



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

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GOVERNOR SEBELIUS RECOGNIZES TWO STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS

(TOPEKA) – Today Governor Kathleen Sebelius made a surprise appearance at the December Kansas Board of Regents meeting to present awards of recognition to two state university presidents for their many years of outstanding service to the state of Kansas. Dr. Edward Hammond was recognized for his 20 years of service as the President of Fort Hays State University (FHSU), and Dr. Jon Wefald was recognized for his 21 years of service as the President of Kansas State University (KSU).

“Dr. Hammond has lent his leadership, vision and talent to the students at Fort Hays State for twenty years,” said Governor Sebelius. “During his tenure, the student body has grown tremendously yet the classes remain small. This is a testament to Dr. Hammond’s student-centered vision which ensures a quality education for every FHSU Tiger.”

“To see President Wefald’s impact on Kansas State University, one needs to look no further than the 2 million square feet of new buildings, 9,000 additional students and incredible athletics program that have all come into being under Jon’s leadership,” added Governor Sebelius.

President Hammond began his tenure as the eighth president of FHSU in 1987. Over the past 20 years, President Hammond has worked to develop a unique learning environment with a value-added focus. This focus has produced an electronic living and learning environment on campus, an internationalization of the curriculum, development of a Leadership Studies Program and development of a Four Year Guaranteed Degree Program. In addition, FHSU’s Virtual College now serves more than 4,200 off-campus students in Kansas and around the globe.

President Wefald began his tenure as the 12th president of KSU in 1986. Over the past 21 years, under President Wefald’s leadership, KSU has led the nation’s public universities in the total number of Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, Goldwater, and Udall scholarship winners. In addition, KSU has added about 2 million square feet of new university buildings, and enrollment has increased from about 13,500 students to more than 23,000. Also during this time, KSU has built a healthy endowment program, established a national presence in athletics, and has increased total research funding to record numbers.

“The forty-plus years of service from these two presidents demonstrates an outstanding commitment higher education and the state of Kansas,” noted Christine Downey-Schmidt, Chair

of the Kansas Board of Regents. “We have been fortunate to have such dedicated individuals at the helm of these universities for such a significant length of time.”

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.

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