



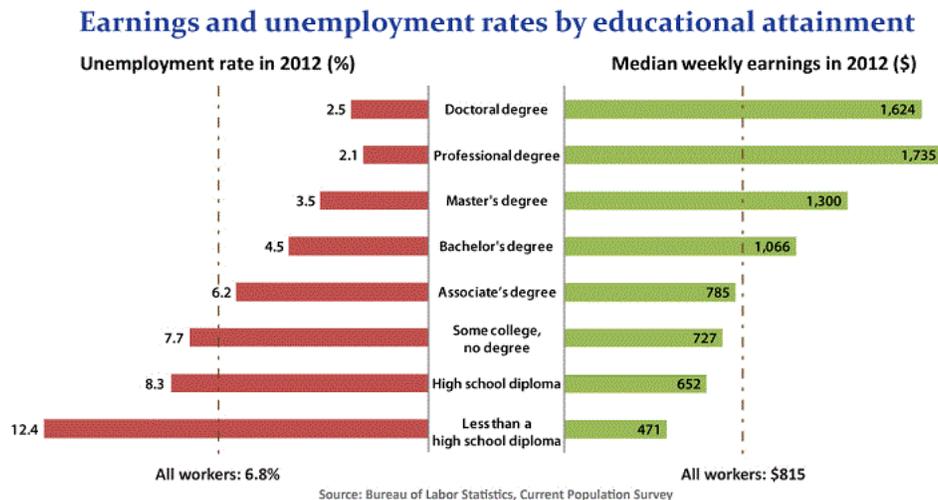
KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Higher Education Critical to the Employment and Earnings of Kansans

(Valley Falls, Kansas) - Following three days of discussion, the Kansas Board of Regents reviewed future budgetary and legislative items with the CEO's of the state universities and a number of leaders from the state's community and technical colleges. The Governor also visited with the Regents and expressed his desire for restoration of the budget cuts incurred during the last session. The Board remains focused on its goal of ensuring sixty percent of Kansas adults obtain a certificate, credential, associate's degree, or bachelor's degree by 2020.

"It has been clearly demonstrated that there is a relationship between educational attainment and personal income. A more educated Kansas will significantly increase the ability of our state to achieve the kind of economy we are working towards. Higher education provides an individual more employment opportunities and higher lifetime earnings," stated Board Chairman Fred Logan.



According to the *2012 Kansas Economic Report* produced by the Kansas Department of Labor, "education has a high impact on worklife earnings as well as other factors such as unemployment. In 2011, the national unemployment rate for individuals with less than a high school degree was 14.1 percent... whereas individuals with a bachelor's degree or higher experienced an unemployment rate of only 4.3 percent."

Andy Tompkins, CEO and President of the Regents, looked at the months ahead stating "We look forward to having an open and productive discussion with legislators this fall during the higher education budget tour in order to create a shared vision for higher education. Achieving a higher education credential is central to the success of citizens getting and retaining high quality jobs and meeting the workforce needs of Kansas. Increasingly, economic success for both the state and the individual depend on Kansans achieving some level of postsecondary education."

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About the Kansas Board of Regents:

The nine-member Kansas Board of Regents, founded in 1925 and established in the Kansas Constitution, is the governing board of the six state universities and the statewide coordinating board for the state's 32 public higher education institutions (six state universities, one municipal university, nineteen community colleges, and six technical colleges). In addition, the Board administers the state's student financial aid, adult education, GED, career and technical education programs, and the state university retirement plans. The Board also approves 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. Visit the Kansas Board of Regents online at www.kansasregents.org.

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