

# K-STATE Educate. Motivate. Activate.

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



## Wildcats for Higher Education - April 19, 2018

### Dear Wildcats for Higher Education,

Our Kansas legislators are moving into the final stages of the 2018 Kansas Legislative session, and for the past few months we have closely monitored activity that could impact higher education. As reported in our Jan. 11 WHE newsletter, the state budget has been our top priority this year.

The Kansas Board of Regents and the six universities in the state's higher education system have been united in requesting restoration of nearly \$24 million in budget cuts made to higher education in fiscal year 2017. K-State's portion of that cut is \$4.87 million.

Unfortunately, our request for restoration of higher education funds is not currently in the state budget. Timing is critical for letting our legislators know how important these funds are for maintaining quality and accessible education in Kansas.

This week, the three university leaders representing Kansas State University, University of Kansas and Wichita State University sent the following message to every member of the Kansas House of Representatives:

*"We are writing to ask for your support of the Regents' single budget request this year - restoration of \$24 million for the system which was reduced under the FY 2017 budget allotments. For our three institutions, the total is \$14,565,895.*

*Your investment in higher education would have immediate and long-term benefits for Kansas. Recent data indicates college graduates contribute more taxes, require less public assistance and achieve lifetime earnings of \$1 million more than non-graduates and individuals without advanced degrees.*

*At our three institutions, first and foremost, restoration of FY 2017 budget cuts would help us to maintain affordable tuition for students and families. Additionally, restoration of the cuts would enable our universities to improve the educational experience for students, expand outreach and service to Kansas communities, enhance our research portfolios, and address retention challenges as other universities attempt to lure away our top researchers.*

*More broadly, stable and predictable State funding is essential for our universities to do any kind of long-term strategic planning and make prudent business decisions. We strongly believe that a robust higher education system with our state's continued investment is a critical factor in our job to produce a well-prepared workforce and a productive citizen.*

*In closing, we want you to know we value the State as a partner in higher education in Kansas. We are responsible stewards of State dollars; we continue to achieve efficiencies in our operations; and we continue to be engines of economic growth for the state and region."*

Wildcats for Higher Education, we now we need your help once again!

The Kansas Legislature returns to the State Capitol on April 26 for the Legislative Veto Session. Please contact your legislators today and ask for their support in restoring the nearly \$24 million made in budget cuts to higher education in fiscal year 2017. In addition to supporting K-12 funding, their help is also needed in making sure post-secondary education is adequately funded. The future of Kansas depends on an educated populace.

Legislators need to hear from you and know that you believe higher education is important to the success of your communities and to the state of Kansas. Your voice does make a difference.

For information on contacting your legislators, please visit the [Kansas Legislature website](#). For additional information on legislative activity impacting higher education and K-State, please visit [K-State's Governmental Relations website](#).

Thanks for your support and loyalty to K-State.

Go 'Cats!



Richard B. Myers '65  
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Kansas State University



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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**

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