



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

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BOARD OF REGENTS INVITES LAWMAKERS TO STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES

Events to Focus on Value of Higher Education and Identify Key Challenges

(TOPEKA) – Today the Kansas Board of Regents announced that it will soon be hosting a series of “working lunches” on the state university campuses in order for current and future lawmakers to get a firsthand look at the vital role the state universities play in the overall success of the state of Kansas.

“In order to succeed, Kansans need a top-notch system of education from Pre-through-16 and beyond. In recent years, state policymakers have focused appropriately on providing the resources necessary to deliver high-quality K-12 education,” said Reginald L. Robinson, President and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents. “Now is the time to ensure that the state’s higher education system has the resources necessary to meet the needs of our state’s citizens and its economy.”

Candidates for Governor, candidates for the state House of Representatives, and all state Senators received invitations to this series of events which begin tomorrow in Pittsburg. The events will provide participants an opportunity to meet with the campus CEO, student leaders, university leadership, local alumni, and Board of Regents’ representatives. Participants will hear from and visit with these individuals about the positive contributions the state universities make to Kansas as well as some of the challenges they face. Participants will also have an opportunity to see some firsthand examples of the growing and dangerous \$600 million deferred building maintenance backlog currently facing the state universities. In addition, local media will be invited to participate and cover these events.

“The need for Kansans to receive higher education has dramatically increased over the past twenty years and it’s troublesome that state spending growth has not reflected that reality,” said Robinson. “Because our universities play such a vital role in the state’s economic and workforce development efforts, the state of Kansas must re-evaluate its spending priorities and increase its investment in higher education if the state is to compete in today’s increasingly competitive and global knowledge-based economy.”

Scheduled events include: Pittsburg State University (Pittsburg), Wednesday, September 27; Kansas State University at Salina (Salina), Monday, October 9; Emporia State University (Emporia), Wednesday, October 11, the University of Kansas Medical Center (Kansas City), Monday, October 23; Wichita State University (Wichita), Tuesday, October 31; the University of

Kansas (Lawrence), Thursday, November 2; and Fort Hays State University (Hays), Monday, November 13.

The nine-member Kansas Board of Regents is the governing board of the state's six public universities and a supervising and coordinating board for nineteen community colleges, ten technical institutions, and a municipal university.

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