



KEAN

Kean EDA University Center

The Center for Economic and Workforce Development, Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship at Kean University is proudly designated as a United States Economic Development Administration (USEDA) University Center. Kean University appreciates the opportunity to partner with the USED A in promoting economic progress across the nation.

Through the Kean EDA University Center, the University is committed to developing vibrant economic ecosystems that positively impact and sustain urban communities throughout New Jersey.

Building Economic Stability

The Kean EDA University Center examines the current economic ecosystems of New Jersey's urban communities with the purpose of increasing resilience against adversity, building stronger support systems and developing future partnerships, policies, programs and practices that promote economic stability and prosperity statewide.

Community Solutions

The Kean EDA University Center's core function is to create open forums for citizens, business owners and policymakers to connect and create innovative solutions to complex economic issues facing their communities. The center brings people together in the spirit of breaking silos and making progress within challenging economic situations.

Kean EDA University Center's services and outreach programs are constantly evolving to meet the specific needs of the communities we serve.

Our Partners

The Kean EDA University Center's work is made possible through the cooperation of our partners:

- John S. Watson Institute for Urban Policy and Research
- Kean University College of Business and Public Management
- The Small Business Development Center at Kean University
- New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program
- African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey
- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey
- Institute for Life Science Entrepreneurship
- BCT Partners



Our Services and Initiatives

The Kean EDA University Center's services and initiatives cover the following areas where we take action and provide insight.

Small Business Development Assistance

- Assist eligible businesses with enrollment in urban economic development programs.
- Design and implement business assessment tools to support business models that address social challenges and create resilient business models.

Registered Apprenticeships and Manufacturing Business Development

- Help businesses receive up-to-date food manufacturing certification and training.
- Develop training program curriculum to ensure a local, well-trained workforce.
- Create a post-secondary biomanufacturing credential and registered apprenticeship program.

Actionable and Relevant Data for Policymakers and Businesses

- Build a data tool that communicates information to University Center partners about pre-COVID economic conditions, COVID impacts and future opportunities for the economic ecosystem to address challenges of place, talent and innovation.
- Establish the Consortium of Economic Development Administrators, a forum for distributing Kean University EDA Center studies and information to local practitioners.

Entrepreneurial Networks, Experiences and Support

- Accelerate talent development by facilitating high school student enrollment in college-level entrepreneurial learning.
- Provide research, technical support and intellectual property protection to entrepreneurs, with a focus on neuroscience-related ventures.
- Offer entrepreneurial curriculum and learning experiences for non-business majors.

Alex Rivera • Director • alexrive@kean.edu