



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GOVERNOR ATTENDS BOARD OF REGENTS ANNUAL RETREAT

Governor Parkinson Stresses Importance of Higher Education for State's Future

(WICHITA) – This afternoon the nine members of the Kansas Board of Regents kicked off their annual retreat by engaging in a positive and productive strategic planning session with Governor Mark Parkinson. At the Board's request, the Governor joined the Board for an hour and a half-long discussion about the state's public higher education system and how it can effectively boost the Kansas economy over the next decade.

"It's clear that higher education is one of the Governor's top public policy priorities, and we both share the belief that higher education is more important today than ever before," said Regent Jill Docking of Wichita, the Chair of the Kansas Board of Regents. "The Governor and the Board share many of the same goals, which include producing qualified and trained workers for the Kansas economy, increasing the amount of federal research funding our universities receive, enhancing technical education in Kansas, and improving the retention and graduation rates at our six state universities."

As part of the discussion, the Governor shared his desire for the state's universities to climb national academic rankings such as the annual *U.S. News and World Report* rankings of the nation's colleges and universities.

"Every organization, public or private, must establish goals and stretch for improvement if it's to succeed. The Board of Regents has achieved much over the past ten years, and now it's time to turn our attention to the next decade," Docking added. "The Board is anxious to continue our important partnership with the Governor and Legislature as we work to meet the state's workforce and economic development needs."

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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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