



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BOARD OF REGENTS RESPONDS TO GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

(TOPEKA) – Today Reginald L. Robinson, President and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents, issued the following statement in response to Governor Kathleen Sebelius' Fiscal Year 2008 budget recommendations:

“The Board is certainly pleased that Governor Sebelius has proposed a budget that recognizes higher education as a critically important priority. We are grateful for her recognition that meaningful and significant investments in postsecondary education are essential for enhancing this state's future, and we applaud her commitment to seek increased state resources to support the vital educational and workforce development efforts taking place within the state's higher education system.

The state's 36 public higher education institutions face a multitude of challenges as they seek to serve the people of Kansas. Institutions have been forced to provide more services with less financial support, but have responded to the challenge by identifying important efficiencies that stretch state dollars to the furthest extent possible. Our system requires the resources necessary to recruit and retain talented faculty, to provide enhanced workforce training opportunities for Kansans, and to ensure access to higher education, through student financial assistance programs, for all Kansans. The Governor's budget recommendations, which include critical institutional operating grant increases and substantial student financial assistance enhancements, move us in the right direction.

While a down payment for state university deferred building maintenance was not included in the Governor's budget recommendations, I am pleased that she has committed to developing and submitting a multi-year, comprehensive deferred maintenance plan by the end of this month. I'm encouraged that the Governor, the House, and the Senate have all firmly committed to solving this critical issue. The Board looks forward to working with the Governor and the Legislature as we move closer to a final resolution on the important issue of state university deferred building maintenance.”

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