

# Invest in Higher Education: Empower the Future of Kansas.

## Educational opportunities are critical to keeping students in Kansas:

- Education is the key to personal success. Lifetime earnings double for workers with bachelor's degrees versus those with high school diplomas.
- The Kansas Regents universities and colleges enroll more than 125,000 students a year.
- FHSU enrolls more than 12,000 students, up from 5,800 at the turn of the century.
- Western Kansas relies on FHSU graduates in many fields, most notably education, nursing, medical technology and agriculture.
- Student opportunities are restricted by state budget cuts. FHSU alone has taken about \$5 million in cuts and unfunded mandates, which is a return to 2006 funding levels.
- If Kansas students have to leave the state to go to college, they are less likely to return. The Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science was established at FHSU to encourage the state's best and brightest high school students to pursue advanced degrees and careers in Kansas.



## Higher education is the engine of economic growth and prosperity:

- State businesses rely on Kansas universities and colleges for educated workers.
- FHSU contributes 27,600 alumni who live and work in Kansas.
- Even during the recession, there are shortages in fields ranging from nursing to teaching. If we don't fill these shortages, business growth will be slowed, and the Kansas economy will suffer.
- Through its partnerships with universities in China, FHSU has more than 3,500 students on the Chinese mainland and has assisted Kansas companies in forging business relationships in Asia.
- With a total economic impact of \$194 million annually on the local and area economy, FHSU returns about three dollars to the Kansas economy for every dollar the state contributes to the FHSU budget.
- FHSU is the lead institution for the new Energy Network of Education and Training, which will coordinate public higher education institutions across the state to provide enhanced hybrid and online workforce training. The new educational program represents a total \$1.6 million investment by the Kansas Department of Commerce and the Kansas Board of Regents.



## Only strong universities and colleges can ensure Kansas will be ready for the recovery:

- The Regents universities and colleges award more than 33,000 degrees per year.
- A college education takes several years to complete, so education must begin now in order to provide the trained workers that businesses will need four or five years from now. FHSU responds to specific industry needs by creating education programs to fill gaps in the supply of trained workers.
- Budget cuts are constricting enrollment in a range of academic fields, limiting the number of educated workers who will be available in the near future.
- With an undergraduate tuition of \$101.15 a credit hour — the lowest in the region — FHSU is positioned to provide the trained workers that Kansas businesses need.
- As reductions in state funding force universities to raise tuition, graduates leave college with greater debt and cannot afford the purchases of homes and vehicles that stimulate the state economy.



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