



## KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

March 31, 2011

Dear Kansas Legislator,

We, as CEOs of the state's universities, respectfully request the budget reduction for Washburn University be removed. Governor Brownback has repeatedly emphasized the necessity of supporting higher education to help improve and grow the Kansas economy and position the state to be more globally competitive. The Governor's budget proposal does not recommend any reduction in state funding for higher education in recognition of the 12% reduction experienced over the past two years.

We support a unified budget request without individual institutions being singled out for funding reductions. Since adoption of SB345 a decade ago, Kansas institutions have been strengthening a coordinated network approach to provide cost-effective access to higher education. We have made great progress. Actions, such as the amendment to take 50% of Washburn's operating grant, undermine our efforts and progress. Further, it is fundamentally unfair. There was no communication with Washburn or the Kansas Board of Regents about the proposed reduction. There has been no indication of the basis or reason for this reduction.

In the past two years, during the depths of the great recession, budget reductions, while difficult, have been shared among all higher education institutions. No institution has attempted to serve only the best interests of their particular institution. We have all worked together to develop system-wide goals to position Kansas with a well educated citizenry that meets our need to grow a strong economy.

We have great respect for Washburn as a valued member of the education community. We reiterate our strong support for restoration of funding for Washburn.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Lane  
President, Emporia State University

Kirk H. Schulz  
President, Kansas State University

Bernadette Gray-Little  
Chancellor, University of Kansas

Edward H. Hammond  
President, Fort Hays State University

Steven A. Scott  
President, Pittsburg State University

Donald L. Beggs  
President, Wichita State University

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