



# 2024 **APEX** BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

## **KVF 70 dba Mule Barn Services**



**Owner: Phillip Carr**

**APEX Subcenter Director: Keon Muldrow**

**Business Started: 2018 Industry: Food service contracting**

In the heart of Leavenworth, Kansas, KVF 70, also known as Mule Barn Services, has excelled in food service contracting since its establishment in 2018. Led by owner and CEO Phillip Carr, Mule Barn Services stands out in a competitive industry for its exceptional service and unwavering commitment to quality.

Carr brings nearly 30 years of experience to Mule Barn Services. As a senior Kansas Business Enterprise Program (BEP) Licensed Blind Vendor, Carr has a rich history of supporting and advancing the program. His background encompasses a wide range of vending and food service operations, from vending machines to cafeterias in federal, state, and municipal buildings. Carr has successfully operated two franchises, each generating more than \$1 million in services annually.

Mule Barn Services sought the assistance of the Kansas Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Johnson County Community College to address several critical needs, including access to capital and federal contracting. The collaboration between Kansas SBDC advisors Vince Haworth and Stephanie Willis and APEX Accelerator subCenter Regional Director, Keon Muldrow, has been instrumental in supporting the company's growth.

"The advisors from the Kansas SBDC and APEX Accelerator have gone above and beyond in mentoring, coaching, and supporting our efforts," said Carr.

Reflecting on his decades of experience, Carr wants to emphasize to new businesses the importance of patience and assembling a dedicated team. "Building a successful company takes time, patience, and continuous attention," he advises. "Your success relies on the partnership and quality of your employees, along with their understanding of your company, mission, and culture."



**Leavenworth, KS  
Leavenworth County**



**(202) 560-9642  
matt.carr.kvf70@outlook.com**

**Kansas SBDC at JCCC**  
913-469-3878  
ksbdc@jccc.edu  
www.jcccsbdc.com



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