



# KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **BOARD OF REGENTS ELECTS NEW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

### *Docking of Wichita and Sherrer of Overland Park Assume Leadership Roles for 2009-2010*

(TOPEKA) – Recently the Kansas Board of Regents elected a new Chair and Vice Chair. The nine-member Board elected Jill Docking of Wichita as the new Chair and Gary Sherrer of Overland Park as the new Vice Chair.

Jill Docking was appointed to the Kansas Board of Regents by former Governor Kathleen Sebelius in 2007. She has served as the Board's Vice Chair, as the Chair of the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Committee, and as a member of CEO Assessment Committee. Docking is a Financial Advisor with Wells Fargo Advisors in Wichita.

In 1999, Docking founded the Financial Fitness Foundation and currently serves as President. In Wichita, she also serves on the board of the Mid-Kansas Jewish Federation.

In 1993, Docking became the first woman to receive a gubernatorial appointment to serve as Commanding General of the Kansas Cavalry, a statewide business organization. She has co-chaired Kansas, Inc., the Kansas Justice Commission, and the Kansas Children's Campaign. She has been involved with the American Cancer Society, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Sedgwick County, and has served on Boards of Directors for the Kansas Food Bank, Wichita Sister City Program, the National Conference of Christians and Jews Board of Directors, the University of Kansas Center for Humanities, the University of Kansas Finance Committee of the School of Business, and the Kansas Committee for the Humanities. Docking is a former member of Kansas Newman College's Board of Trustees, and a former member of the Executive Committees of the University of Kansas' School of Business and the Boy Scouts of America Quivira Council. Docking was appointed by the United States Secretary of Defense to the Defense Advisory Council on Women in the Military Services in 1995. And, in 1996, she was the Democratic nominee for the United States Senate. She is also a former University of Kansas Alumni Association Board Member.

Docking attended Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, and received a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Kansas. She and her husband, Tom, a former Lieutenant Governor of Kansas, have two grown children.

"It is an honor to be elected chair of the Board," said Docking. "I look forward to working with my fellow Regents and the institutional leaders over the coming year. Through hard work and a shared sense of mission and purpose, I have confidence that higher education will emerge from

our current economic challenge stronger and better equipped to meet the demands of Kansans and the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

Gary Sherrer of Overland Park was appointed to the Kansas Board of Regents by former Governor Kathleen Sebelius in 2007. Sherrer previously served as Kansas’ 45<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant Governor. He was appointed Lieutenant Governor in 1996, the first individual in the state’s history to be appointed to the position, was subsequently elected in 1998, and served until 2003. Sherrer is the longest-serving Lieutenant Governor in Kansas history.

Sherrer began his professional career as a public school teacher, specializing in speech and debate, and then spent the majority of his career in banking. He served as the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Commerce from 1995-2002, is a past Chairman of the National Lieutenant Governors Association, and received the Carl Perkins Humanitarian Award in 2000 for his contributions to the advancement of career and technical education. His civic involvement includes serving as a Johnson County Community College Foundation Board Member. Sherrer has been involved in leadership training and development for more than 25 years and was a founder of the Leadership Kansas program.

Sherrer earned a bachelor’s degree from Emporia State University (ESU) and has received ESU’s Award of Excellence and Distinguished Alumni Award. He and his wife, Judy, have two grown children and one grandchild.

“Higher education remains a critical factor in the future economic success of our state,” said Sherrer. “I look forward to working with the Chair, fellow Regents, and institutional leaders to build on current successes and find new opportunities for Kansans to participate and succeed in a quality higher education system.”

Portrait photos of Regents Docking and Sherrer can be downloaded from the Board’s website at the following link: <http://www.kansasregents.org/board/members/index.html>.

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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, 19 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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