



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

1000 SW JACKSON • SUITE 520 • TOPEKA, KS 66612-1368

TELEPHONE – 785-296-3421
FAX – 785-296-0983
www.kansasregents.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 22, 2008

BOARD OF REGENTS AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY SELECT VICE PRESIDENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Blake Flanders Selected as Authority's First Executive Director

(TOPEKA) – Today the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Authority announced the hiring of Dr. Blake Flanders as the Authority's first Vice President of Workforce Development.

“The Authority established a search committee for vice president under the able leadership of members Bill Quattlebaum, Sheila Frahm, and Clark Coco. After a lengthy interview process, a selection was made to hire Dr. Blake Flanders, a native Kansan with roots developed in a technical training administrative arena at both technical and community colleges,” said Joseph Glassman, Authority Chairman and President and CEO of Glassman Corporation of Hays. “We welcome Dr. Flanders with a new charge of enthusiasm yet firm direction from the Authority to set a deliberate and challenging schedule of accomplishments for the future.”

Dr. Flanders, who currently serves in a dual role as the Director of Workforce Training and Education Services for the Kansas Department of Commerce and as the Director of Career and Technical Education for the Kansas Board of Regents, will begin his work with the Authority on January 28. Dr. Flanders, a native of Edson, Kansas, possesses 20 years of public postsecondary experience having served in various capacities at Butler County Community College and Manhattan Area Technical College before joining the Board of Regents and Department of Commerce in 2004. Dr. Flanders earned a Bachelors of Animal Science, a Masters of Animal Science, and a Doctorate of Philosophy from Kansas State University.

“The selection committee is extremely pleased that Dr. Flanders has accepted the position of Vice President of Workforce Development,” said Bill Quattlebaum, the Authority's Search Committee Chair and Director of Employee and Labor Relations at Cessna Aircraft Company in Wichita. “Blake was selected after a national search that generated a broad and diverse applicant pool. We talked to candidates in several states where their workforce development journey was significantly behind the state of Kansas. Blake has the experience, education, and passion for the job which we believe will make him a great selection for the position. We are confident that Blake can lead the state of Kansas in the direction necessary to make workforce development an economic development tool that will allow us to retain the great companies we have in Kansas and to attract new ones. The Authority will work with Blake, the Board of Regents, and the

State Legislature to maximize the tremendous talent we have in Kansas and create a system that attracts new talent to the state.”

The 12-member Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority, which operates within the Kansas Board of Regents, was created by the Kansas Legislature in 2007, and is charged with coordinating statewide planning for postsecondary technical education. The Authority’s enacting legislation called for the Board and Authority to jointly hire a Vice President of Workforce Development, who would serve as the Authority’s Executive Director, and who would also report to both entities. The Board approved a search process for the new position at its October meeting and a search committee consisting of representatives from the business community, the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees, and the Kansas Association of Technical Schools and Colleges then conducted the search process. Today the search committee provided its final report to the Authority which culminated in the Authority’s approval of Dr. Flanders as the new Vice President for Workforce Development.

“I am certainly excited about this tremendous opportunity and the challenges that the position will present,” said Flanders. “It is an honor to be the first person selected by the Authority to serve in this unique and ground-breaking role. I’m fortunate that Kansas already has a solid technical education infrastructure in place. Now the challenge is to move the technical education sector to the next level in order to best serve and meet the state’s vital workforce needs.”

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.

--30--

*For more information contact
Kip Peterson, Director of Government Relations & Communications, at (785) 296-3421.*

Visit the Kansas Board of Regents on the Web at www.kansasregents.org

Visit the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority on the Web at www.kansasregents.org/techauthority