



# The University of Kansas

An engine of  
economic growth for  
Kansas

Presentation to the  
House Appropriations  
Committee

February 26, 2025



# Today's presentation

- How KU drives the Kansas economy
- State appropriations for specific initiatives in recent years
- How the 2025 Legislature can help





## How KU drives the Kansas economy

**\$15 billion annual economic activity; \$8 billion net impact**

- This is more than the gross revenue of all but one Kansas company (Koch)
- If KU were its own economic sector, it would be the 9<sup>th</sup> largest in Kansas



# How KU drives the Kansas economy

## Activities that drive the \$8 billion net economic impact

1. KU addresses state workforce needs
2. KU creates startup companies
3. KU brings research dollars into Kansas
4. KU brings private dollars into Kansas
5. KU creates travel and tourism expenditures in Kansas
6. KU responds to sudden/major opportunities for Kansas



# State appropriations for specific initiatives in recent years

- KU Cancer Center building
- Cybersecurity
- Deferred maintenance and demolition
- Gateway District
- Need-based student financial aid
- National Institute for Student Success implementation
- Wichita Biomedical Campus
- Kansas Geological Survey
- Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center





# KU Cancer Center building

## State investment

- \$75M in one-time funds for match program

## Project overview

- Project will bring together research and patient care to develop new cures and treatments and enhanced patient care.
- State investment has spurred \$250M in donor support.
- Total project cost of \$500M-600M.



# Cybersecurity and IT infrastructure

## State investment

- \$5M over past three years

## Project overview

- Cyber threats to higher education are significant
- KU is working to enhance defenses, threat monitoring and incident response
- Strong collaboration among KBOR institutions will enable us to optimize and streamline efforts across the system

# Deferred maintenance and demolition

## State investment

- \$21M over past three years (with \$46M in KU match)

## Project overview

- Funding has enabled university to address urgent needs:
  - Power plant improvements
  - Roof replacement
  - Masonry restoration
  - Foundation repair
  - Window replacement
  - Electrical, mechanical, plumbing updates
  - Elevator improvements
  - Campus lighting updates
  - Fire code improvements
  - Renovations
  - Street/sidewalk repair
  - ADA improvements
  - Demolitions
  - Tunnel improvements





# Gateway District

## State investment

- \$85M in one-time ARPA funds, including:
  - \$35M University Economic Development funds
  - \$50M University Challenge Grant (with 3-to-1 match)

## Project overview

- Once-in-a-generation project to transform campus, enhance student recruitment, drive economic growth and tourism
- Project includes a conference center and hotel, as well as commercial, residential and parking facilities.
- State investment has/will produce more than \$350M in donor support for what will ultimately be a \$759M project.



# Need-based student financial aid

## State investment

- \$8.7M over past two years

## Project overview

- Due in large part to State investment, KU currently has its all-time largest freshman class and overall enrollment.
- This financial aid helps KU keep tuition stable for Kansas students and families.
- We need to maintain focus on affordability as we approach national enrollment cliff in 2026.

# Per-student State support

<b>Public Universities</b>	<b>FY 2024 SGF Actual Expend.*</b>	<b>FY 2024 FTE Students</b>	<b>FY 2024 SGF per FTE</b>
University of Kansas	\$177,423,406	22,991	\$7,717
University of Kansas Medical Center	\$127,229,328	2,920	\$43,569
Kansas State University	\$151,155,433	16,647	\$9,080
KSU Veterinary Medical Center	\$17,803,006	872	\$20,428
Wichita State University	\$115,273,640	12,203	\$9,447
Emporia State University	\$52,964,004	3,980	\$13,306
Pittsburg State University	\$50,645,669	5,258	\$9,633
Fort Hays State University	\$56,106,593	8,734	\$6,424
Washburn University	\$15,037,700	4,382	\$3,195
<b>Total - Public Universities</b>	<b>\$458,986,045</b>	<b>52,075</b>	<b>\$8,814</b>
<i>* Excludes one-time appropriations, such as capital renewal and demolition; student success playbook funding is included.</i>			





# National Institute for Student Success

## State investment

- \$4M over past two years

## Project overview:

- KU is working with NISS, a national organization that provides tools to improve student retention and success.
- In 2024, KU recorded all-time-highs in:
  - overall enrollment
  - first-year retention
  - four-year, five-year and six-year graduation rates



# Wichita Biomedical Campus

## State investment

- \$190M for KU, WSU in recent years

## Project overview

- KU and WSU are jointly developing new facilities to educate healthcare professionals for rural communities.
- Campus will house the KU School of Medicine and School of Pharmacy, along with health professions students from WSU and WSU Tech.
- Total project cost of \$220M.



# Kansas Geological Survey

## State investment

- \$3.2M over past three years

## Project overview

- KGS went 23 years without an increase in State funds.
- New funds enable KGS to expand impactful programs:
  - Water Resources Program
  - Energy Program
  - IT resources for Kansas energy companies and drillers





# Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center

## State investment

- \$20M in one-time ARPA funds

## Project overview

- This project will build a new classroom facility and dormitory to enable KLETC to train additional law enforcement officers for Kansas communities.
- KLETC now enrolls more than 12,000 students annually.



# How the 2025 Legislature can help

## Stable base funding for core operations

- Enables KU to stabilize tuition for students, families

## Funding for employee merit raises

- KU near the bottom of AAU peers in employee compensation

## Expansion of the Kansas Medical Student Loan Program

- This will help us educate more doctors for rural communities

## Maintain the Campus Restoration Fund

- Supports deferred maintenance





**Thank you.**

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