

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE VISION 2020 COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Vern Swanson at 3:30 p.m. on January 19, 2011, in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Tom Sloan, Chairman- excused  
Representative Broderick Henderson- excused  
Representative Mike Peterson- excused

Committee staff present:

Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jay Hall, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Doug Taylor, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Sean Ostrow, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Mary Koles, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Audrey Dunkel, Legislative Research Department  
Stan Ahlerich, Kansas, Inc  
Courtney Buffington, KanREN (Kansas Research and Education Network)

Others attending:

See attached list.

In the absence of Chairman Sloan, Vice-Chairman Vern Swanson presided. Chairman Swanson greeted the committee, welcomed the conferees and introduced them as they spoke.

Audrey Dunkel, Principal Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Research Department, reviewed the Governor's budget recommendation for the postsecondary education system. ([Attachment 1](#)) Comments were made and questions asked by Representatives Don Hineman, Gail Finney, and Barbara Bollier.

Stan Ahlerich, President, Kansas, Inc., discussed the structural changes in the world and national economies and Kansas' place in those economies vis a vis the needs of Kansas businesses and industries and education/training both today and in the future. In closing, he noted today's business climate provides a great opportunity for technical schools and junior colleges. ([Attachment 2](#)) Comments and questions were asked by Representatives Barbara Bollier, Gail Finney, and Don Hineman.

Courtney Buffington, Executive Director, KanREN (Kansas Research and Education Network), was among our guests. Representative Hineman requested permission for him to describe what KanREN does and how it works for Kansans. The Vice-Chairman and Committee agreed. Mr. Buffington addressed the history, governance, and ecosystem of this private-public partnership. ([Attachment 3](#)) General discussion followed his comments.

Chairman Swanson thanked the conferees for participating in the committee meeting.

He announced:

1. Dr. Andy Tompkins, Kansas Board of Regents, will meet with Vision 2020 Monday and Wednesday next week, January 24 and 26, 2011.
2. He requested that Committee members review the March 16, 2010, letter from the Committee to the Board of Regents prior to these meetings and be prepared to ask questions. ([Attachment 4](#))
3. Committee members are encouraged to continue thinking about and suggest topics for future discussion.
4. **HB 2024: An Act creating the constitutional education suitability commission**, by Committee on Vision 2020, has been introduced.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

# Guest List

# House Vision 2020 Committee

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

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# KANSAS LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

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January 19, 2011

**To:** Representative Sloan, Chairman, Vision 2020 Committee

**From:** Audrey Dunkel, Principal Fiscal Analyst

**Re:** Governor's Budget Recommendation for the Postsecondary Education System

The Governor has recommended FY 2011 expenditures of \$2,431.7 million, including \$756.7 million from the State General Fund and FY 2012 expenditures of \$2,299.6 million, including \$751.7 million from the State General Fund, for the postsecondary education system, which includes the state universities, community colleges, technical colleges, and the Board of Regents. The Governor's FY 2012 recommendation is a reduction of \$132.1 million, or 5.4 percent, all funds and \$5.0 million, or 0.7 percent, State General Fund, below the FY 2011 recommendation. The reductions can be attributed to:

- State General Fund reappropriations of \$3.5 million available in FY 2011 that are not available for FY 2012;
- General Fees Fund (tuition) carry-forward funds of \$32.9 million available in FY 2011 that are not available for FY 2012;
- Carry-forward funds from a variety of special revenue funds that are available in FY 2011 and are not available for FY 2012;
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding of \$46.4 million available in FY 2011 that is not available in FY 2012;
- A decrease of \$4.4 million, all from the State General Fund, at the University of Kansas Medical Center for Cancer Center funding that is moved to the Department of Commerce for FY 2012; and
- A decrease of \$5.0 million, all from the Economic Development Initiatives Fund, at Wichita State University for National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR) funding that is moved to the Department of Commerce for FY 2012.

The reductions are partially offset by increases of \$2.5 million, all from the State General Fund, for debt service payments at the University of Kansas for the second round of bonding for School of Pharmacy expansion and increases at the various institutions related to fringe benefits.

The Governor's recommendation includes additional funding for the postsecondary education system that do not appear in the system budgets. These additions are reflected in

the Department of Commerce budget. The Governor adds \$15.0 million from the State General Fund for grants to expand research in animal health at Kansas State University, cancer research at the University of Kansas Medical Center and aviation research at Wichita State University. The new grant program will provide \$5.0 million to each institution, subject to a dollar for dollar match. In addition, the grants will require a plan, submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, detailing how the research activities create additional jobs for Kansas. The Governor also adds \$500,000, all from the Economic Development Initiatives Fund (EDIF) for a new competitive community college grant program with a local match requirement that is intended to develop innovative programs with private companies needing specific job skills to to meet other industry needs that cannot be met within current funding streams. Finally, the Governor adds \$1.0 million, all from the EDIF, for the Engineering Expansion Grant Program to provide Kansas a pool of engineers to address unmet existing industry needs.

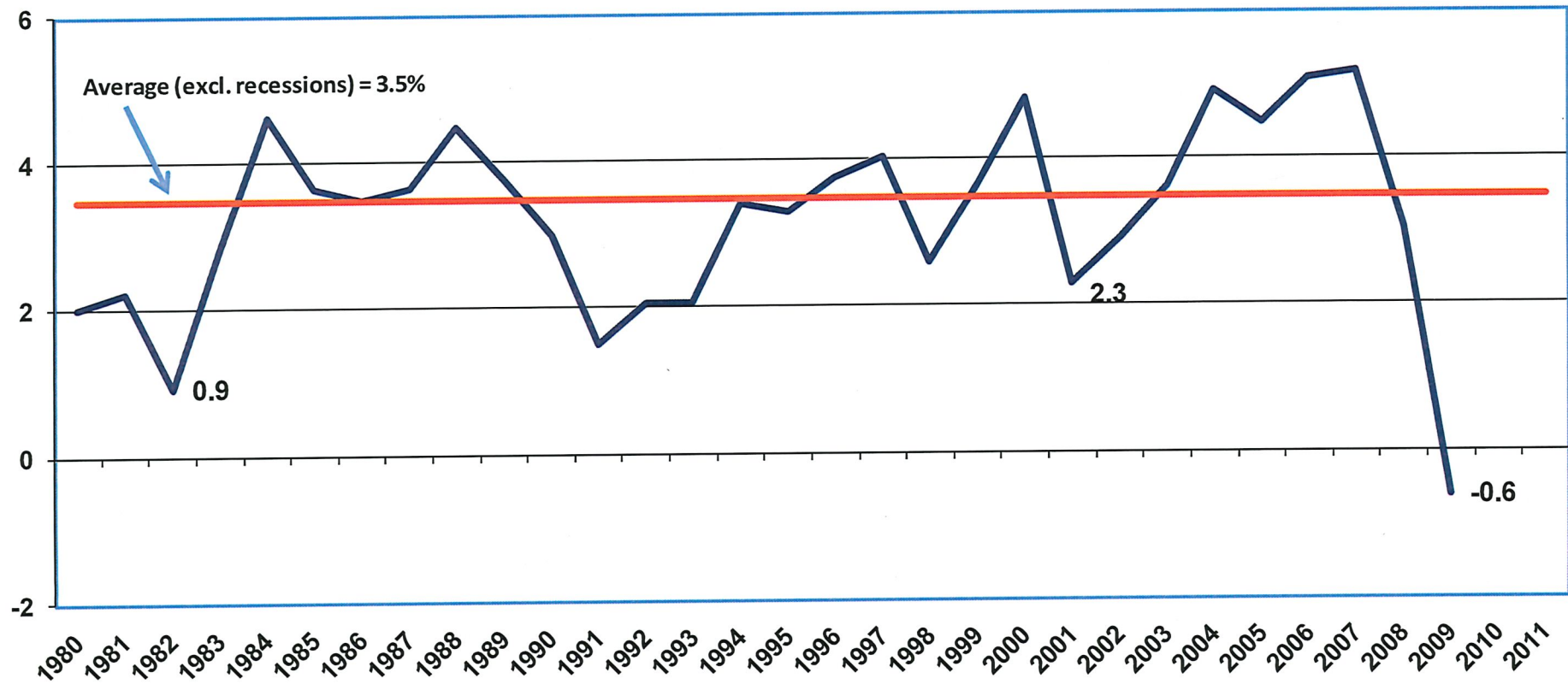
# Kansas, Inc. Presentation to the Vision 2020 Committee

*January 19, 2011*



# The Great Recession – Deepest in 30 Years

World GDP Growth 1980-2009 (% p.a.)

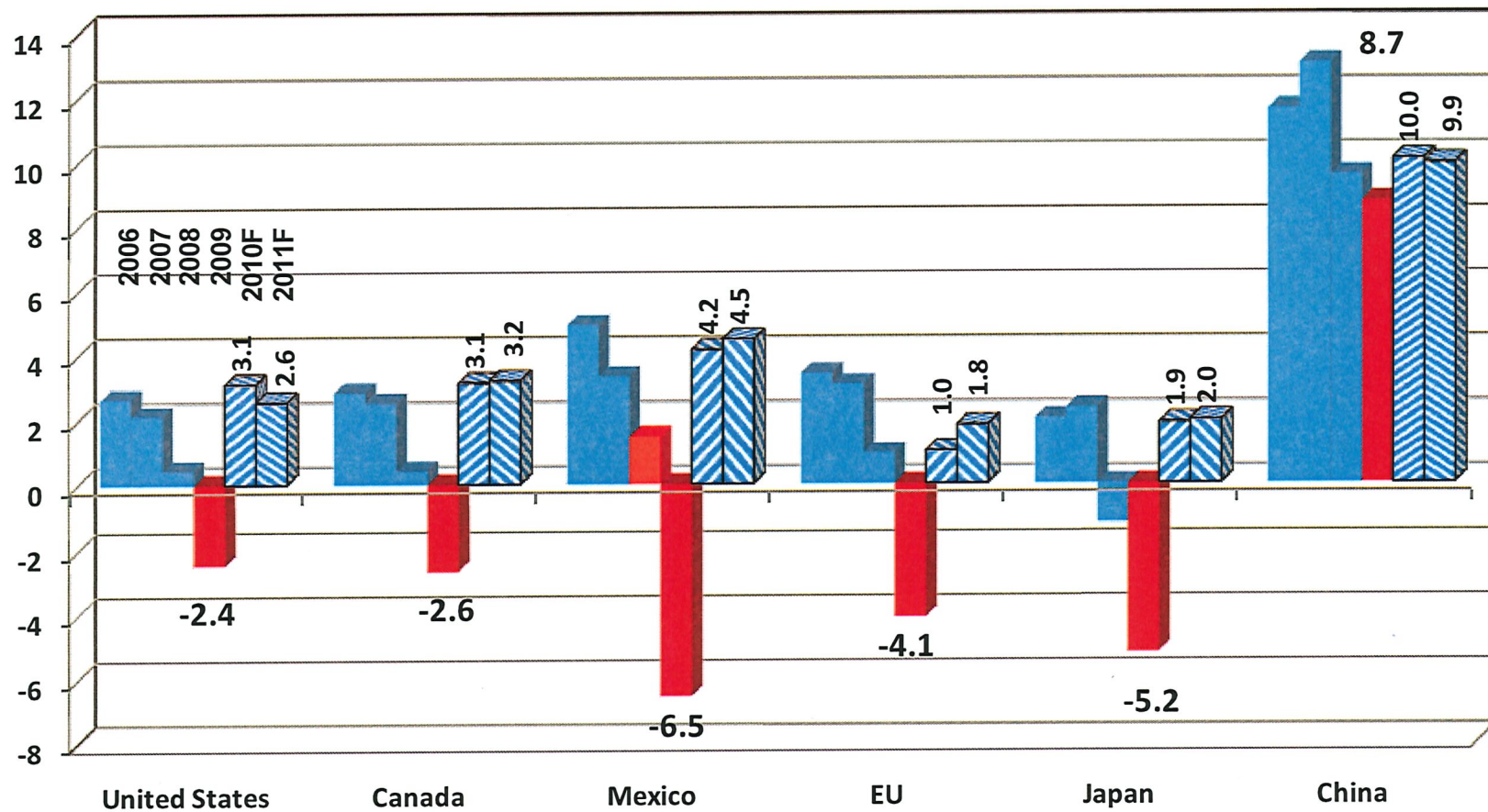


Source: IMF World Economic Outlook April 2010



# Selected Country GDP Outlook

GDP Growth Rates (%ch, annual rate)



Source: IMF World Economic Outlook April 2010

# Structural Changes in the U.S. Economy

- Agricultural labor demand at the time of the Civil War was more than two-thirds of workers, it has now declined to approximately two percent of workers today.
- Manufacturing employment peaked at 19.4 million workers in 1979, but has subsequently continued to decline to 11.9 million workers in 2009.
- Service sector employment accounted for 67 million workers in 1979, and over the last three decades, employment has nearly doubled to 112.3 million workers in 2009.
- The ratio of U.S. service workers to manufacturing workers has increased from 3.45 in 1979 to 9.44 in 2009 (6.62 service workers per manufacturing worker)



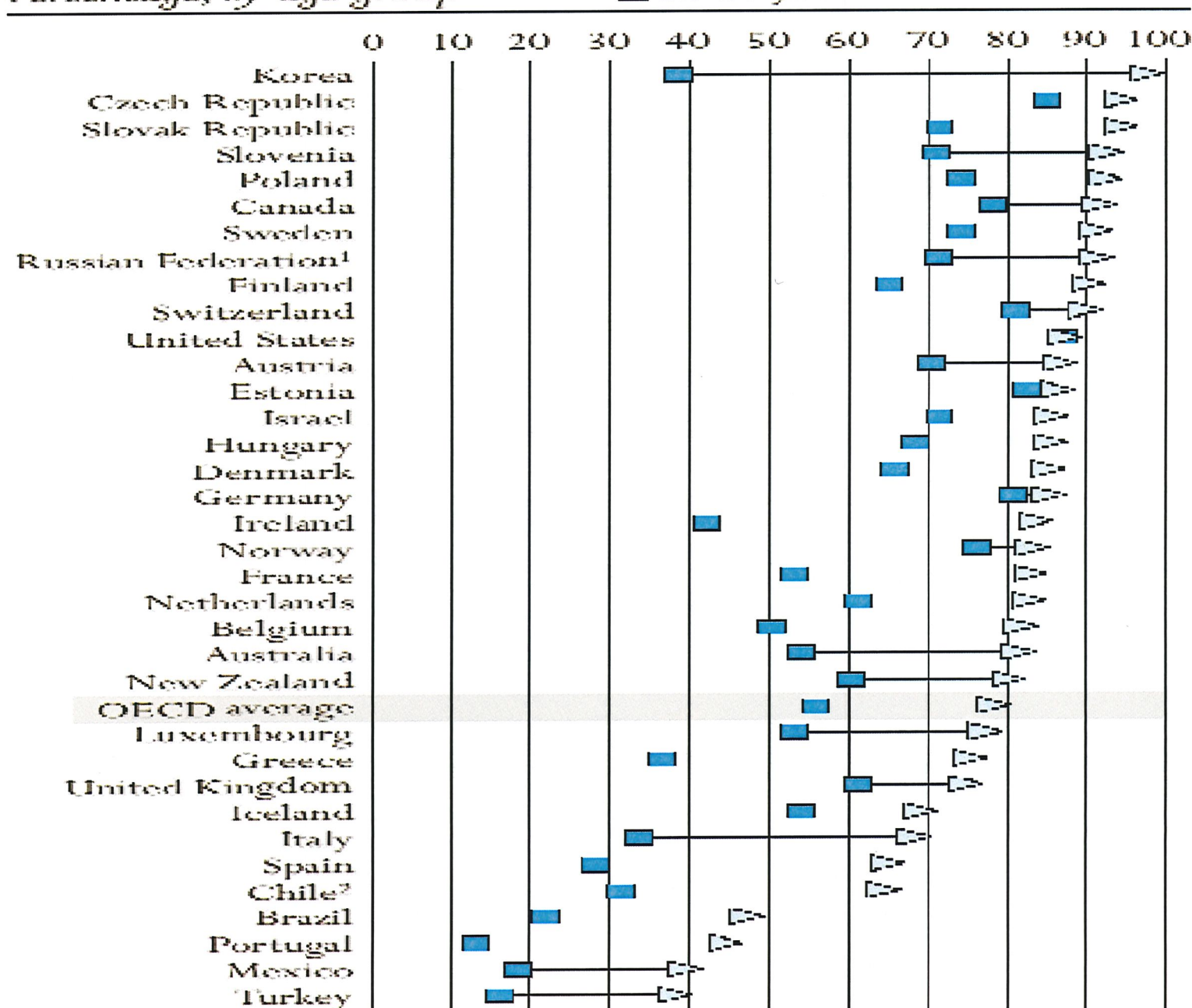
**Chart A1.2. Population that has attained at least upper secondary education (2007)**

© OECD – Education at a Glance 2009

Percentage, by age group

△ 25-34 year olds

■ 55-64 year-olds

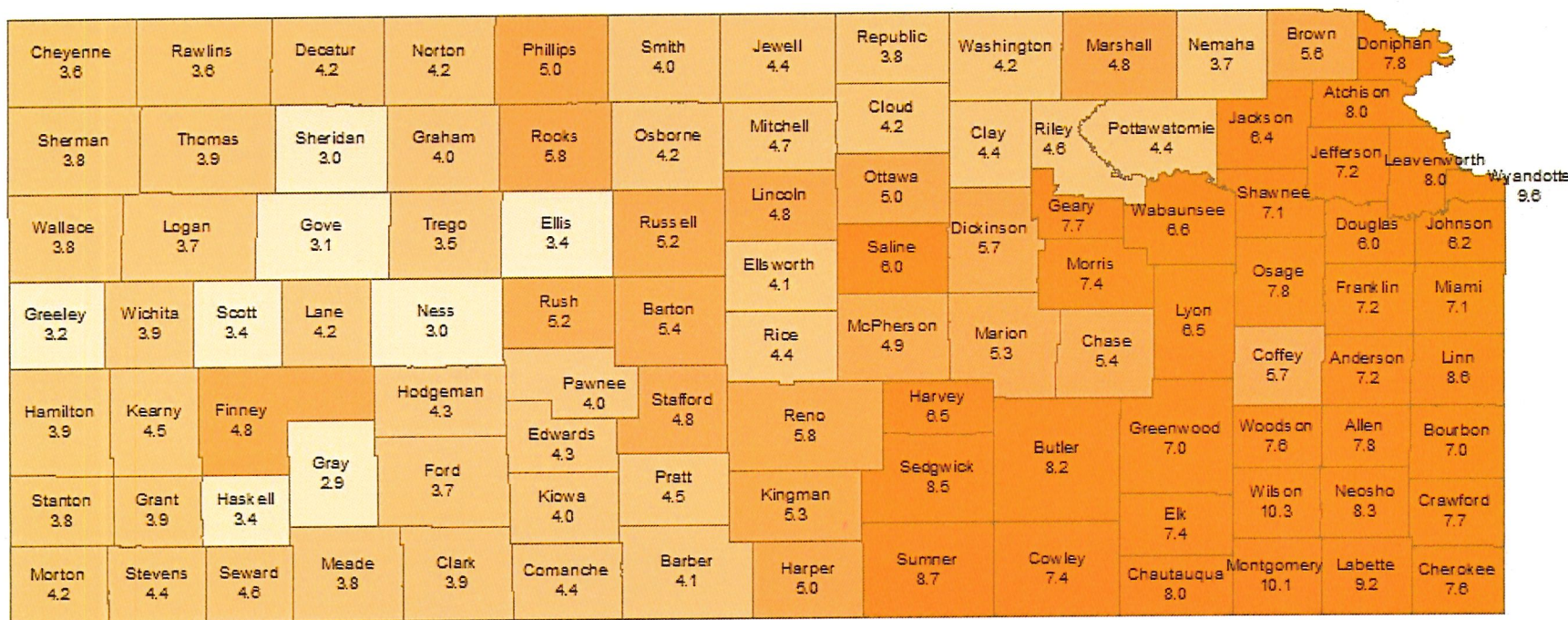
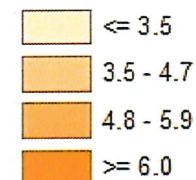


# Unemployment Rates by County

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR NOVEMBER 2010

State Rate = 6.7%

Rate



Source: Kansas Department of Labor, Labor Market Information Services

# Voice of Business

**“Business needs to  
be driver for  
education process”**

**“Education  
partners critical for  
bioscience success”**

**“No longer have  
the luxury to grow  
our own”**

**“Employees must  
arrive fully skilled”**

**Source: KansasWorks, 2009**



# Voice of Business

**“Must train for  
future jobs – not  
yesterday’s”**

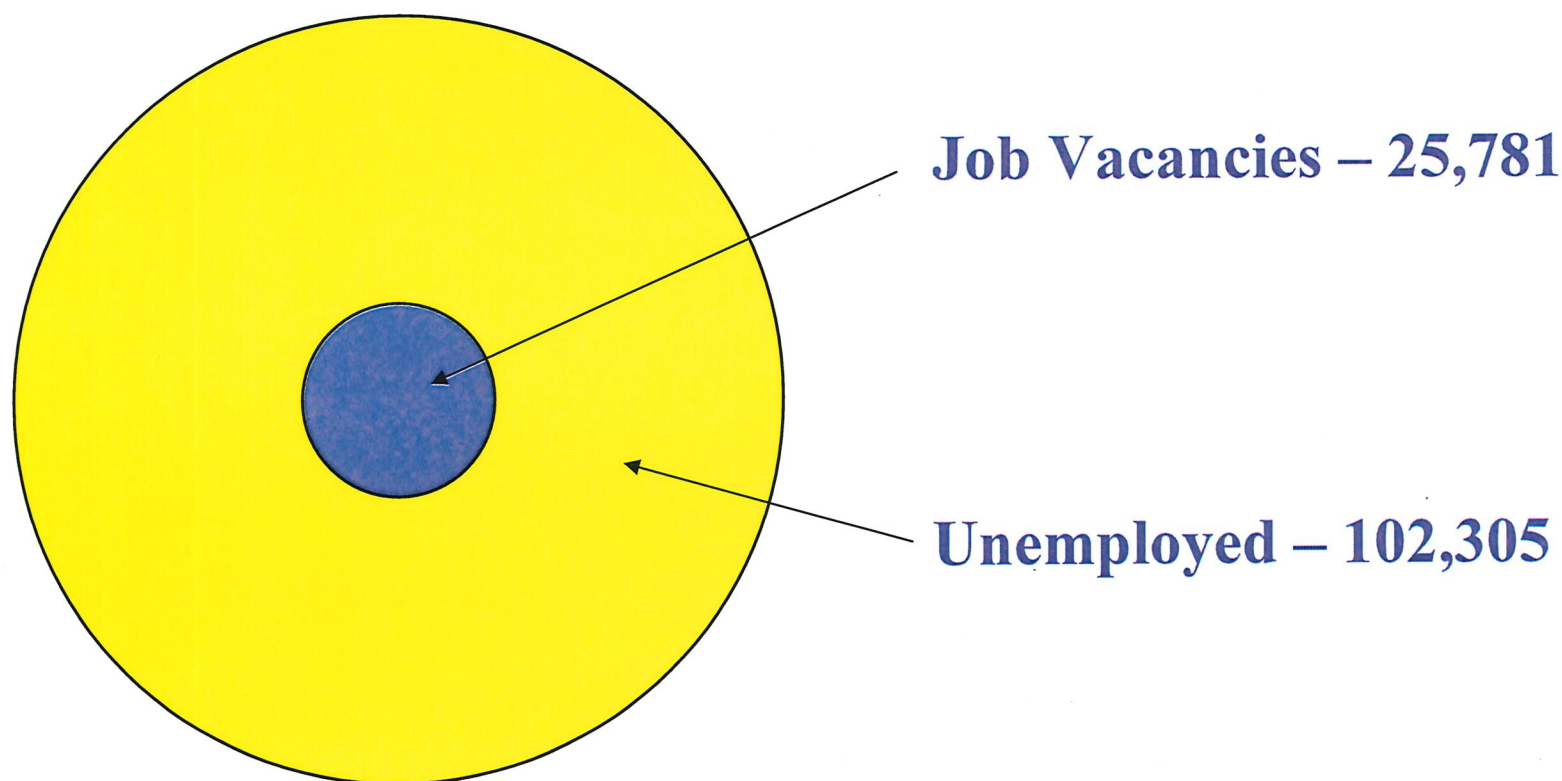
**“Workforce and  
human capital – in  
a crisis”**

**“Demand of  
corporations has  
increased”**

**“Need 8 skilled  
technicians for  
every 1 physician”**

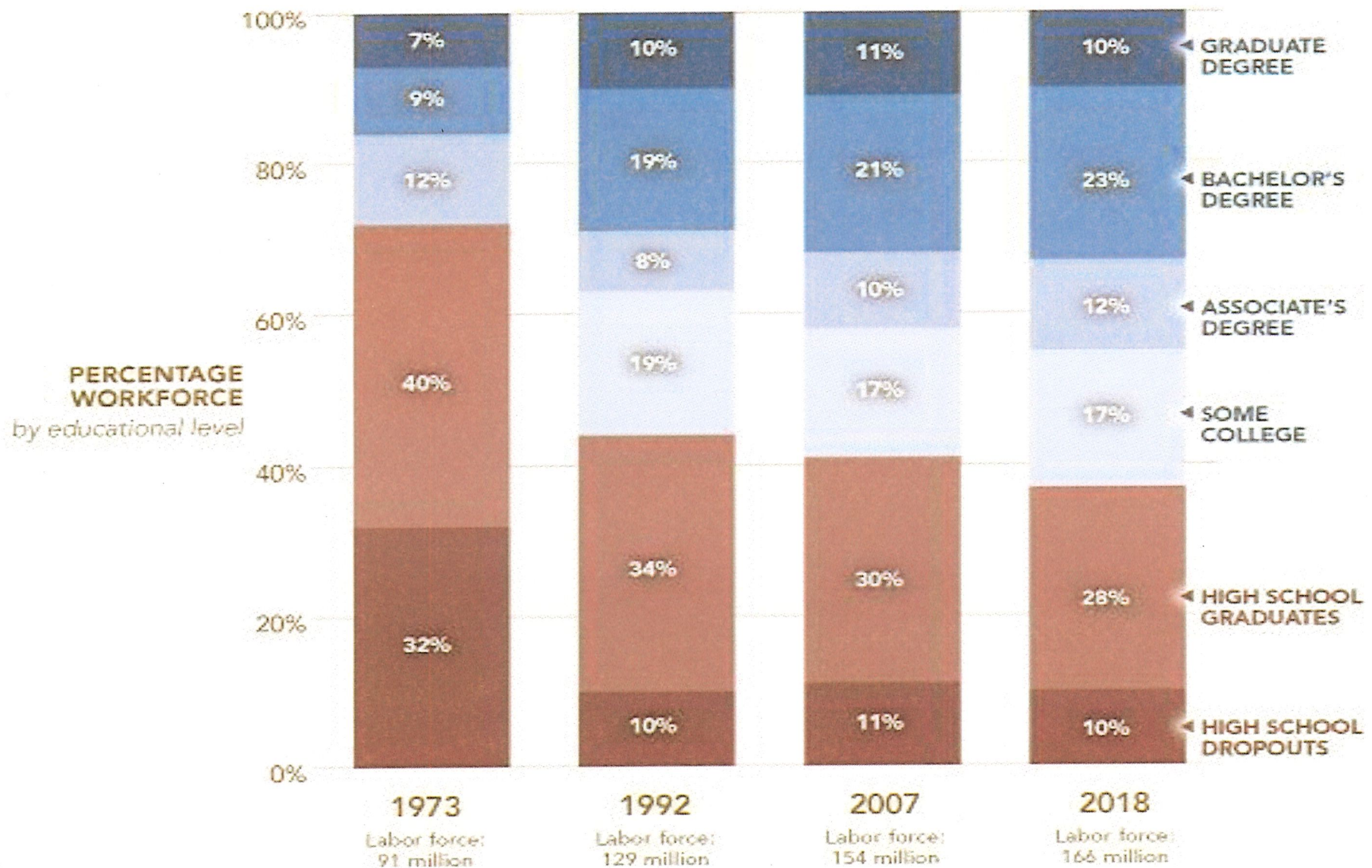
**Source: KansasWorks, 2009**

# Worker Shortage – Skills Shortage



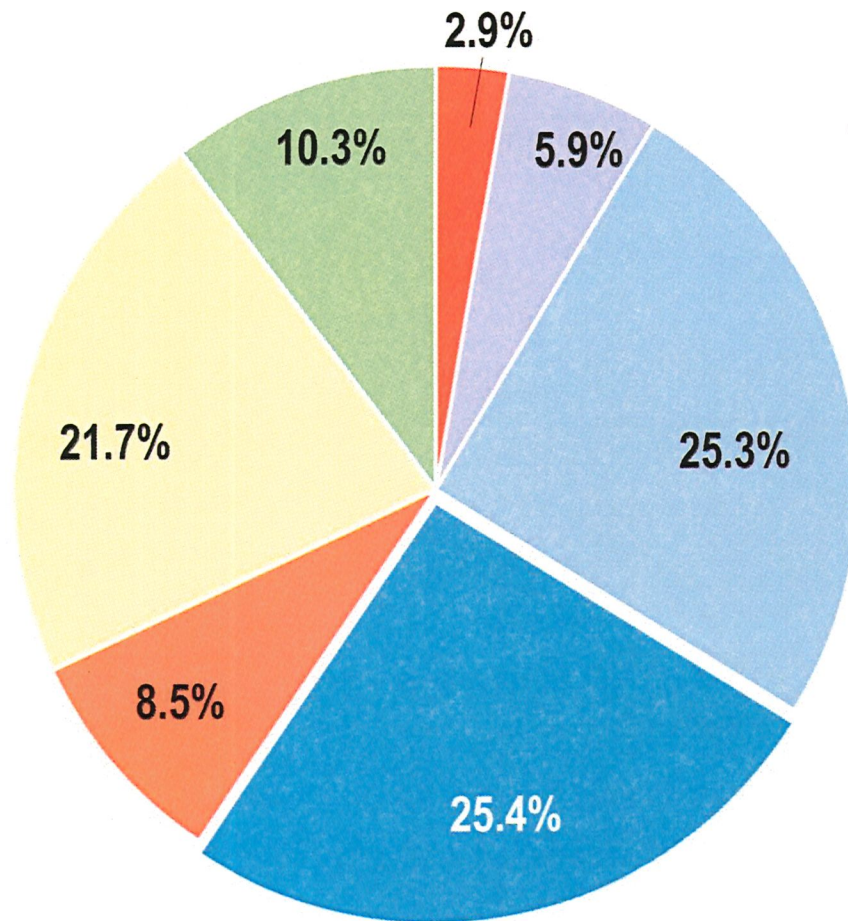
Source: KansasWorks, KDOL Job Vacancy Survey, 2009

## BY 2018, 30 MILLION NEW AND REPLACEMENT JOBS WILL REQUIRE SOME COLLEGE OR ABOVE





# The Big Goal: Where Kansas Stands



Levels of education for Kansas residents, ages 25-64

<div></div>	Less than ninth grade	41,034	2.9%
<div></div>	Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	84,777	5.9%
<div></div>	High school graduate (including equivalency)	364,210	25.3%
<div></div>	<b>Some college, no degree</b>	<b>366,060</b>	<b>25.4%</b>
<div></div>	Associate degree	122,664	8.5%
<div></div>	Bachelor's degree	312,172	21.7%
<div></div>	Graduate or professional degree	148,674	10.3%
	TOTAL	1,439,591	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

# The Big Goal And Kansas' Workforce Needs in 2018: Adult Learners are Key

- By 2018, **64%** of jobs in Kansas will require postsecondary education (national average=63%)
- Between 2008 and 2018, Kansas will create 482,000 job vacancies of which 301,000 will require postsecondary credentials
- Between 2008 and 2018 new jobs requiring postsecondary education will grow by 99,000 while jobs for high school graduates and dropouts will grow by only 51,000
- Kansas already ranks 13<sup>th</sup> nationally in postsecondary education intensity for 2018-if economic development efforts succeed, the need for a college-trained workforce will intensify

# Kansas, Inc. Strategy

- Two areas of focus:

- 1- Education must align with business needs and demands.

“There is a mismatch between what is coming out of our education institutions and what is needed by the business community.”

“Partnerships between business and education will help prepare students for the workplace.”

- 2- Education must be relevant to the U.S. and International economies.

“Businesses need qualified individuals, and there is a shortage of qualified workers.”





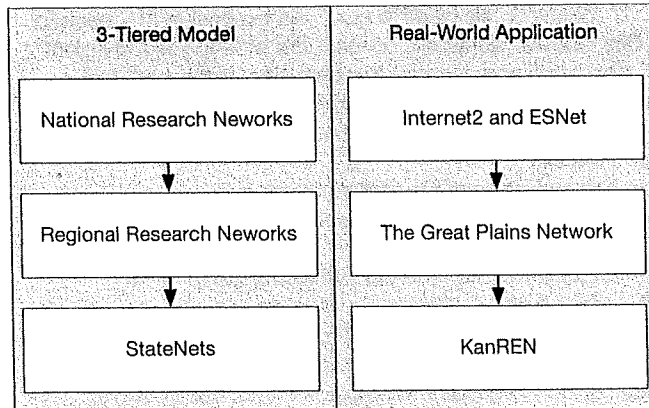
## The Best Kept Secret in Kansas Research and Education

**KanREN brought The Internet to Kansas** and continues to provide critical, world-class broadband infrastructure and innovation to the Kansas research and education community. As a member-driven not-for-profit organization, the Kansas Research and Education Network has and continues to focus on advanced network services for all its members. Reaffirming our leadership role, KanREN will connect Kansans to the upcoming \$62.5mil Community Anchor Institution network and play an integral part in meeting both national and state broadband goals.

### History, Governance, and Ecosystem

Founded in 1992, the Kansas Research and Education Network (KanREN) is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization serving Community Anchor Institutions (CAI) and education or research focused organizations.

KanREN serves the StateNet role in the 3-tiered model for education and research entities. The 3-tiered model has been proven a cost effective, efficient, and scalable solution for meeting the unique connectivity needs of education and research.



### Member-Focused Structure

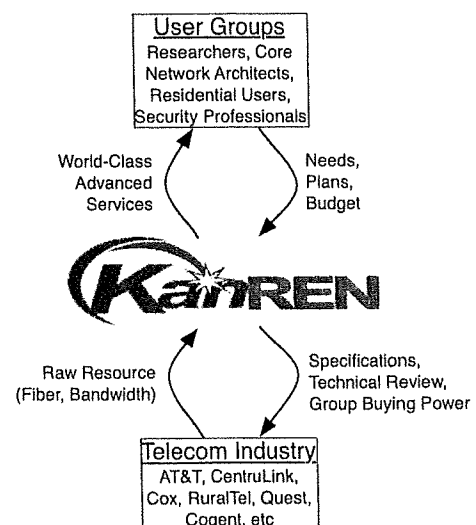
KanREN operates on a self-sustaining cost recovery model. Our initial funding, provided by The National Science Foundation (NSF), was quickly transitioned to the current, long-term, stable methodology. Members pay exactly what it costs to deliver services.

KanREN is governed by our members. Working Groups provide an opportunity for member interaction and the introduction of new ideas into our ecosystem. The Board of Directors evaluates and refines working group recommendations and sets long-term organisational direction, vision, values, and mission. Most importantly, all members have opportunity to vote on major resolutions; including rate and fee structure changes. Because all decisions are fully vetted and debated among members, KanREN's services never lose their fiscal responsibility and member focus.

### Private-Public Partnership

KanREN is a perfect example of a successful public-private partnership. KanREN purchases raw connectivity building blocks, converting those inputs into innovative network services. KanREN has the unique skillset to understand the needs of diverse user groups (residence halls to security professionals to researchers) and convert those needs into required raw resources.

The world of connectivity moves quickly and requires a nimble organization. KanREN's status as a private business allows us to move quickly in conjunction with telecom industry partners. KanREN's member ecosystem allows for open discussion and keeps the organisation moving forward with solid financial and technical plans for emerging technologies.



### Quick Facts:

- Registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization
- Self-funded – No on-going state or federal funds
- Full financial disclosure to members
- Governed by members
- Facilitate group purchases, increasing vendor discounts
- Founded in 1992, before "the Internet" as we know it existed
- Consistently leading the nation in technology and capabilities
- Lawrence, KS small business – member funds stay in Kansas

## Expert Support Services

Area Networking (WAN) requires a very specific skillset that does not typically coincide with enterprise LAN skillsets. Most institutions find hiring WAN experts is an extremely expensive process due to relative lack of a properly trained worker pool in the Midwest. KanREN staff are dedicated, passionate WAN experts; we know the technologies, terms, requirements, and troubleshooting methodologies associated with operating world-class, feature rich Wide Area Networks.

KanREN's members and contractors depend on our expertise 24x7x365 to reduce their FTE, equipment, and support expenses; saving KanREN's members hundreds of thousands of dollars per year. From helping members with advanced routing architectures to proactive monitoring of network components, all of KanREN's 185,000+ users enjoy the same world-class support services.

## Building Infrastructure

KanREN leverages relationships with service providers to build fiber optic infrastructure for our members. Typically building fiber optic infrastructure is an expensive, time consuming process. KanREN helps reduce infrastructure build costs for its members by centrally managing buildout projects and amortising costs over time. This gives KanREN members the ability to acquire the services needed today but spread the initial expenses over time while enjoying KanREN's extremely low overhead.

## What Our Members Say

"Since the beginning of our interactions with KanREN, our relationship with them has been great. From input and insights on architecture and routing, to troubleshooting and operations, we have received outstanding support from the KanREN organisation. Their knowledgeable and experienced staff along with the resources, services, and information they are able to provide has been a great complement to our Network Team here at JCCC."

*Don Campbell*

*Manager, Network Communications  
Johnson County Community College*

"Fort Scott Community College has been a KanREN member since 1996. KanREN provides us advanced services we could not obtain from our local Internet providers like direct connectivity to Internet 2 and native, global IPv6 connectivity. They let us choose the level of service and support that makes sense for our institution. KanREN gives us the buying power of a statewide consortium, and the leverage with our local service providers to get bandwidth levels, prices, and services that we could not convince them to provide on our own. My organisation uses KanREN because there's no other bandwidth provider in the state who understands the needs of our non-profit institution better."

*Casey Russell*

*Director, Information Technology  
Fort Scott Community College*

## What National Networks Say

"The KanREN community's aggressive efforts in deploying IPv6 should be seen as a role model for our entire community."

*Dale Finkelson*

*Senior Program and Service Manager, Network Services  
Internet2*

## Technology Pioneers

KanREN has consistently lead the nation in advanced tech deployments; with a focus on stable, scalable, production-ready services and features.

Many of KanREN's "old" network services are still not available from commodity service providers.

- 1993 – Bleeding-edge T1 deployment
- 1994 – Frame-Relay forerunner
- 1997 – ATM First-adopters
- 1998 – First entity nationwide connected to Internet2
- 2001 – Full suite of Multicast features deployed
- 2001 – Advanced Quality of Service deployment
- 2003 – Adoption of Metro Ethernet WAN circuits
- 2004 – Production IPv6 Deployment
- 2005 – RIR Classification for IPv6 numbers
- 2007 – Optical, ring backbone deployment
- 2008 – Full MPLS feature deployment
- 2009 – Internet2 DCN testbed deployment
- 2010 – Advanced BGP features deployed
- 2010 – Multi-Layer Quality of Service deployment
- 2010 – Internet2 ION feature deployment
- 2010 – Announcement of CAI connectivity capabilities

INTERNET2

GPN

## Major KanREN Stakeholders



KU MEDICAL CENTER  
The University of Kansas

WASHBURN

JCCC

KanREN

"The new KanREN backbone has enabled KUMC to more efficiently obtain high speed connectivity to our sites throughout Kansas. No longer do we need to purchase expensive T1's back to Kansas City, but we can simply connect our sites to the redundant KanREN backbone and securely transfer voice, video and data. KUMC researchers are also benefitting from the high availability design and the vastly increased bandwidth to both I1 and I2."

*Matthew Fuoco*

*Director, Telecommunications and Networking  
The University of Kansas Medical Center*

"We at K-State University (and GpENI) would like to thank KanREN for their support of network research. In particular, we appreciate your efforts in facilitating L2 connectivity to I2 (Internet2). This connection allows us to interface with the network community and conduct much needed networking research. For example, we are currently involved in an experiment with Stanford, Georgia Tech, BBN, and Rutgers, which will be one of the highlights of the meta-scale deployment of GENI (a global scale research facility) in Washington, DC. This and other opportunities would not be possible without your assistance, and for this reason, we thank you."

*Don Gruenbacher*

*Department Head, Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Kansas State University*

"Through KanREN's leadership we are able to reaffirm our community's belief in the importance of the end-to-end principal, one of the key bases of the Internet. We applaud their efforts and hope their work helps motivate others to act as well."

*Michael Lambert*

*GigaPoP Coordinator  
Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center*

STATE OF KANSAS

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TOPEKA

HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
CHAIRMAN: VISION 2020  
MEMBER: ENERGY AND UTILITIES  
GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY  
AND FISCAL OVERSIGHT  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY  
AND ENVIRONMENT

March 16, 2010

Reginald Robinson, CEO  
Board of Regents  
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520  
Topeka, KS 66612

Andy Tompkins  
Board of Regents  
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520  
Topeka, KS 66612

Requests of the Board of Regents by the Vision 2020 Committee

The Vision 2020 Committee does not initiate legislation during the same year in which agencies appear to discuss their strategic plans. Instead, the Committee identifies areas of interest and concern and requests the agencies and their stakeholders to study the issues raised and report back to the Committee during the next legislative session. Legislative initiatives, if appropriate, are introduced at that time.

Following are some areas of interest and concern to Committee members that we commend to you for study and we request that you report back to us in January 2011. We look forward to being more active partners with the Board of Regents and the higher education institutions in Kansas in meeting the educational needs of our population.

Over the next decade, students will increasingly take courses on-line from multiple institutions, institutional infrastructure maintenance will remain problematic, and large numbers of faculty will be retiring. Simultaneously, the workforce need for educated and trained persons will significantly increase – most likely in areas that did not exist in the year 2000 – and the pace of curriculum change will accelerate.

Granting of degrees and certificates and total credit hours taken have traditionally been indicators of institutional success. Similarly, teaching has been delivered in classroom settings to full-time students. Those enrollment and delivery characteristics are changing, infrastructure demands may change, and faculty skills to meet student expectations may change. Delivering educational opportunities to non-traditional students, with non-traditional expectations, to meet employment opportunities heretofore unimagined offer the Legislature and higher education professionals the chance to more effectively price and deliver learning options and outcomes.

The Vision 2020 Committee members recognize that the Legislature should not attempt to micromanage institutions or higher education policies. Committee members also recognize a



responsibility to the people of Kansas to monitor higher education policies. Committee members request the Board of Regents and Institutional Administrators develop proposals in the following areas:

**Tuition: *Differential Tuition Rates*** - Students increasingly are informed “shoppers” of educational opportunities and increasingly technologically savvy. Educational institutions have traditionally charged the same tuition/fees rates for every curriculum, course, and student. While that is slowly changing with surcharges for some higher cost programs, tuition remains essentially the same per credit hour regardless of degree program within each institution.

**Request #1:** Please provide the Committee or successor committee a comprehensive description of anticipated tuition strategies for the three types of governed and coordinated institutions for the next decade. Such strategies should reflect costs associated with, but not be limited to, on-line versus on-campus course offerings, and technology costs associated with delivering on-line courses versus savings in academic, parking, housing, health care, and recreation facilities. Please address in your response implications of demographic projections that show a declining population of college-age Kansans over the next decade.

Other factors such strategies should address include time-of-day pricing of courses to more fully utilize facilities and resources, cost of providing the curriculum, and prospective employment opportunities upon graduation/certification.

**Degree Requirements: *Rate of Movement to Degree/Certificate*** – Traditionally 4-year degree programs have revolved around 120 credit hour requirements within a semester system. **Request #2:** In order to attract increased numbers of enrolled students, increase graduation rates, and increase student success opportunities, please investigate and report strategies by which students may accelerate their academic careers including changing the focus from semester-based courses to skill/knowledge based completion and assessment. If students can learn earlier and pass proficiency/knowledge tests, should they receive credit and take additional courses? In some aspects, this is the format for many on-line courses with flexible testing and for students who test out of courses based on high school or other knowledge.

**Request #2a:** SB 345 required coordination of articulation agreements between Regents’ institutions. Please report how well that coordination has been accomplished – particularly whether all institutions universally accept the same courses from each other institution.

**Request #3:** Following the above question regarding the pace by which students may complete degree/certificate programs, please investigate and report strategies by which the number of credit hours necessary to meet graduation requirements are evaluated. For example, is 120 credit hours still the appropriate number for a person to earn a degree that meets both general subjects an educated citizen should know and the career path preparation that is appropriate in a rapidly changing technology-based economy?

**Funding Streams: *Infrastructure*** – **Request #4:** Committee members are very concerned about the inability of higher education institutions to maintain facilities and request a study and report on the desirability and feasibility of identifying a dedicated funding stream to maintain infrastructures and upgrade facilities to meet challenges and opportunities. Specifically, should consideration be given to increasing the statewide Educational Building Fund levy, should community colleges be allowed to seek funding in counties in which satellite campuses are located, and should technical colleges have authority to seek funding within their “home” county and areas of primary service? The Committee encourages consideration of additional funding options – no matter how innovative – so that the Legislature can be

better engaged with institutional leaders and the Board of Regents to meet the educational needs of the next decade and beyond.

The Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC) offers a building insurance program that benefits educational centers in other states. Johnson County Community College is the only Kansas institution that participates. The Kansas Insurance Commissioner has reservations about the prudence of changing Kansas Statutes to permit Regents institutions to participate in the MHEC insurance program. **Request #5:** Please analyze potential benefits and risks to Regents directed and coordinated institutions, and ultimately the Kansas taxpayer, of permitting institutions to pursue the MHEC insurance program.

**Accountability: Retention and Graduation Rates** – The Committee is aware of discussions between Regents and institutions regarding data necessary to more effectively measure the relationship between admissions and graduation. We believe that the ability to track students over their lifetime of enrollment(s) and progress – graduation(s) and lifetime learning experiences – is important for institutions and state policy-makers to know how best to invest in higher education opportunities.

We also believe that closer coordination between Regents' governed and coordinated institutions with the Departments of Labor and Commerce to assist persons seeking unemployment or other benefits to explore learning/career opportunities through the technical and community colleges.

**Request #6:** The Committee requests a report regarding implementation of programs that permit, within federal privacy guidelines and requirements, the tracking on a systemic basis, rather than on an individual institution basis, so that education policy-makers can make better decisions regarding the effectiveness of the integrated higher education system. Furthermore, the Committee encourages implementation of programs with the Departments of Labor and Commerce to facilitate identification of persons who will benefit from job training opportunities and making relevant information available to them.

**Private Post-Secondary Institutions:** Committee members were struck by two issues regarding the role of private post-secondary institutions within the State's higher education delivery system: 1) the absence of articulation/transfer agreements for courses taken in both the academic and vocational sectors to appropriate Regents coordinated institutions, and 2) inclusion of personal and aggregate data on Kansans pursuing post-secondary educational opportunities and their success/non-success rates as we examine retention/graduation rates on a statewide systemic basis.

**Request #7:** With almost 50,000 Kansans currently attending private career education colleges (almost equal to the number attending KU and KSU), we are concerned that opportunities for collaboration are not being adequately pursued. We encourage the Board of Regents and staff to review and report back to us the role that private post-secondary institutions have in job training and identify ways in which Regents' coordinated educational programs can benefit from shared resources and strategic planning to ensure that Kansas employers/workforce needs are met. Specifically, is the Board willing to have the System Council of Chief Academic Officers and Academic Officers from the private sector develop a process for private post-secondary schools and Regents' institutions on a course credit transfer agreement to better ensure a seamless transition for students; and is the Board willing to have the Kansas Post-Secondary Technical Education Authority and the private post-secondary technical institutions collaboratively identify best educational practices to meet employer needs and to stimulate economic growth in Kansas?

**Technical Training:** Committee members are particularly interested in the vocational programs with highest employer demand and enrollment waiting lists. **Request #8:** We specifically want to know: 1) what are the 10 programs most in demand by students and employers for which there are inadequate resources to meet the demands, 2) why are the student/employer needs not being met in a timely fashion, and 3) what is the plan to address those needs.

Committee members are interested in whether the use of distance education technologies can and should be used to increase the number of persons enrolling in health care and other key state need training/education programs. **Request #9:** Specifically, is there a process within the Regents systems for technical programs to be offered through other locations (e.g., community colleges, technical colleges, other public facilities) via the Internet or by other means to meet the State's needs for technically trained persons? If there is, how can it be expanded to more effectively meet the needs of more Kansans? If there is not such a program, should one be created?

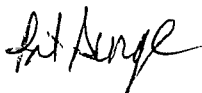
Committee members also are interested in the subjects of endowments and national program rankings. While great attention is paid by the public to the rankings of Kansas' athletic teams, those of us interested in the economic well-being of our state are more (or at least equally) concerned with the quality of educational opportunities offered. **Request #10:** What evaluation process is used by the individual institutions to identify those degree programs/departments best situated to achieve national prominence in terms of teaching and research excellence? What process is used by the individual institutions to identify those programs in need of additional resources to achieve greater prominence/excellence? What process is used by the individual institutions to identify programs/departments which will be unable to achieve such national prominence/excellence and what steps are involved in shifting resources devoted to such programs to those better positioned to achieve excellence with benefits to the people of Kansas? Similarly, what role does the Board of Regents have in evaluating or reviewing program evaluations at the individual institutions? **Request #11:** What process do the individual institutions and the Board of Regents have to expand the endowments of the respective institutions? Do the Board of Regents and institutions have plans to legislatively address restrictions on the use of funds contributed to institutional endowments (e.g., after 10, 20 years)?

**Conclusion:** Committee members recognize that the questions posed are complex and will require thought by Regents, staff, and institution leaders and staff. We reiterate that our desire is to ensure that for the next decade and beyond educational opportunities for all Kansans remain available, affordable, and relevant to employment opportunities. We look forward to receiving your responses on the first day of the 2011 legislative session and to further discussions between higher education stakeholders and legislators. As a courtesy, you may wish to also provide copies of the responses to LEPC members.

For the Vision 2020 Committee Members:



Rep. Tom Sloan  
Chairman



Rep. Pat George  
Vice Chairman



Rep. Tom Hawk  
Ranking Minority Member