



March 28, 2019

Honorable Members of the Kansas Legislature,

We write to you in support of the Kansas Board of Regents funding request, which would add \$50 million in state support for state universities and \$27 million for Washburn University, community colleges and technical colleges.

Our businesses need a skilled workforce to remain competitive and grow. Increasingly, we are struggling to find enough workers with the education and skillsets required for success in our industries. Difficulties in hiring qualified workers pose serious challenges for us in both the short and long term.

This talent shortage is a crisis nationally, and particularly in Kansas. We rely upon the universities, community colleges and technical colleges in our state to provide a workforce that can help our businesses compete nationally and around the world. We believe that increasing investment in higher education will improve our talent pipeline in Kansas.

Kansas businesses have a long history of innovation, entrepreneurship and hard work. We are proud to be part of that tradition and want to see our state's economy flourish for decades to come. We hope that you will consider the Regents' request as a way to support business and economic growth.

Respectfully,

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McGrew Real Estate
LMH Health
Commerce Bank
Lawrence Business Magazine
The Write Design
von Achen Architects
Matty D. Media
Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.
ES Lighting
Hetrick Air Services

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Sloan, LLP**