



# KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

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## **BOARD ISSUES STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNOR'S BUDGET MEMO**

### *Higher Education Funding would be reduced by \$114 million*

(TOPEKA) – Today Regent Donna Shank of Liberal, Chair of the Kansas Board of Regents, issued the following statement regarding Governor Kathleen Sebelius' recent memo which detailed potentially deeper budget cuts for the state's public higher education system (7 public universities, 19 community colleges, and 6 technical colleges):

“Due to careful planning undertaken over the past four months, the state's higher education system is well-prepared in the event that Fiscal Year 2009 reductions become necessary, either in whole or in part. We are now in a position to adequately respond to what we are being asked to do. However, it will not be easy or painless, and it will have a serious impact. Nonetheless, we are prepared to do our part.”

“Looking ahead to Fiscal Year 2010, further budgetary reductions will make it increasingly difficult, if not entirely impossible, to: address critical workforce shortages that exist in Kansas, such as increasing the supply of math and science teachers, construction professionals, engineers, health care workers, science, business and technology workers, etc.; make additional progress on vital deferred maintenance projects; and close the faculty salary deficit which would help institutions catch up with peers and competitors.”

“A few years ago, when the State needed money during the last recession, the state universities took a \$44.8 million hit. Once the economy improved, some states compensated their higher education institutions for similar cuts that were made; however, that was not the case in Kansas. The state's higher education system only recently recovered from the cuts of the last recession and a \$114.4 million hit would profoundly stunt the progress the system has made towards meeting the state's workforce and economic development needs.”

“Higher education institutions are engines of economic growth. Increased workforce skills boost overall economic productivity, thus the surest way to grow the Kansas economy is through an investment in higher education.”

### *Specifics:*

For the state's public higher education system:

- A 3% budget cut in FY 2009 equates to a reduction of \$24.3 million.
- A 7% (3% in FY 2009 and 4% in FY 2010) budget cut in the FY 2010 operating budget equates to a reduction of \$56.2 million.
- In addition, the Governor's Budget Office has recommended a total of \$36.8 million in program and capital expenditure reductions which include the elimination of:

- ✓ \$15 million for deferred maintenance projects on state university campuses (eliminates the third year of state university funding from the 5-year comprehensive deferred maintenance program which was signed into law in 2007).
  - ✓ \$15 million for the KU Pharmacy expansion in Lawrence and Wichita.
  - ✓ \$2.5 million for Wichita Aviation Infrastructure funding.
  - ✓ \$2.5 million for Graduate Medical Education programs in Wichita.
  - ✓ \$2 million for Kan-ed program funding.
  - ✓ \$900,000 in start-up funding for the Kansas Academy of Mathematics & Science.
- Overall, higher education funding would be reduced by a net total of \$114.4 million (\$24.3 million in FY 2009 and \$90.1 million in FY 2010).

***Background:***

In early-July, the Board received a memorandum from Governor Sebelius indicating that as a result of significant changes in the state’s fiscal situation, she had asked state agencies to plan to spend less (in the 1-2% range) than the amount approved for budgets for FY 2009. She urged the Board of Regents and others to consider ways to find efficiencies and make reductions where possible.

On July 11, the Board received further guidance from Budget Director Goossen regarding the FY 2009 and FY 2010 budgets. This guidance requested that the “unified budget” the Board submitted in September include: 1) an outline of any reductions that can be made for the FY 2009 approved postsecondary education budget (1-2%); and 2) a “reduced resource package” (an additional 5%) for FY 2010.

On November 10, the Board received a memorandum from Governor Sebelius indicating that the state’s fiscal situation had changed even further and that 3% budget reductions in FY 2009 (an increase of 1% from the original request) would now be required and that “deeper reductions in FY 2010 will almost certainly be necessary” (4% at this point in time).

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***About the Kansas Board of Regents:***

The nine-member Kansas Board of Regents is the governing board of the state’s six universities and the statewide coordinating board for the state’s 32 public higher education institutions (six state universities, a municipal university, nineteen community colleges, and six technical colleges). In addition, the Board administers the state’s student financial aid, adult education, GED, and career and technical education programs. The Board also authorizes private proprietary schools and out-of-state institutions to operate in Kansas, and administers the Kan-ed network, a statewide network that provides broadband Internet access and distance learning capabilities for schools, hospitals, and libraries.

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