



On Jan. 10, 2022, the Kansas Legislature gavelled in for the 2022 Legislative Session. The agenda is full as it is every legislative session; however, this year is the 10-year constitutional responsibility of the legislature to draw new districts for the four Congressional districts, 40 Kansas State Senate districts, 125 Kansas House districts and 10 Kansas State School Board districts.

Gov. Laura Kelly and the legislature are also looking at a budget situation which finds the state with healthy balances in the State General Fund. Gov. Kelly delivered the State of the State Address on Jan. 11, and her budget recommendations were rolled out on Jan. 12.

The Governor's Budget is very responsive to the needs of higher education and K-State. **First, the budget recommends \$45.7 million to restore university funding to pre-pandemic levels.** If approved, this funding would allow tuition to remain flat at K-State, providing access to the university for students.

Second, a budget recommendation, which will also be beneficial to our students, is \$25 million for the Kansas Access Partnership Grant. This funding would be matched dollar for dollar with private funds to assist students with college costs.

Third, the ability to keep up with deferred maintenance on all campuses has long been a struggle. The governor's budget recommends \$25 million for capital renewal. In addition, the budget provides \$20 million for information technology infrastructure and security at the universities.

Finally, the governor recommends support for the economic prosperity efforts at state universities. One recommendation is for \$195 million to create a "University Economic Development Challenge Grant." This is proposed as a matching grant program a university could apply for to fund projects which have a significant impact on the economy of Kansas. An additional recommendation of \$10 million is a competitive grant program for higher education institutions to fund economic development and job creation programs.

This is a strong budget recommendation to support higher education and the institutions in the state. The governor has put forward the plan, now the work begins to advocate for the plan with state legislators.

We need your assistance in letting our legislators know how important this funding is for maintaining a quality higher education system and growing jobs for Kansas companies. It is important to communicate to our elected representatives how much we value the state as a partner in higher education in Kansas.

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.

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

Sue Peterson '76, '05
Chief Government Relations Officer
K-State Office of the President/Governmental Relations



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K-State Alumni Association
100 Alumni Center, 1720 Anderson Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66506-1001 | 785-532-6260
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