

Tom Thornton
President and Chief Executive Officer
Kansas Bioscience Authority

In November of 2006, Tom Thornton became the first president and chief executive officer of the Kansas Bioscience Authority (KBA). The KBA was created in April 2004 as a result of the Kansas Economic Growth Act, which created this independent entity of the state, governed by a board of directors composed of local and national leaders in the areas of technology, science, and business. The KBA is investing more than \$580 million generated by the Kansas Economic Growth Act to advance the state's leadership in bioscience research, innovation and commercialization.

Before joining the KBA, Mr. Thornton served as president and CEO of the Illinois Technology Development Alliance, establishing it as one of the most respected technology development organizations in the country. He developed several nationally recognized technology development and commercialization programs, including the Technology Development Bridge Fund, one of Illinois' most active seed-stage venture capital funds; the state's manufacturing extension system; and three federal technology transfer and commercialization centers.

Mr. Thornton led several public-private task forces that successfully sited large-scale federal research investment in Illinois, including the \$800 million Advanced Photon Source at Argonne National Laboratory; the \$460 million Main Injector at Fermilab; and the \$290 million National Coal Research Center at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

Mr. Thornton's extensive corporate, entrepreneurial, and public-sector experience has been integral to the success of the KBA. He was the senior vice president for Convergent Technology Group, a Seattle-based mergers and acquisitions advisory services firm and managing partner for divine interVentures, Inc., an early-stage venture investment fund. Early in his career, Mr. Thornton served as director of policy for U.S. Rep. J. Dennis Hastert, former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Crain's Chicago Business repeatedly recognized Mr. Thornton as one of Illinois' 100 most influential leaders in technology and named him one of the state's top 40 business leaders under 40 years of age in 1998. He contributes to a variety of organizations, including serving as a director of Advanced Life Sciences (NASD-ADLS), a publicly held pharmaceuticals company.

Mr. Thornton earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. A native of Ottawa, Ill., he lives in Fairway, Kan.