



WASHBURN
UNIVERSITY

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 27, 2025

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Washburn University

- **Public Municipal University in Topeka**
 - Open Access since founding -- 160th Anniversary on Feb. 6
 - University Revenue: about 2/3 from local county-wide sales tax and tuition; remainder from state operating grant, auxiliaries, and grants
 - Washburn Tech revenue: about 2/3 from state appropriations; remainder from tuition and grants





Governed by Washburn University Board of Regents

- 9 regents, appointed per statute by Topeka Mayor, Shawnee County Commission, Kansas Governor, and Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR), are statutorily responsible for fiscal and overall management and overseeing the academic enterprise
- Coordinated by KBOR (Service areas, some program approval, performance agreements)



Traditional residential campus & affiliated Washburn Institute of Technology

- University campus offers certificates, associates, bachelors, Doctor of Nursing Practice and Juris Doctorate
- Tech campuses offer technical certificates and associate degrees with a pathway to University for bachelors



Accountability (How we use state funds) and Thank you!

- Purchased former K-mart property for Washburn Tech – **Manufacturing Training Center**
- Over **800 students** eligible for Kansas Comprehensive Grant (along with private and university scholarships allowed 75% of students to receive a **scholarship**)
 - **#5 in Midwest Publics for lowest amount of debt upon graduation in '24**
- In progress to **demolish** Benton Hall this summer (Demolition funds)
- Finished second floor of Tech East to **expand programs** (Tech capital outlay)
- Support Student Success to increase **retention** and **graduation** rates of all students, including 1st generation and veterans



Financial Stewardship

- **Balanced Budget**
 - Always have a **balanced budget** through careful stewardship of public funds. Used covid funds for one-time expenses like reducing debt rather than for operations
 - **Strategically manage deferred maintenance** and **conservatively fund** capital projects using all sources of funds, including private gifts and local equipment and technology fund.
- **Reallocate for Budget Efficiencies and Optimize Academic Portfolio**
 - **Ongoing active review** of open positions to determine whether to hire. Through the past 10 years, we have **reduced** positions.
 - Use market research and industry advisory boards to ensure curriculum and programs meet **workforce needs** in our region.



Enrollment Growth

- **Overall increase in FTE enrollment**
 - **Largest freshman** class in history
 - Record setting **incoming classes** at Tech and Univ
 - **15% growth over two years** in overall enrollment
- **Majority Kansas students (80%)**
 - Half growth from **Shawnee County**
 - **NE KS** region and **SW KS** pipelines
- **Focus on increasing college-going rate**
 - Affordable opportunities and **scholarships** to attract KS students
 - Student support to **graduate** and enter **workforce**



Washburn Appropriation Requests

- **Municipal Operating Grant**
 - Recurring increase of \$3.3 million to support **15% student growth** in last two years and maintain student affordability
 - **Expand and enhance programs and pathways to support workforce needs**
 - Ensure **student success** with intentional advising, tutoring, etc. so students graduate
 - **Pathways** with high schools so students can earn an associates degree and high school diploma
 - Creating **cyber security** program with an applied focus on health care and on forensic investigation
 - Enhance **Advanced Manufacturing** and expand **logistics** program with Ft. Riley
 - Expanding our **Education** program to increase the number of teachers and further grow the para-to-professional educator program



Support Unified Request for University and Tech

- **Need-based aid, student success, cyber security**
 - The Kansas comprehensive grant is a key part of **affordability** along with our private foundation and operating grant scholarships.



- **Tech state aid and Excel in CTE**
 - We have **growth** in both high school and post-secondary students with several programs having wait lists



Thank You!

