

Investing in education is critical to Kansas' future

Colleges and universities provide direct benefits to Kansas students and residents

- Education is the key to personal success – lifetime earnings double for workers with bachelor's degrees versus those with H.S. diplomas
- Regents universities and colleges enroll upwards of 200,000 students a year
- Pittsburg State University enrolls more than 7,100 students; 70% are from Kansas
- For thousands of students, PSU offers unique programs that lead to successful careers in business and industry
- Student opportunities are restricted by state budget cuts – PSU sustained a 13% cut (\$4.7 million) in state aid the fall of 2008
- As positions are left unfilled and program needs go unmet, faculty loads increase, student-teacher ratios rise, quality is threatened and access to successful programs is restricted
- If Kansas students have to leave the state to go to college, they're less likely to return here to live and work
- A college education does more than prepare a student to make a living; it prepares a student for life

Higher education is an engine for economic growth and prosperity

- Kansas businesses rely on Kansas universities and colleges for educated workers
- The great majority of PSU's alumni live and work in Kansas where they fill key roles in critical industries and professions including teaching, nursing and construction
- Even during the recession, shortages in fields ranging from nursing to engineering harm the economy
- Universities also conduct research into everything from biofuels to cancer treatments – this fuels economic growth and enhances quality of life
- Pittsburg State University research on bio-based polymers supports Kansas agriculture and helps prepare for a recovery focused on sustainability and 'green' jobs

Only strong universities and colleges can ensure Kansas will create jobs now and in the future

- Regents universities and colleges award more than 35,000 degrees each year
- It takes time to graduate. Educational opportunities must be available to students today, so that businesses will have access to the educated workforce they will need in the future
- Budget cuts threaten Pittsburg State University's ability to serve students in a range of critical fields, including nursing, and construction management, limiting the number of educated workers that will be available in the near future



Pittsburg State University