



# KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 23, 2006

## **BOARD OF REGENTS ELECTS NEW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

(TOPEKA) – Yesterday the Kansas Board of Regents elected a new Chair and Vice Chair. The nine-member Board elected Nelson Galle of Manhattan as the new Chair and Christine Downey-Schmidt of Inman as the new Vice Chair.

Nelson Galle was appointed to the Board by Governor Kathleen Sebelius in 2003, and has served as the Board's Vice Chair since 2005. He is currently retired after a career in agribusiness, primarily with the Hesston Corporation, a manufacturer of farm machinery.

As a volunteer, Galle has supported education by serving on a variety of boards including: Chair of the Hesston College President's Advisory Council, Chair of the State Advisory Council for Career Education in Kansas, Chair of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of the Kansas State University Foundation, National Chair of the Kansas State University Alumni Association, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Huck Boyd Institute for Rural Development, and Member of the Kansas Agricultural and Rural Leadership Board of Directors. Galle and his family were selected as the Kansas 4-H Family of the Year in 1980.

Galle graduated from Kansas State University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Education and a Masters degree in Adult and Occupational Education. He also holds a graduate degree from the Harvard Business School. Galle and his wife, Marilyn, have three sons and six grandchildren.

"I am pleased to be selected by my peers on the Board of Regents to serve as Chair," Galle said. "It is truly an honor to have the opportunity to advocate on behalf of higher education in Kansas and I look forward to a successful year."

Christine Downey-Schmidt was appointed to the Board by Governor Kathleen Sebelius in 2005, and currently serves as a member of the Board's Academic Affairs Committee. A former Kansas State Senator, Downey was elected to three four-year terms, serving from 1992 to 2004.

Downey-Schmidt serves on the Boards of Directors of the Kansas Arts Commission, the Newton Healthcare Corporation, and the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Hesston. In addition, she is a member of the Traumatic Brain Injury Association of Kansas.

Downey-Schmidt attended Wichita State University where she earned a B.A. in Elementary Education and a M.S. in Education Administration and Supervision. She and her husband, Gordon, have four married children and four grandchildren.

“I truly look forward to the upcoming year as the Board’s Vice Chair,” said Downey-Schmidt. “Having been involved with higher education policy at the Statehouse as a State Senator, it is exciting to now have the opportunity to implement those policies.”

Galle and Downey-Schmidt will both serve one-year leadership terms.

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