



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 19, 2008

BOARD OF REGENTS ELECTS NEW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Shank of Liberal and Docking of Wichita Assume Leadership Roles

(TOPEKA) – Last week the Kansas Board of Regents elected a new Chair and Vice Chair. On Thursday, June 12, the nine-member Board elected Donna Shank of Liberal as the new Chair and Jill Docking of Wichita as the new Vice Chair – marking the second time in the Board’s 83-year history that two women have been selected to serve as Chair and Vice Chair simultaneously.

Donna Shank was originally appointed to the Board by Governor Bill Graves in 2002. She was reappointed to a second term by Governor Kathleen Sebelius in 2007, and will continue to serve through June 2010. Shank previously served as the Board’s Chair from 2005-2006, as the Vice Chair from 2004-2005 and from 2007-2008, and has served as Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee. Shank is the Vice President and Co-Owner of Al Shank Insurance, Inc., in Liberal, is an Accredited Advisor in Insurance, and has been a licensed insurance agent since 1984.

Shank currently serves as a Wichita State University (WSU) Alumni Association member, on the Governor’s Economic Policy Council, the Liberal High School Site Council, on the Kansas Board of the Kansas Hall of Fame, and as the Kansas Prosperity Summit Southwest Region Co-Chair. Her past civic involvement includes the Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Review Council, Kansas Children’s Cabinet, Kansas Council for the Future of Post-Secondary Education, Leadership Liberal Board Chair, Liberal Chamber Ambassador, and Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Industry Board Member.

Shank earned an associate’s degree from Seward County Community College and a bachelor’s degree from Wichita State University. She is also a graduate of the Leadership Liberal and Leadership Kansas programs. She and her husband, Al, have three children.

“I am honored to serve as Chair and look forward to working with the Board as we move forward with our strategic planning, seek to address critical workforce shortages, examine ways to enhance resources while identifying efficiencies, and continue efforts to provide high quality, accessible, affordable higher education opportunities to students,” said Shank.

Jill Docking was appointed to the Kansas Board of Regents by Governor Kathleen Sebelius in 2007. She is the Vice President of Investments with A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc., in Wichita.

In 1999, Docking founded the Financial Fitness Foundation and currently serves as President. She serves on two boards at the University of Kansas – the Hall Center for the Humanities and the Finance Committee of the School of Business. And, in Wichita, she serves on the board of the Kansas Food Bank and 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 served on Boards of Directors for the Wichita Sister City Program, the National Conference of Christians and Jews Board of Directors, 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. In 1995, Docking was appointed by the United States Secretary of Defense to the Defense Advisory Council on Women in the Military Services; 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.

"Over the next decade higher education will be a critical engine in driving economic development in Kansas," said Docking. "All the work and partnerships the Kansas Board of Regents engage in are exceedingly important in helping to develop that engine. I cannot think of a greater honor than to be elected by my peers and to serve in this leadership role."

Shank and Docking will both serve one-year leadership terms.

The nine-members of the Kansas Board of Regents are appointed by the Governor to four-year terms. Serving through June 2009 are Christine Downey-Schmidt of Inman, Dan Lykins of Topeka, and Janie Perkins of Garden City. Docking, Shank, and William Thornton of Atchison will serve through June 2010. Jarold Boettcher of Beloit, Richard Hedges of Fort Scott, and Gary Sherrer of Overland Park will serve through June 2011.

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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 36 public higher education institutions (six state universities, a municipal university, nineteen community colleges, and ten technical institutions). 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.

For more information, contact Kip Peterson at (785) 296-3421 or at kpeter@ksbor.org.

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