



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
February 14, 2007

BOARD OF REGENTS RESPONDS TO HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee Cuts \$75.6 Million from State's Higher Education System

(TOPEKA) – Today Reginald L. Robinson, President and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents, issued the following statement in response to the House Appropriations Committee's Fiscal Year 2008 budget recommendations that cut \$75.6 million from the state's higher education system:

“Today, in a profoundly troubling move, the House Appropriations Committee sliced \$75.6 million from the state's already under-funded higher education system. Not only did the Committee severely cut vital operational funding from the state's thirty-six public higher education institutions, it also reduced critical need-based financial aid that enables the neediest Kansans to pursue a higher education. The Board is particularly concerned that the Committee recommended the total and complete elimination of state funding for the state's ten technical colleges and schools – institutions that play a critical role in the state's workforce development efforts. The Committee's recommendations constitute a serious setback that we must now work to overcome as the budget process continues.

I am surprised that some Committee Members, with higher education institutions located in their local communities, so willingly agreed to withhold vital funding from those institutions. However, it is important to note that some Committee Members did defend the state's higher education system and I applaud them for resisting these ill-considered cuts.

The Committee's budget recommendations should trigger serious concern for anyone who supports high-quality affordable higher education for the people of Kansas. I am disappointed in the Committee's actions, and I strongly urge higher education supporters to restore the Governor's budget recommendations when the House of Representatives acts on the higher education budget in the coming weeks. Our state and its citizens will not prosper in today's increasingly challenging economic environment without a high quality higher education system that provides them with the tools they need to succeed.”

Today the House Appropriations Committee Cut:

- **\$37,272,897** from the state's 10 technical colleges and schools and from the community colleges that also deliver technical education (this eliminates **ALL** state funding for the state's 10 technical colleges and schools).

- **\$30,000,000** from the state's 6 universities.
- **\$3,848,656** from the state's 19 community colleges.
- **\$2,000,000** from the state's Comprehensive Grant program which provides important need-based financial aid to over 9,000 students at the 6 state universities, Washburn University, and the state's private colleges and universities.
- **\$2,000,000** from the Kan-ed program which provides Internet connectivity to K-12 schools, libraries, hospitals, and higher education institutions across the state.
- **\$458,700** from Washburn University.

--30--

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

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