

House Committee on Appropriations

Richard H. Linton, President

Kansas State University

February 17, 2022

Good morning Chairman Waymaster and Members of the House Appropriations Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. I am Richard Linton, President of Kansas State University. Today is my fourth day on the job at K-State. I am happy to be at Kansas State University and I want to give you a snapshot of my background:

- President, Kansas State University (2022)
- Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, North Carolina State University (2012-2022)
- Department Chair, Food Science and Technology, The Ohio State University (2011-2012)
- Director and Founder, Center for Food Safety & Engineering, Purdue University (2001-2011)
- Faculty Member, Department of Food Science, Purdue University (1994-2011)
 - *Ph.D. in Food Science 1994*
 - *Master's in Food Science 1991*
 - *Bachelor's in biology 1988*
 - *All from Virginia Tech University*

I am a member of the Food and Drug Administration's Science Advisory Board and serve as Chair for the Binational (Israel/US) Ag Research and Development Fund (BARD). My wife, Sally, and I have two children.

Kansas State University

Kansas State University is the nation's first operational land-grant institution, founded in 1863. The University has three physical campuses located in Manhattan, Olathe, and Salina. The K-State Enterprise also has an Extension Office in all the state's 105 counties and six K-State Research and Extension Centers located regionally in Kansas.

University Rankings

- Ranked #1 best college in the state of Kansas (Niche)
- #7 best college for agricultural sciences (Niche)
- Ranked #83 Top Public U.S. University in US News and World Report
- Ranked #43 in the world in Agricultural Sciences and #46 in the world in Veterinary Sciences according to <https://www.shanghairanking.com/>
- Five-star rating in the [QS Stars](#), or Quacquarelli Symonds, world rating analysis
- Top-ranked value in Kansas (2020, Money Magazine and 2021, Smart Asset)

Student Success

- K-State graduates earn the [highest average](#) starting salary in the state (SmartAsset, 2021)
- 97% of our graduates are employed or furthering their education after receiving their K-State degree, according to a recent graduate survey
 - *Top employers include Cargill, Koch Industries, Shamrock Trading Corp, Cerner, Kiewitt, Garmin, Burns and McDonnell, Lockton, Netsmart Technologies*
- 54% of recent graduates are employed in Kansas
- 71% of recent graduates are employed in the region (KS, MO, NE, OK, CO)

University Finance

We are supportive of the Governor's Budget recommendations. The funds recommended are critical to the success of Kansas State University. The funding will help draw students, provide a top-notch education, help attract and retain outstanding faculty, and rehabilitate and revitalize facilities across all aspects of the University. Currently State funding accounts for 20% of our total operating budget and is a key component for the University to operate and fulfill our research, instruction, and service missions.

Economic Prosperity

As all of you know, Manhattan, Kansas is home to the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility (NBAF). Kansas State University is recognized as the world's foremost global food and biosecurity science authority. Other research highlights of K-State include:

- Tier 1 research university, classified as "highest research activity" institution by Carnegie, attracting top students and faculty
- Exceeded \$210 million in research expenditures the last three years
- Research efforts at K-State have led to more than 330 patents

Late in 2021, the University launched K-State's Plan for Economic Prosperity in Kansas. The four foundational focus areas of global leadership are:

- Food and agriculture systems innovation
- Digital agriculture and advanced analytics
- Biosecurity and biodefense
- K-State 105: Every town to gown

Thank you again Mr. Chairman, I am very happy my family and I call Kansas home. It is also a great honor to be selected to serve as President of Kansas State University. I look forward to working with you and thank you for your service to Kansas. I will stand for questions.