



# KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 20, 2009

## **KANSAS ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL ADULT EDUCATION / WORKFORCE TRAINING GRANT**

### *\$788,155 Grant Will Help Adult Learners*

(TOPEKA) – Today the Kansas Board of Regents and the Kansas Department of Commerce announced that Kansas has received notification of eligibility for a \$788,155 grant from the United States Department of Education’s Office of Vocational Adult Education (OVAE) and the United States Department of Labor. Kansas earned eligibility due to quality results on federally-mandated performance outcomes. Working with the Governor’s office, the Board and Commerce will develop a joint plan for the use of the grant funds in activities that support adult learners.

“This is an exciting opportunity for the Board and our partners at the Department of Commerce,” said Reginald L. Robinson, President and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents. “The Board’s Adult Education programs provide invaluable opportunities for adult learners throughout the state. This funding will enhance those programs and help adult learners earn GEDs, improve career skills, and seek additional postsecondary education opportunities that will lead to improved lives for the individuals and their families, and thus a brighter future for the state of Kansas.”

“The Kansas economy depends on a skilled and flexible workforce,” said Kansas Department of Commerce Secretary David D. Kerr. “This federal grant enables the Board of Regents and the Department of Commerce to provide additional educational and training services for workers statewide, benefitting individual Kansans and the businesses that hire them, too. The five local workforce investment boards are to be congratulated for meeting and exceeding performance outcomes making this incentive award possible.”

This is the first time Kansas has been eligible to receive this grant, and only 11 states were named by OVAE as eligible to receive funding. The grant funds must be used to support innovative workforce development and education activities authorized under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. The education and training system supports preparation and employment designed to meet the needs of the nation’s businesses, job-seekers, and those who wish to further their careers.

The Board is responsible for administering the state’s Adult Basic Education programs which serve adults, age 16 and over, who need basic skills for the workforce, community participation,

and family life. In Fiscal Year 2008, 30 adult education programs served over 11,000 adults in 80 different locations across Kansas. Commerce administers the Workforce Investment Act training programs which serve adults, dislocated workers, and youth.

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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, 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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