



# KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

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## **BOARD ANNOUNCES RESEARCH TRIANGLE AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP**

### *7 Members to Guide New Authority in Johnson County*

(TOPEKA) – Today Kansas Board of Regents member Gary Sherrer, of Overland Park, announced the membership of the Johnson County Education Research Triangle Authority – a new entity that represents a unique partnership between Johnson County, the University of Kansas, and Kansas State University to create economic stimulus and a higher quality of life with new facilities that provide cancer research, food safety research, animal health, engineering, business, science, and technology degrees in Johnson County.

“The Authority appointments have been made and we hope to convene the first meeting in December,” said Sherrer, who was formally appointed by the Board of Regents last week to serve as the “convening chairman” for the Triangle’s first meeting.

State Senator David Wysong, State Senator Karin Brownlee, Kansas School Board Member-elect Sue Storm, Johnson County Community College (JCCC) Trustee Lynn Mitchelson, Johnson County Commission Chairman Annabeth Surbaugh, Johnson County Commissioner Ed Eilert, and Lenexa Mayor Michael Boehm were each appointed to a four-year term.

- Governor Kathleen Sebelius appointed Storm, an educator, former-State Legislator and former-House Education Committee member.
- The Board of Regents selected Eilert who is known for his strong financial and budget experience. Eilert was an early supporter of the Triangle.
- The University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway appointed Wysong for his experience in the Legislature and his passion for higher education. The Chancellor also selected Boehm, another early Triangle supporter and higher education advocate.
- Kansas State University President Jon Wefald appointed Brownlee for her legislative experience, her Olathe/Gardner leadership, as well as her passion for economic development in Kansas.
- The Johnson County Commission appointed Surbaugh, who has a long history as an education supporter in the county.
- The JCCC Trustees selected Lynn Mitchelson, known as a strong education advocate who brings significant community leadership to the Authority.

“This is an outstanding group of Johnson County leaders and the Triangle will be well-served by their leadership,” said Sherrer. “My job will be to convene the organizational meeting, review the statute and governance structure, and facilitate the election of their first chairman.”

On November 4, 2008, voters in Johnson County approved a one-eighth cent sales tax, which will generate approximately \$15 million per year, and which will be collected beginning in April 2009, to establish the Johnson County Education and Research Triangle. The Triangle is a partnership between two state universities, Kansas State University and the University of Kansas, to expand higher education offerings, and cancer and food safety research in Johnson County.

Proceeds from the sales tax will fund the construction and ongoing operations and maintenance of three new facilities: The University of Kansas Edwards Campus Business, Engineering, Science and Technology Center in Overland Park, the Kansas State University Innovation Campus National Food and Animal Health Institute in Olathe, and the University of Kansas Cancer Clinical Research Center in Fairway.

Under the ballot initiative approved by Johnson County voters, the seven-member Johnson County Education Research Triangle Authority Board will oversee funding, conduct annual independent audits, and produce year-end reports. Each member is appointed to a four-year term, and each member may serve two terms. The Authority is expected to spend the next few months to get organized and to establish how they will operate. Additional Triangle information can be found at the following link: <http://www.jocotriangle.com>.

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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 (six state universities, a municipal university, 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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