

## K-STATE Educate. Motivate. Activate.



### **Wildcats for Higher Education - March 8, 2016**

#### **Our legislators need to hear from you: Higher education is vital for the future of Kansas**

We want to provide a brief update on recent actions in Topeka that will have a negative impact on state universities, including Kansas State University.

Last week, after state tax receipts for February showed a continuing decline (\$53 million below expectations for the month), Gov. Sam Brownback ordered a cut in Kansas' spending on higher education by 3 percent or \$17 million for the current fiscal year, which ends June 30.

For K-State, the funding callback represents a loss of approximately \$4.9 million over the next four months. Each of K-State's colleges is determining how to implement this immediate cut in state funding.

Unfortunately, these cuts are in addition to a K-State-directed 2 percent budget callback (nearly \$6 million) for the university's colleges and units for the remainder of this fiscal year. K-State's self-imposed callback is needed to align the university's budget with available revenue that has been adversely affected by declining state funding, a legislative tuition cap, increased utility costs and a slight decline in enrollment and credit hours.

Like other Kansas Board of Regents universities, K-State works hard to provide excellence in education, and at an affordable cost to prepare a workforce that will help the state of Kansas grow and thrive. The continued fluctuation and reduction in state funding for higher education not only hurts the universities but also jeopardizes the future of Kansas.

Board of Regents' Chairman Shane Bangerter offered the following in a statement: "Stable state support is critical to proper planning and to provide an affordable and accessible education that the students of Kansas expect and deserve. I encourage the Governor and the Legislature to find a way to ensure stable and reliable funding to our state universities so that tuition can be kept low and our students can succeed."

We echo Chairman Bangerter's message. Please let your state legislators know how important higher education is for the future of Kansas and seek their support in stable and reliable funding for our universities.

#### **Following are a few key points you may use in seeking state legislators' support for higher education:**

- K-State has requested stable funding for the state general fund for the past several years. Continued reductions affect the ability to plan budgets and manage the university.
- In addition to flat and reduced state general fund support, the enacted tuition cap imposed by the legislature

severely limits the university's flexibility to manage its finances. The university believes that tuition authority should remain in the purview of the Kansas Board of Regents.

- K-State's faculty and staff remain dedicated to the land-grant mission to assist students and Kansans. The university will strive to maintain our nationally recognized educational and outreach programs despite the negative state funding environment.

We will keep you informed as new information develops.

As always, we appreciate your support for K-State and for higher education.

Go 'Cats!

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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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