

K-STATE Educate. Motivate. Activate.**WILDCATS**
for **HIGHER**
EDUCATION**Wildcats for Higher Education - Jan. 11, 2018****Dear Wildcats for Higher Education,**

Happy New Year! And congratulations to Coach Snyder and the football team for winning the Cactus Bowl. It was a great way for all Wildcats to end 2017 on a high note.

It's time now to turn our attention to the legislative year ahead. We appreciate your help in our higher education advocacy efforts in the past and look forward to your continued support.

Legislators returned to Topeka on Monday, so the wheels are in motion to establish the legislative agenda and set priorities.

This year, the Kansas Board of Regents and six universities in the state's higher education system are united in establishing our top priority for legislators: to restore the 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.

It sounds like a straightforward request, but we know it will be a challenge. The state budget has been a serious concern for the past several years. Legislators' efforts last year in working to re-balance the state budget and make changes to the state income tax code were an important step in addressing budget issues. Because of those legislative actions, the state is seeing an improvement in state revenue. On Jan. 2, the Kansas Department of Revenue reported the state has collected over \$3.1 billion in taxes this fiscal year, which is about \$83.6 million above estimates for this fiscal year which began July 1. Revenue Secretary Sam Williams said it was difficult to distinguish the impact of the recent state and federal tax policy changes versus economic growth and they won't be able to discern that until filing deadline in April.

Although there is better news on the revenue side, the state budget is not in the clear yet. The Oct. 2, 2017, Kansas Supreme Court ruling on school finance gave lawmakers until April 30 to come up with another plan to adequately fund K-12 education and provide fairer distribution of funds to schools across the state. Efforts to address the school finance ruling will likely have a significant impact on the budget.

Governor Brownback released his budget recommendations on Jan. 10, 2018. Unfortunately, funding for our top priority request, restoration of \$24 million in cuts made to the six Kansas Board of Regents universities, is not included in the Governor's budget.

We recognize there will be challenges ahead but firmly believe restoration of higher education funding is essential for the future of Kansas. Our job this year will involve helping legislators better understand the value and impact that higher education has on the state of Kansas. We will start that process on Jan. 18 when we join with the other state universities for Higher Education Day at the State Capitol Building. We will have exhibits to highlight K-State's attributes and a group of alumni have volunteered to meet in Topeka for the day to support higher education and talk with legislators.

Throughout this legislative session, we will continue to provide you with information and key talking points that you can share with your legislators.

In addition, please visit K-State's Governmental Relations web page for legislative updates and information regarding K-State: <http://www.k-state.edu/govrelations>

You will find information about contacting your legislators and tracking legislative bills at the Kansas Legislature website: <http://www.kslegislature.org/li/about> On this website, you will also find information about calling the Legislative Hotline. The public can access a variety of information by calling the Legislative Hotline at 1.800.432.3924 (in-state) or 785.296.2149 (out-of-state). The hotline is a free service provided by the State Library of Kansas.

Librarians are available by instant message chat at <https://kslib.info/197/Ask-a-Librarian> or text questions to 785.256.0733 (standard text message rates may apply).

Last but certainly not least, we would like to recognize and thank the K-Staters who serve in elected office:

U.S. Senator Pat Roberts
U.S. Congressman Roger Marshall
U.S. Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback

State Senators

Senator Ed Berger
Senator Tom Hawk
Senator Anthony Hensley
Senator Dan Kerschen
Senator Caryn Tyson
Senator Rick Wilborn

State Representatives

Representative Clay Aurand
Representative Barbara Ballard
Representative Doug Blex
Representative Shelee Brim
Representative Sydney Carlin
Representative J.R. Claeys
Representative Brenda Dietrich
Representative John Eplee
Representative Shannon Francis
Representative Ron Highland
Representative Kyle Hoffman
Representative Steven Johnson
Representative Greg Lewis
Representative Tom Phillips
Representative Richard Proehl
Representative Adam Smith
Representative Jerry Stogsdill

Their leadership and passion to serve the citizens of Kansas is to be applauded.

If you have any questions regarding legislative advocacy, please feel free to contact us and stay tuned for more Wildcats for Higher Education updates in the months ahead.

Thanks for your support and loyalty to K-State.

Go 'Cats!



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



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

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

