

# BUSINESS & MONEY

6B

FRIDAY  
MAY 2, 2003

The Wichita Eagle

## Involving workers creates quick problem solving

### Business

Koch Hydrocarbon LP  
Janelle Reese, Kansas area  
manager

### Problem

What method to use to  
approach problem-solving

### Solution

"Probably the biggest philosophy is that two heads are better than one," Reese said of facing a business challenge.

That sounds simple in theory, but execution is key. For instance, Reese spearheaded an effort to blend products that

### IT WORKED FOR ME

weren't up to the required quality level. She helped coordinate efforts with several teams of people to ensure safety and remain environmentally friendly but also to get the product out quickly for sales. "It helps you by having leaders on (a) core team that are able to go and drive their project," Reese said.

Also, she said, "You want to make sure everybody understands what the critical (goal) is and that you focus resources on that and don't let them get distracted from

that," Reese said.

When the tip of a relief flare at the company's McPherson plant was broken, the plant had to shut down until it could be fixed. Reese said everyone had to concentrate on the sole goal of fixing it to get the plant operational.

Reese said there's another benefit to letting everyone know an objective. "People are very creative and can come up with their own ways to meet those goals and objectives."

### To learn more

Reese recently was selected one of the Key Women in Energy in the Americas in an



Courtesy photo

Janelle Reese is the Kansas area manager for Koch Hydrocarbon LP. She says teams must focus on their goals.

innovation-creativity category for her approach to team-building and problem-solving. She is one of 100 honorees.

Check out more about Reese and the other honorees and their innovative ideas at [www.keywomeninenergy.com](http://www.keywomeninenergy.com).

This article is reprinted with permission of *The Wichita Eagle* from the 5-2 issue. © 2003 The Wichita Eagle and Beacon Publishing Co. Any copying, redistribution, or retransmission of any contents without the express written consent of *The Wichita Eagle* is expressly prohibited.