



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

January 21, 2016

The Honorable Ty Masterson
Chairman, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Kansas State Capitol
300 SW 10th Avenue, Suite 545-S
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Chairman Masterson:

As we begin another legislative session, we wish to convey what we view as key to meeting our long term goals for postsecondary education in Kansas. We want to make it clear that our first priority is preservation of our current levels of state support to the system. Sometimes referred to as the “block grant,” our universities are able to harness the state’s financial investment along with students’ tuition dollars, as well as federal grants and private gifts to ensure they meet our *Foresight 2020* goal of ensuring excellence.

Accompanying this top priority is our strong opposition to any reallocation of funds among the universities. All of us are working hard for the benefit of the system and do not wish to see our collaborative efforts hurt by an action that takes state funding from one university to give to another.

The Board of Regents recognizes the efforts that you and your colleagues have put forth on behalf of our state’s postsecondary education institutions. Our state’s economy benefits tremendously from having a high-skilled workforce that meets employers’ needs and the innovation and discovery created through research. We strive to ensure that all of our institutions are increasing the prosperity of individual Kansans and the economic growth of our State.

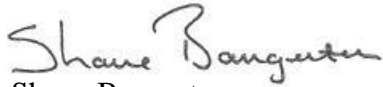
The Regents system is increasing the courses guaranteed to transfer across the system, working to offer credit for prior learning, and offering opportunities to those Kansans who do not have a high school diploma. We are also reaching out to those Kansans who have some college credit who could return to complete a credential, and implementing Credit for Prior Learning with an emphasis on serving active and veteran service members. These are just a few of our efforts to offer access and opportunity for personal advancement through postsecondary education.

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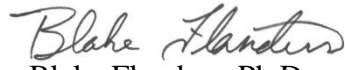
★ LEADING HIGHER EDUCATION ★

We greatly appreciate the support you have shown for higher education and look forward to working together to improve our state's system of higher education.

Sincerely,



Shane Bangerter
Chairman, Kansas Board of Regents



Blake Flanders, Ph.D.
President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents



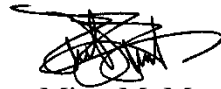
Regent Joe Bain



Allison D. Garrett
President, Emporia State University



Regent Ann Brandau-Murguia



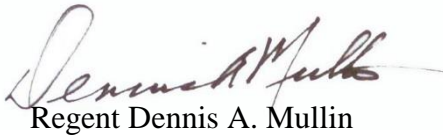
Mirta M. Martin, Ph.D.
President, Fort Hays State University



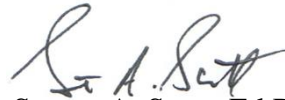
Regent Bill Feuerborn



Kirk H. Schulz
President, Kansas State University



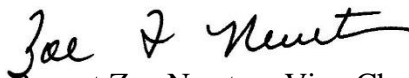
Regent Dennis A. Mullin



Steven A. Scott, Ed.D.
President, Pittsburg State University



Regent Dave Murfin



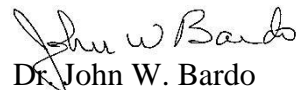
Regent Zoe Newton, Vice-Chair




Bernadette Gray-Little
Chancellor, University of Kansas



Regent Daniel J. Thomas



Dr. John W. Bardo
President, Wichita State University



Regent Helen Van Etten