



# KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

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## **BOARD RESPONDS TO GOVERNOR'S BUDGET ALLOTMENTS**

### *Cuts Have Damaged Higher Education System, Further Cuts Will Jeopardize Federal Stimulus Funds*

(TOPEKA) – Today Board of Regents' Vice Chair Gary Sherrer, of Overland Park, issued the following statement regarding Governor Parkinson's budget allotments which will reduce higher education funding to Fiscal Year 2006 levels (bringing the total Fiscal Year 2010 reduction to \$106 million or 13%):

“Today's allotments add to an already significant series of budget cuts that the state's public higher education system has been forced to absorb over the past year, even as enrollments have increased statewide. The system has certainly shouldered its fair share of the state's budget burden, and we're now beyond the point where cuts are undermining the quality and quantity of the education our institutions are able to offer.

While today's allotments push us to the brink in terms of the minimum funding levels required to retain eligibility for federal stimulus dollars, we appreciate the Governor's decision to limit higher education cuts to Fiscal Year 2006 levels. The size of today's cut reflects the Governor's strong support for higher education and his recognition of the critical role the system will play in the state's economic recovery. After today's reductions, however, any additional cuts to higher education's Fiscal Year 2010 budget will jeopardize millions of dollars in vitally important federal funding.

It's important for Kansans to understand that ongoing higher education budget cuts are jeopardizing their opportunity to enroll in and complete academic programs. Class sizes are increasing, course reductions are making it more difficult for students to graduate in four years, reduced state funding correlates to increased tuition costs, and institutions are now turning away qualified applicants to high demand programs due to a lack of funding.

The irony of these budget cuts is that higher education produces the qualified and skilled workers necessary to stimulate, strengthen, and re-build the Kansas economy. The size of today's cut makes it clear that the Governor understands this dynamic and recognizes that a healthy higher education system contributes to a healthy economy.”

***Budget Details:***

Higher Education System Support (State Funding):

FY 2006:	\$747 million
FY 2007:	\$785 million
FY 2008:	\$829 million
FY 2009:	\$853 million
FY 2009 Rescission:	\$817 million
FY 2010:	\$790 million
FY 2010 Omnibus:	\$768 million
FY 2010 1 <sup>st</sup> Allotment:	\$753 million
FY 2010 2 <sup>nd</sup> Allotment:	\$747 million

Impact of Budget Cuts To Date (Systemwide):

Employee Layoffs, Positions Held Vacant, and Positions Eliminated:	Over 780
Programs and Classes Eliminated:	Over 450

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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 (seven public universities, 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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