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**K-STATE Educate. Motivate. Activate.**

**WILDCATS**  
*for* **HIGHER**  
**EDUCATION**



## **Wildcats for Higher Education - July 7, 2016**

### **Your vote makes a difference**

With Kansas primary elections on Aug. 2 and general elections approaching on Nov. 8, it's a critical time for us, as Wildcats for Higher Education, to use our votes in letting elected officials know we want them to do a better job of prioritizing education in Kansas.

Over the past several years, as budget issues have continued to loom over the state of Kansas, state funding for higher education has diminished significantly. In the 1980s, the state universities received nearly 50 percent of their funding from the state's general funds. Today, Kansas universities receive around 20 percent of their funding from the state - jeopardizing critical services, driving up tuition costs and making it more difficult for Kansans to attend college in Kansas.

We appreciate all that our WHE advocates have done in the past to contact our legislators and ask for fair and stable funding to support higher education.

A well-educated population is fundamental for ensuring economic growth and prosperity for the state. The economic impact of Kansas universities surpasses \$7.3 billion annually.

Nearly 81 percent of recent K-State graduates remain in the state or in the greater Kansas City area to work and have starting salaries ranging from nearly \$34,000 to more than \$68,000. Through its Research and Extension arm, K-State has a presence in every county and has continued to meet its obligation to take knowledge to the people and support agriculture, the largest industry in the state.

We respect the difficult job of legislating and value the time of those who choose to serve as public servants. However, we believe our concerns have not been appropriately acted on by our legislators when it comes to prioritizing and providing sufficient funding for higher education. If this pattern of cutting and neglecting

higher education continues, there will be serious long-term consequences for the economy and workforce of Kansas.

With elections just around the corner and candidates campaigning in full force, now is a prime time to act and have an impact on the next legislative session. Every seat in the Kansas legislature is up for election.

**Here's what you can do to get involved through your vote:**

- Let candidates know you are concerned about education in Kansas and share the information highlighted above.
- Ask candidates for their views on funding for education and what they will do while in office to restore fair and stable funding for higher education.
- Vote for candidates who support education and are committed to change the current course of damaging cuts made to Kansas education over the past several years.

Voter registration deadline for the primaries is July 12. If you are not registered to vote or if you need information regarding absentee ballots, please visit [VoteKS.org](http://VoteKS.org)

Your continued support and advocacy for higher education and K-State is greatly appreciated.

Please exercise your right to vote during these elections and vote for those who will also support education in Kansas. With nearly 5,000 Wildcats for Higher Education advocates, we can have an impact that will make a difference.

Go 'Cats!

Sue Peterson '76, '05  
Director, Government Relations  
Kansas State University

Amy Button Renz '76, '86  
President and CEO  
K-State Alumni Association

K-State alumni and friends are encouraged to ask their state legislators to support higher education. Please visit the Alumni Association Wildcats for Higher Education web page ([www.k-state.com/WHEhelp](http://www.k-state.com/WHEhelp)) for more information on the messages and facts to support higher education.

If you know of other K-State alumni and friends who would like to receive Wildcats for Higher Education updates, please forward this message.

If this message was forwarded to you and you would like to receive Wildcats for Higher Education updates, please sign up at [www.k-state.com/WHEUpdates](http://www.k-state.com/WHEUpdates).

The Kansas State University Office of Government Relations also provides weekly updates on legislative issues important to K-State and higher education. Visit the following link for updates when the Legislature is in session: [www.k-state.edu/govrelations/state](http://www.k-state.edu/govrelations/state).

**Brought to you by the K-State Alumni Association**

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