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WILDCATS for HIGHER EDUCATION



Wildcats for Higher Education - Feb. 7, 2017

Update: 2017 Kansas legislation and higher education

It has been nearly a month since the Kansas Legislature convened and we wanted to give you a quick update on several topics: Governor Brownback's proposed budget, legislative activity impacting K-State, and highlights from our Wildcats for Higher Education involvement in Higher Education Day at the State Capitol.

Budget

On Jan. 11, Shawn Sullivan, Kansas budget director, presented the [governor's budget recommendation \(pdf\)](#) to a joint meeting of the House Appropriations Committee and the House Taxation Committee followed by a briefing for the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Over the next several weeks, the Legislature will have multiple hearings and reviews of the budget recommendations. We will be tracking **Senate Bill 27** and **House Bill 2052** that address appropriations revisions for FY17, FY18, and FY19.

Following are the governor's budget recommendations related to higher education and K-State specifically:

- No base budget cuts for higher education and K-State recommended for FY17, FY18, FY19.
- Global Food Systems grant at K-State continued at \$1 million for FY18 and FY19.
- Scholarships for K-12 teachers to teach in rural school districts - \$3 million FY18 and \$6 million in FY19.
- Provide 50 full scholarships to the first university or college able to offer a bachelor's degree for \$15,000 for the complete degree.
- \$800,000 from Educational Building Fund for planning for a dental school.
- \$5 million for medical scholarships for doctors in rural Kansas.
- Create a taskforce to start a privately funded osteopathic college in Kansas.

On Jan. 24, Kansas State University President Richard B. Myers presented testimony to the House Higher Education Budget Committee. His comments highlighted the university's local, national and global impact, progress on K-State's 2025 visionary plan, efficiency initiatives and the impact of state budget cuts to the university. [Review the president's testimony \(pdf\)](#).

We encourage all WHE advocates to remind their legislators of the valuable impact that higher education has on the state's economy and seek their support to provide stable and fair funding for higher education and K-State.

Concealed Carry

Several bills were introduced in the Senate and House regarding the current exemption in state law for concealed carry of guns which will expire July 1, 2017, for K-State and the other Kansas Board of Regents schools. (With the expiration, K-State will become compliant with state law and allow concealed carry of handguns into academic buildings and residence halls.)

The recently introduced bills include:

Senate Bill 53, creating a permanent exemption for certain entities (including universities) from the public buildings law under the personal and family protection act, was introduced Jan. 23. It was referred to the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs, was heard by the committee Jan. 25 and rejected by the committee Jan. 31.

Two House Bills regarding conceal carry remain active. **House Bill 2042** addresses concealed carry licensure amendments under the personal and family protection act and **House Bill 2074** creates a permanent exemption for certain entities from the public buildings law under the personal and family protection act. Both bills were referred to the House Federal and State Affairs Committee.

We recognize there are varied opinions among constituents regarding concealed carry on campus. If you have a preference either way, we encourage you to contact your legislators now regarding these bills and let them you know your view on the matter.

WHE advocates attend Higher Education Day in the State Capitol

Seventeen alumni and friends of K-State traveled to Topeka to advocate for K-State in Higher Education Day at the State Capitol on Jan. 19. The WHE group met with Kansas Budget Director Shawn Sullivan to learn more about the governor's budget and share their concerns about the impact of the budget on higher education. The WHE group, including President Myers, had lunch with state legislators who represent districts with K-State campuses as well as legislators who are K-State graduates. The luncheon provided an opportunity for the legislators and WHE advocates to share ideas, thoughts and concerns about the importance of higher education and K-State to the state of Kansas.

We encourage all WHE advocates to continue building relationships with legislators and asking for their support for higher education.





WHE advocates participated in Higher Education Day at the State Capitol on Jan. 19. They attended floor sessions in both the House and Senate, took a group photo with Governor Brownback and met with legislators over lunch.

WHE attendees included: Katie Philp, Barry and Charlotte Scharz, Steven Graham, Randy Tosh, Jerry Boettcher, Judy Hughey, Steve Johnson, Nelson Galle, Stan and LeAnn Clark, Jessica Lane, Sabrina Schriener, Ronaldo Maghirang, Mike Wiegiers, Amy Button Renz, and Linda Cook.

Throughout this legislative session, we will keep you updated on issues impacting higher education and K-State. Additional legislative updates and a listing of all House and Senate bills that K-State's Governmental Relations office is tracking [are available here](#).

Your voice makes a difference and we appreciate your support. [Find you state legislators here](#).

Go 'Cats!

Sue Peterson '76, '05
Director, Governmental 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 K-State Alumni Association's [Wildcats for Higher Education](#) web page 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 here](#).

The Kansas State University Office of Government Relations also provides weekly updates on legislative issues important to K-State and higher education. [View updates](#) when the Legislature is in session.

Brought to you by the K-State Alumni Association

100 Alumni Center, 1720 Anderson Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66506-1001 | 800-600-ALUM | 785-532-6260

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