

2023 Legislative Agenda for the University of Kansas

State Priorities:

We are grateful that the Kansas Legislature provided increased funding to KU during the last legislative session, which included both on-going and one-time investments. This historically high level of additional funding has had, and will continue to have, significant impact on the University's ability to serve the State of Kansas.

This year, the Kansas Board of Regents is asking lawmakers for an increase of funding for the state's university system. The University of Kansas supports this request and echoes the Board of Regents' belief that this funding is necessary to ensure state universities can meet the needs of Kansas families and communities and drive prosperity in the state. While last legislative session's investments by the legislature were historic and impactful, the significant increases in operational costs and previous years of underfunding, has put tremendous upward pressure on tuition and continues to challenge KU's ability to serve Kansas. As KU's success is critical to the state's ability to attract and retain workforce this additional funding is crucial and will be transformative.

Specifically, the additional funding requests would enhance KU's ability to serve Kansas in the following ways:

- **Recruit and retain talented students**, who go on to join the Kansas workforce. In particular, KU would direct additional funding to students with a financial need who are pursuing careers in high-need Kansas industries such as cybersecurity, business, engineering and healthcare.
- **Recruit and retain talented faculty and scientists**, who train students while also conducting research that creates new technologies, cures, startup companies, and jobs. KU researchers collectively bring more than \$270 million in federal dollars to Kansas annually, meaning they provide a terrific return-on-investment.
- **Address inflationary costs** that are hampering our ability to retain top faculty and maintain services for students and communities. Inflation is especially challenging given KU has now held tuition flat for four consecutive years.

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Federal Priorities

The University of Kansas appreciates the continued support received from our federal delegation and looks forward to continuing to partner and work with Congress and its committees to support research and other KU priorities.

- Advocate for increased federal research funding – specifically at the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Department of Education and the Department of Defense
 - Included within these agency priorities are general research, biomedical, brain, and cancer research, cybersecurity, energy, etc.
- Work with partners in pursuing future opportunities in the Department of Commerce and Department of Energy relating to recent Administration and Congressional priorities.
- Support and strengthen KU Cancer Center and its reputation as an NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, marking it as a national leader in laboratory and clinical research.
- Strengthen KU's relationships with the Kansas Congressional Delegation, House and Senate Committee leadership, and officials in the Administration.
- Work closely with our colleagues at the Association of American Universities and Association of Public and Land Grant Universities to collaborate on federal priorities regarding higher education and research.

Together, we can fulfill KU's mission of education, service and research in a way that creates a more prosperous Kansas.

For additional information, contact Kelly Whitten, AVC of State Relations, or Kyle Christian, AVC of Federal Relations at (785)-864-3131.

Interested in advocating for higher education?

KU students, employees, alumni and supporters are encouraged to join **Jayhawks for Higher Education**, the university's higher education advocacy group headed by the KU Alumni Association. Jayhawks for Higher Education members receive updates throughout the legislative session, are notified of legislative events in their area, and are called upon at key moments during the session to contact legislators on behalf of KU.

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