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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**KHF invests in youth leadership development programming**

WICHITA, Kan. – The Kansas Health Foundation (KHF) recently contributed \$50,000 to Destination Innovation, a Wichita nonprofit serving as a catalyst for Sedgwick County Black and Latino youth leadership development that encompasses entrepreneurship, civic engagement and juvenile justice.

“It’s exciting to see how Destination Innovation is involving youth in important issues in our community,” said Teresa Miller, KHF president and CEO. “KHF looks forward to seeing how these young leaders will continue to bring ideas and solutions to reimagine juvenile justice and increase civic engagement among underrepresented communities.”

In 2021, Destination Innovation became a hub of youth leadership and development opportunities by merging programs and staff from The Seed House – Casa de Semilla. Marquetta Atkins, a youth advocate and community builder, founded or helped build the three youth programs currently housed under the Destination Innovation suite of programs – that this KHF funding will support. The programs are:

- **Camp Destination Innovation:** A S.T.E.A.M (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) career and leadership development camp for marginalized youth ages 14-18 focused on entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship.
- **Progeny:** A youth/adult partnership focused on reimagining the juvenile justice system and reinvestment into community-based alternatives that better meet the needs of youth.
- **Root the Power:** A youth-led program working to close the racial voting gap in Kansas by increasing voting rates, civic engagement and civic leadership of young people.

“We are so overwhelmed this week with the investment in our youth,” said Atkins, executive director of Destination Innovation. “We appreciate the Kansas Health Foundation’s commitment to believing in our young people.”

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#### ABOUT DESTINATION INNOVATION

Destination Innovation is a catalyst for youth leadership development, encompassing entrepreneurship, civic engagement, and juvenile justice. Our mission is aligning boldly-resilient young people with the tools and mindset to move courageously, with purpose and discipline, to activate underserved communities. Destination Innovation facilitates pathways for marginalized youth to empower themselves with knowledge, mentorships, and innovative problem-solving skills to address the barriers they face and create the kind of community they want to live in.

#### ABOUT THE KANSAS HEALTH FOUNDATION

The Kansas Health Foundation is based in Wichita, but is statewide in its focus. With a mission to improve the health of all Kansans, KHF envisions a culture in which every Kansan can make healthy choices where they live, work and play. During the past 35 years, KHF has provided more than \$600 million in grants to improve health in Kansas communities.