



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GOVERNOR SEBELIUS ANNOUNCES INTERACTIVE DISTANCE LEARNING WEEK

Achievements of Distance Learning Celebrated March 9 through 15

(TOPEKA) – Today Governor Sebelius proclaimed the week of March 9-15 as Kansas Distance Learning Week. To celebrate achievements in distance learning in Kansas, Kan-ed and the Kansas Association of Interactive Distance Education (KAIDE) will host a series of interactive distance learning sessions across the state. The planned distance learning events will have a weather theme to support Severe Weather Awareness Week, also designated as March 9-15.

Across Kansas, individuals interested in learning about weather events or seeing interactive distance learning in action will be able to participate in the sessions. Regional host sites have been established in eight communities, including Clearwater, Greensburg, Girard, Oakley, Salina, Sublette, Topeka, and Wichita. The Interactive Distance Learning (IDL) equipment at each site will allow real-time interaction between the presenters and audiences across the state. Topics to be discussed include the Greensburg tornado, emergency communication, weather forecasting, flooding, and more. Although there is no registration fee to attend, space is limited.

“We are very excited to have received this weeklong designation from the Governor which recognizes the contributions of Interactive Distance Learning to education in Kansas,” said Brad Williams, Executive Director of Kan-ed. “Organizations across Kansas are using this technology daily to expand educational offerings, provide innovative virtual field trips, and more. KAIDE, Kan-ed, the regional host sites, and our partners for these events hope that participants will leave the sessions better prepared to respond to severe weather events and excited about the opportunities distance learning offers.”

For more information about Kansas Distance Learning Week events, please visit the Kan-ed website at www.kan-ed.org/Services/KSDLW.htm. To register for an event, please contact Chris Modellmog, KAIDE President, at (785) 825-9185.

About Kan-ed:

Kan-ed, a program within the Kansas Board of Regents, was created by the Kansas Legislature and signed into law by Governor Bill Graves in 2001. Kan-ed’s mission is to be the leader in facilitating statewide technology solutions for K-12 schools, higher education institutions, hospitals, and libraries. Kan-ed provides resources that enable its members to collaborate, educate, and enhance their information delivery services to ensure that Kan-ed members become part of the global technology environment. Kan-ed provides a statewide private network for distance learning and video-conferencing, access to statewide educational databases, grant funding for video and local area network equipment and commercial broadband access, 1-800 E-

rate support, a statewide hospital trauma tracking and availability database, and an authenticated portal to resources called the Kan-ed Empowered Desktop.

About KAIDE:

KAIDE was formed in 1996 by the directors of Interactive Television (ITV) networks in Kansas, and is a non-profit association of organizations that support Interactive Distance Education. Its purpose is to increase awareness, knowledge, understanding, and application of interactive distance education in Kansas. KAIDE is comprised of IDL networks, schools, and education service centers across the state that participate in Interactive Distance Education utilizing the Kan-ed network for connections, scheduling, and support.

The nine-member Kansas Board of Regents is the governing board of the state's six universities and a coordinating board for nineteen community colleges, ten technical institutions, and a municipal university. 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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For more information contact

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