



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 25, 2013

Higher Education Attainment Model Now Posted

(Topeka, Kansas) - Now available online, the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), in partnership with the Center for Law and Social Policy, has developed a model for projecting educational attainment goals of a state based on student flow through postsecondary education, created specifically for Kansas.

Working with Kansas Board of Regents staff, NCHEMS has adapted its model to fit the specifics of the Board's *Foresight 2020* goal, to increase to 60 percent the number of Kansas adults who have a certificate, associate degree, or bachelor's degree by 2020.

An interactive tool which allows a user the ability to choose different scenarios for increasing higher education attainment can be viewed at kansasregents.org.

Board staff has concluded this model is grounded in sound methodology and is a reasonable approach to both identifying the current gap in credential/degree attainment and for tracking progress towards reaching the goal.

One crucial discovery demonstrated by the NCHEMS model is the projected decline in credentials awarded if nothing different is done, due in-part to a decreasing high school student population and decreasing high school graduation rates among the projected population. Developing a strategy to counter trends such as these will be a major focus of the Kansas Board of Regents.

However the NCHEMS model also shows what the economic growth could be if the Regents' goal to increase to 60 percent the number of Kansas adults who have a certificate, associate degree, or bachelor's degree by 2020 is met.

Students and families, state and federal government all work together to finance higher education. For example, if Kansas reaches the established goal, based on the NCHEMS model, it is projected that Personal Income Per Capita could increase as much as \$300 per year, resulting in additional revenue for individuals, state and federal governments.

###

About the Kansas Board of Regents:

The nine-member Kansas Board of Regents, founded in 1925 and established in the Kansas Constitution, is the governing board of the six state universities and the statewide coordinating board for the state's 32 public higher education institutions (six state universities, one municipal university, nineteen community colleges, and six technical colleges). In addition, the Board administers the state's student financial aid, adult education, GED, career and technical education programs, and the state university retirement plans. The Board also approves private proprietary schools and out-of-state institutions to operate in Kansas and administers the Kan-ed network, a statewide network that provides broadband Internet access and distance learning capabilities for schools, hospitals, and libraries. Visit the Kansas Board of Regents online at www.kansasregents.org.

For more information, contact Mary Jane Stankiewicz at (785)260-5086 (cell) or mjstankiewicz@ksbor.org.