



# **FORESIGHT 2020**

## ***A STRATEGIC AGENDA FOR KANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION***

Approved by the Kansas Board of Regents  
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In the spring of 2009, Reginald Robinson, President and CEO of the Board of Regents, presented five strategic questions and associated data related to issues that would directly affect the future of higher education in Kansas. After more than a year of study, Foresight 2020 emerged as a new strategic agenda for higher education in Kansas. Five strategic goals, initially characterized as “pillars”, form the foundation for this agenda.

Specific objectives were then developed to serve as the initial focus for each goal. In some instances specific dates were identified for achievement of the objectives and in other instances long term objectives were established. As certain objectives are accomplished and new data gives greater focus to achievement of the goals, additional and/or revised objectives will be proposed.

This strategic agenda and its associated objectives will now be used as the focus of performance agreements with each of the state’s public higher education institutions. Also, it will serve as the framework for creating a systematic monitoring of progress that will result in an annual report to the Board of Regents on these strategic goals.

## **Strategic Goal #1**

Achieve alignment between the state’s preK-12 and higher education systems and continue to enhance alignment between higher education institutions.

### Objectives

- 1.1 By December of 2010, the Board of Regents and its staff in cooperation with the P-20 Education Council and the Kansas State Department of Education will identify gaps that currently exist between preK-12 completion and higher education preparation expectations.
- 1.2 By August of 2011, all higher education institutions will have had discussions with local preK-12 partner high schools regarding these gaps and a plan to eliminate them.
- 1.3 By June of 2011, the Board of Regents will adopt a revised set of university admissions standards designed to identify a level of high school preparation that significantly enhance student success at the state’s higher education institutions.
- 1.4 During the 2010-11 academic year, the Board will create a task force to review progress on alignment of higher education institutions and charge the task force with developing recommendations for additional enhancements needed to ensure greater alignment.

## **Strategic Goal #2**

Achieve participation in the state’s higher education system that better reflects the state’s demography and more fully engages adult learners.

### Objectives

- 2.1 By 2020 or before, Kansas will improve levels of participation, within each higher education institution and across the system, that reflect the racial, ethnic, and economic demography of the

state with a special focus on the most underrepresented students as measured by biannual progress on the baseline year of 2010.

- 2.2** By 2020 or before, Kansas will achieve “first in the nation” state status for in-state postsecondary participation among “traditional” students, which currently would require an increase from the current participation rate of 53 percent - which is third in the nation – to approximately 59 percent.
- 2.3** By 2020 or before, Kansas will achieve “top five” state status for participation of adults between the ages of 25-39 with only a high school diploma, which currently will require an increase from the current participation rate of 238 per 1000 - which is above the national average – to approximately 317 per 1000.
- 2.4** By 2020 or before, Kansas will achieve “top five” state status for participation of adults between the ages of 40-64 with only a high school diploma, which currently will require an increase from the current participation rate of 48 per 1000 - which is above the national average - to approximately 103 per 1000.
- 2.5** By 2020 or before, Kansas will achieve the national average for enrollment of those with less than a high school diploma in the state-administered Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs with an immediate goal of removing waiting lists, which will require an increase from the current enrollment of 55 per 1000 to approximately 101 per 1000.
- 2.6** By 2020 or before, Kansas will achieve the national average for enrollment of those with limited or no English language proficiency in English as a Second Language (ESL) programs, which will require an increase from 83.3 per 1000 to approximately 101 per 1000.
- 2.7** By 2020 or before, Kansas will double the percentage of Kansas ABE participants who achieve the goal of continuing on to postsecondary education after completion of their ABE programs, which will require an increase from 14 percent to 28 percent.
- 2.8** By January of 2011, the Board of Regents will develop and submit for legislative consideration a proposal that would authorize new state funding to provide need-based assistance to students at public universities.
- 2.9** By September of 2012, the Board of Regents, in cooperation with state university leaders, will develop an initiative aimed at bringing additional out-of-state students into Kansas to pursue their postsecondary studies.
- 2.10** By January of 2012, the Board of Regents will develop and submit for legislative consideration a proposal that would authorize new state funding to expand the state’s Comprehensive Grant Program to provide need-based student assistance for two-year, certificate, and part-time students with an initial focus on those students who pursue studies that lead to jobs in high demand areas of the state’s economy.
- 2.11** By the summer of 2012, Regents’ institutions will have an approved plan to meet the Regent’s policy on distance education which includes the use of alternative delivery systems to accommodate the variety of student educational needs.

### **Strategic Goal #3**

Achieve measurable improvement in persistence and completion rates for higher education institutions across the state.

#### Objectives

- 3.1** By September of 2012, the Board of Regents, in cooperation with higher education institutional leaders, will develop an initiative aimed at identifying and recruiting back into the higher education system working adults who have earned substantial credit but have not finished the work necessary to earn a credential or degree.
- 3.2** By 2020 or before, Kansas will achieve a 10 percentage point increase in first-to-second year retention rates across the higher education system.
- 3.3** By 2020 or before, Kansas will achieve a 10 percentage point increase in the six-year graduation rate for public universities and the three-year graduation rate for community and technical colleges.
- 3.4** By 2020 or before, Kansas will achieve “top 10” state status for the percentage of students who have earned an associate degree or higher, which currently will require an increase from 39.2 percent to approximately 43.4 percent.

### **Strategic Goal #4**

Ensure that students earning credentials and degrees across the higher education system possess the foundational skills essential for success in work and in life.

#### Objectives

- 4.1** During the 2010-11 academic year, the Board of Regents’ system-wide learner outcomes task force, in consultation with the university Chief Academic Officers, shall make recommendations regarding the identification and measurement of foundational skills (such as oral and written communication, technical and numerical literacy, critical thinking and problem-solving) which institutions will report to the Board.
- 4.2** By June of 2011, the Board of Regents will adopt a framework that enables each institution to report on the measurement of the foundational skills identified as essential to success in work and in life.
- 4.3** By September of 2012, the Board of Regents will receive its first report on the measurement of foundational skills across the higher education system.

## **Strategic Goal #5**

Enhance alignment between the work of the state's higher education system and the needs of the Kansas economy.

### Objectives

- 5.1** By December of 2011, the Board will begin receiving an annual report on the workforce needs of the state and the number of persons educated in the higher education system to fill those needs to determine alignment and gaps.
- 5.2** By December of 2012, the Board will begin receiving an annual report on university research initiatives designed to meet the needs of the Kansas economy.
- 5.3** By 2020 or before, Kansas will achieve or exceed the regional average for percentage of credentials or degrees awarded in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

## **Strategic Goal #6**

Enhance the regional and national reputation of Kansas universities through aspirational initiatives.

### Objectives

- 6.1** By June of 2011, Regents' universities will identify benchmarks of excellence in comparison with peer institutions and establish goals to pursue in order to increase regional, national, and/or peer rankings.
- 6.2** By June of 2012, Regents' universities, according to mission, will identify areas for expansion of research capacity and/or focus and will establish goals to pursue.
- 6.3** Regents' universities will demonstrate increased collaboration including alignment within the Kansas higher education system through a biennial report.