kansas Speaks (Spring 2015), The Docking Institute of Public Affairs
Kansas household income remains below the pre-recession levels.

Household income is 6.1% lower in 2014 than its peak in 2003.

Many Kansans are looking for work, are underemployed or given up the job search.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U-6 measure in red; regular unemployment in black
Half of top 10 fastest growing jobs in Kansas leave a family of 3 in poverty.

Source: Kansas Department of Labor, Labor Information Center, 2014

2014 Federal Poverty Line: $19,790 (family of three)
Top 1% earners in Kansas made more than $22 for each dollar made by the remaining 99%.

Source: Economic Policy Institute, *The Increasingly Unequal States of America*
Data are for 2012
Kansas’ extreme poverty rate increased during the recession and has not improved.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates
Percentage of Population Earning 100% and 50% or less than the Federal Poverty Line
Note: Data from the ACS in 2005 and 2006 only estimate poverty at 50% or less than the FPL and between 100% and 124% of FPL
Principles for Creating an Economy That Works For All

- The health of a state - including its economic health - depends on the capacities or capabilities of its people.

- Governments have a significant and essential role to play to support the development of human capacities.

- While there are limits to what can be done at the state-level, we can make policy choices that make a positive difference.