

# AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR ALL



**Gary Brunk**

**Executive Director**

**Kansas Association of Community Action Programs**

# 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:

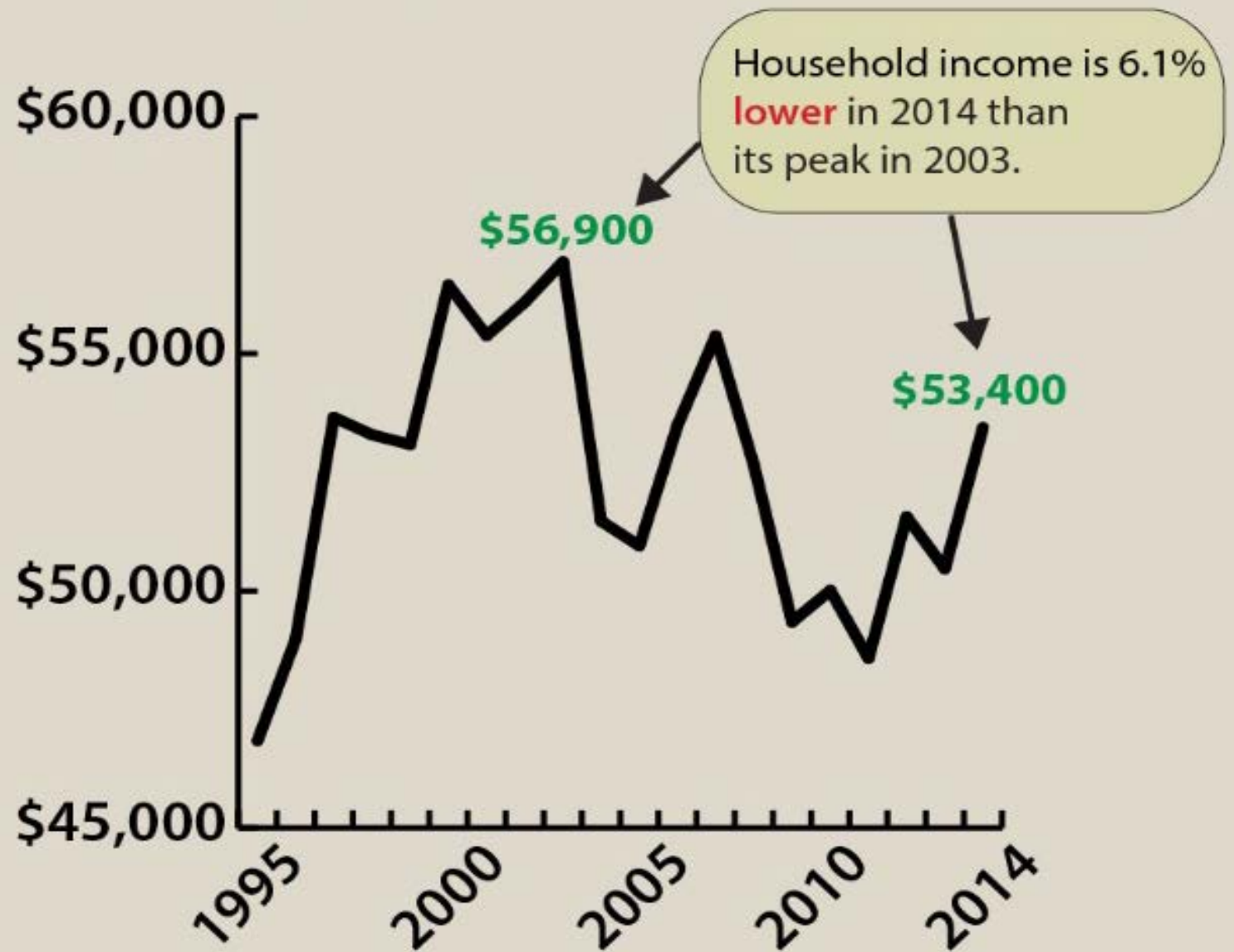
“Unless our policies change dramatically, the middle class will disappear.”

# Kansans Worry About Their Families' Economic Future

- ◆ 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.”

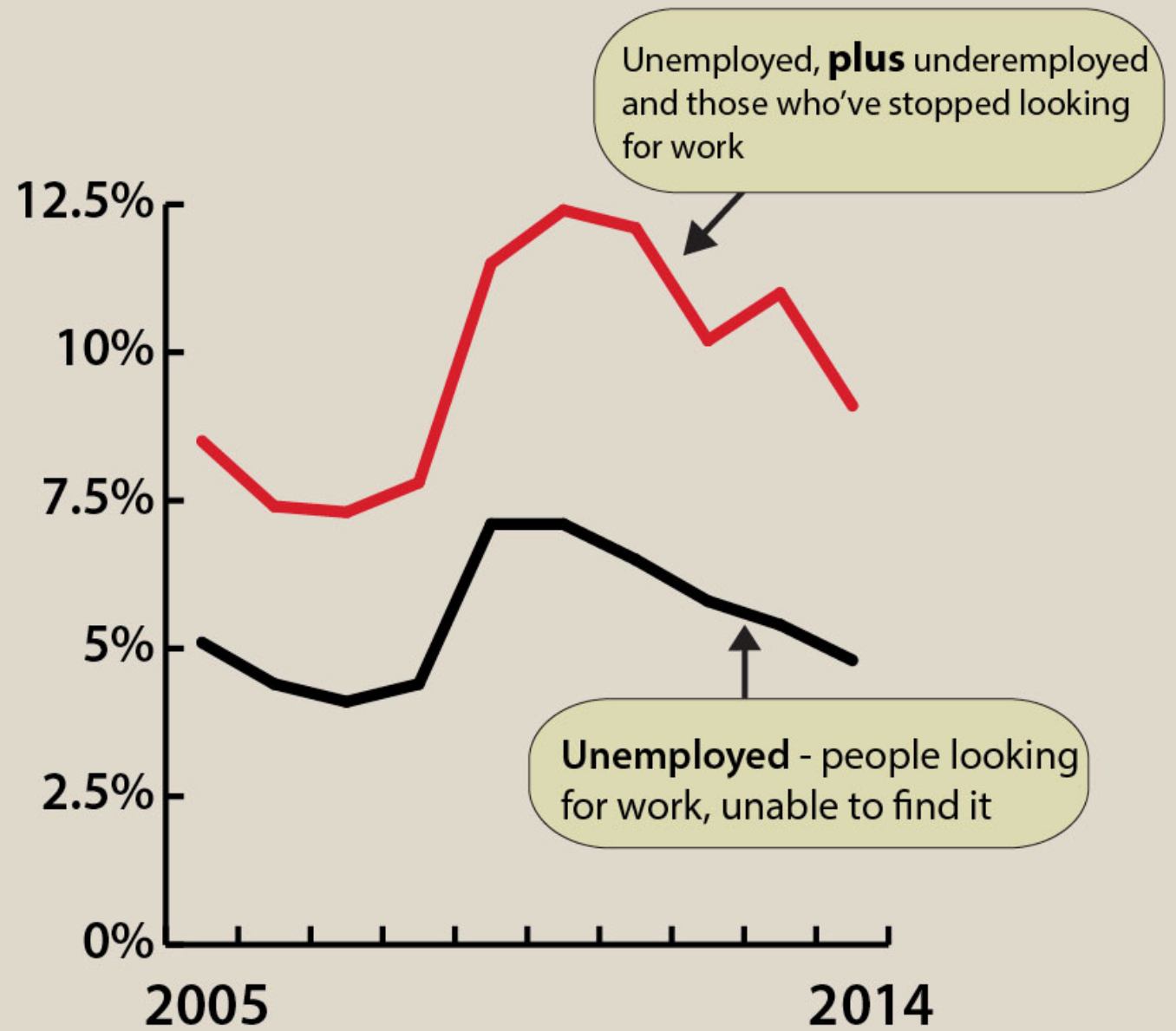
Source: *Kansas Speaks* (Spring 2015), The Docking Institute of Public Affairs

**Kansas  
household  
income remains  
below the pre-  
recession levels.**



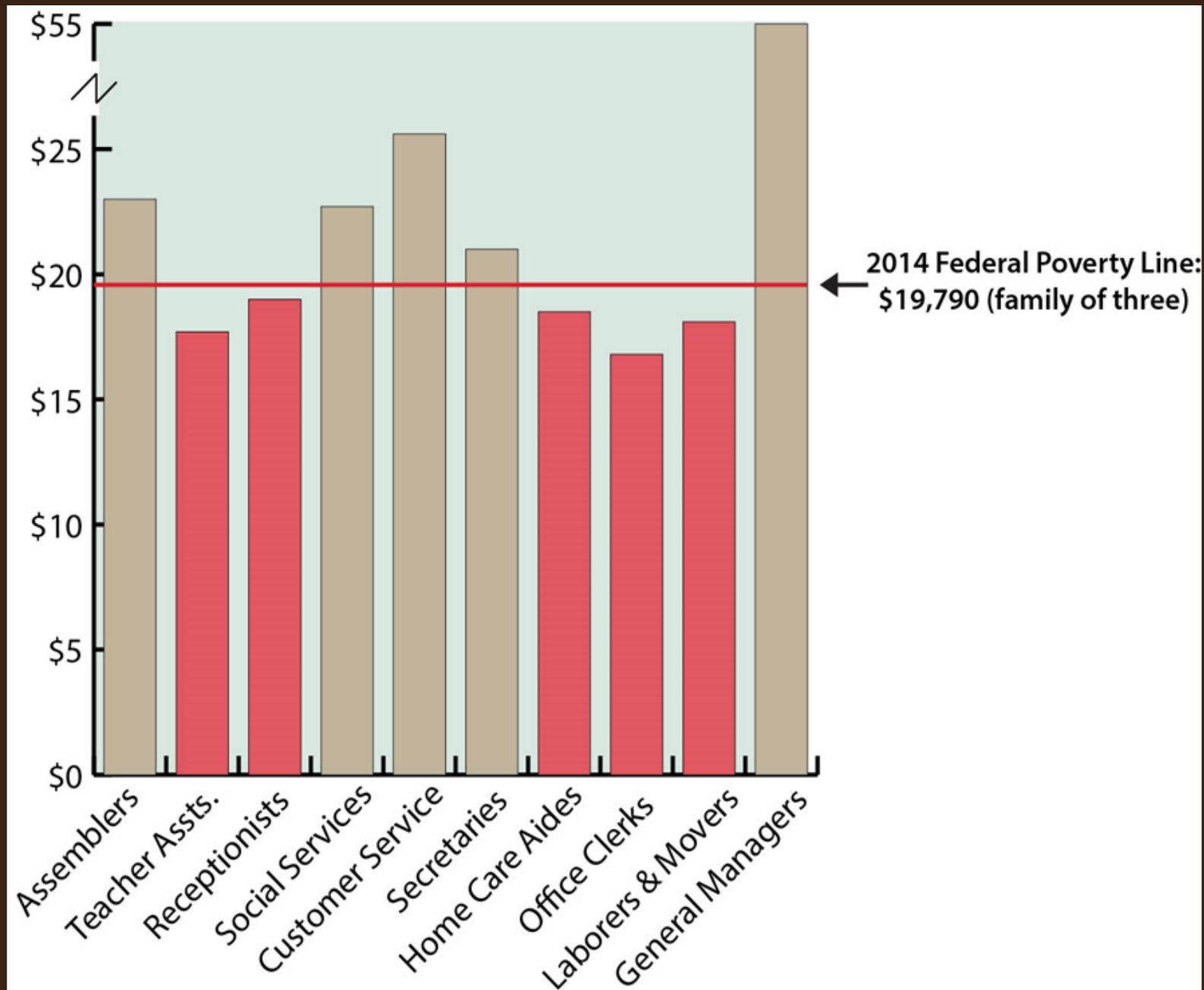
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Estimates of Median Household Income, inflation adjusted to 2014 dollars

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.



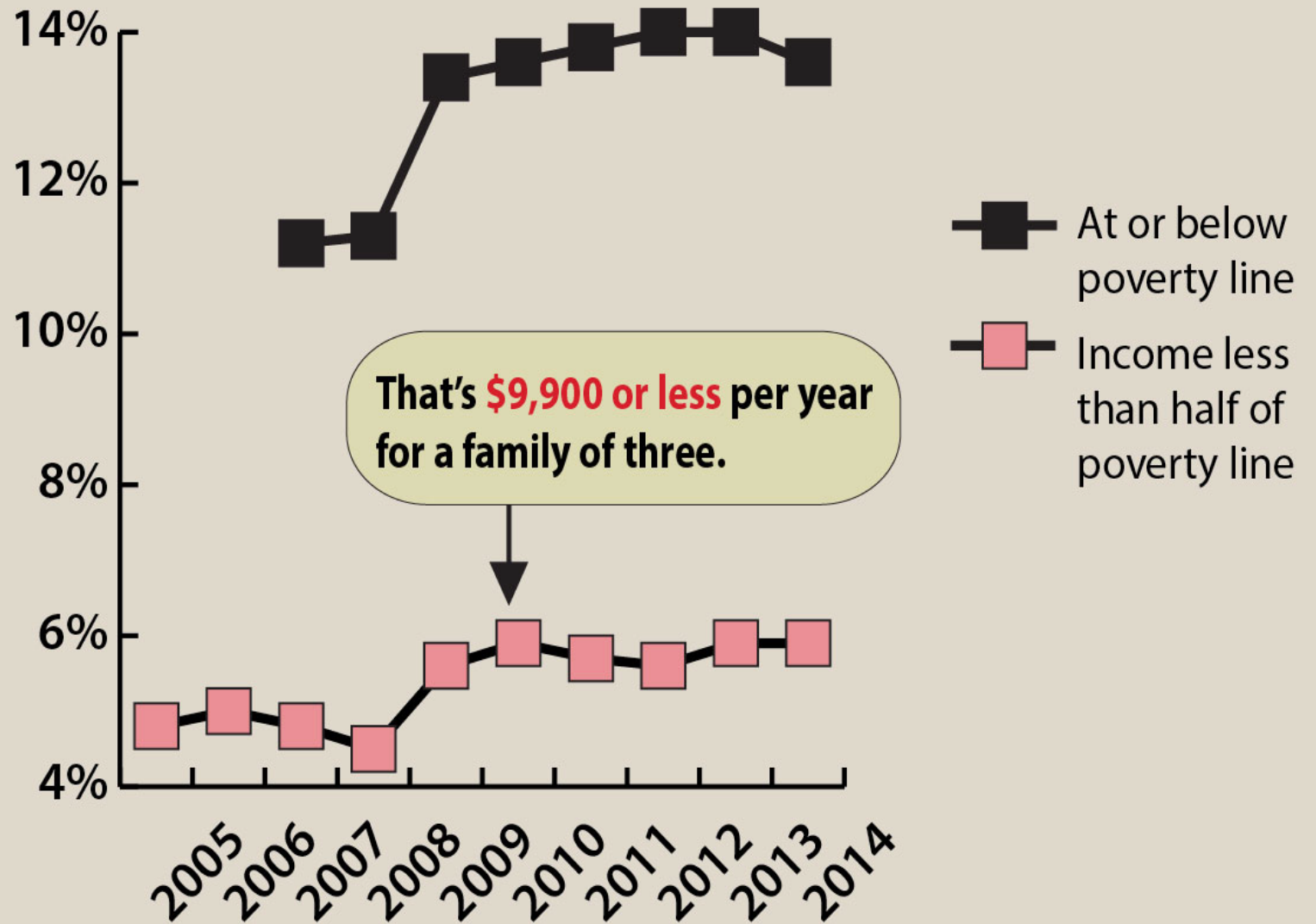
Source: Kansas Department of Labor, Labor Information Center, 2014

**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.