



**Frank Lenk** is Director of Research Services for the Mid-America Regional Council, where he has worked for the past 37 years. MARC is the Kansas City area's metropolitan planning organization and voluntary association of local governments. The Research Services department is responsible for monitoring the social, economic and demographic trends affecting the region and preparing analyses that put those trends in perspective for the region's decision-makers.

Recent work includes *Prosperity at a Crossroads: Targeting Drivers of Economic Growth in Greater Kansas City*, a 2014 report with the Brookings Institution to analyze the Kansas City region's economic performance relative to other large

metros; data and analytical support to KC RISING, the Kansas City region's civic response to *Prosperity at a Crossroads*; an analysis of the importance of the IT sector to metropolitan Kansas City's economy, its workforce needs and current skill gaps; a regional health care assessment analyzing health trends and disparities in the Kansas City area as well as the characteristics of those without health insurance; and the long-term (30-year) forecasts of the Kansas City region's overall population and employment growth and its distribution to neighborhoods that forms the basis for MARC's transportation planning.

A life-long resident of the Kansas City area, Frank Lenk graduated from Shawnee Mission East high school in 1973 and earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in economics from Stanford University in 1978 and 1979 respectively. He obtained his interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Economics and Social Sciences from UMKC in 2015, where his dissertation examined institutional racism, the perceptions that underlie it and the systems holding those perceptions in place, then develops some necessary conditions for minority-directed institutional change.