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System-Wide Reverse Transfer Now in Kansas

(Topeka, Kansas) - "Recognizing reverse transfer as an important element of a seamless educational system, Kansas state universities, community colleges, technical colleges, Washburn University and Washburn Institute of Technology, agree to work together to develop a process to assist students to complete coursework for and attain all certificates and degrees for which they are eligible," was the opening statement of a document signed by all 32 public postsecondary institution presidents.

Presenting the signed resolution to Chairman Fred Logan at this month's meeting of the Board, Emporia State University President Michael Shonrock, Co-Chair of the FY2014 System Council of Presidents, read: "This commitment aims to better facilitate the transfer of students, enhance the number and quality of learning options at Kansas public postsecondary institutions, and provide a seamless transfer process for students."

Statewide reverse transfer policies are now in effect in twenty U.S. states, including Kansas, following the approval of a Board of Regents policy in March 2014.

Within a student's first semester, each university will now notify all students who transfer coursework from a community college or technical college if they are eligible to be considered for reverse transfer degree status, and which courses are needed to finish the related degree. Students who then complete the coursework for a given associate's degree are eligible to receive that degree, administered automatically by correspondence between the university and community college or technical college the student last attended.

"I was one credit short of receiving my associate's degree when I transferred from Johnson County Community College, to Washburn University," says Briana Lewis, a recent graduate in the College of Arts and Sciences. "It would have been so rewarding to have been issued that degree once I completed the classes for it, after putting forth so much hard work, time, and money." Briana continued, "This is a great thing, and I believe many will benefit from the implementation of reverse transfer in Kansas."

States with policies allowing or requiring reverse transfer procedures as of June 2014 include: Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia.

For more information, contact Breeze Richardson at (785) 291-3969 or brichardson@ksbor.org.

Photo Caption: Emporia State University President Michael Shonrock, Co-Chair of the FY2014 System Council of Presidents, signs the "Commitment to Statewide Reverse Transfer." Credit: Kansas Board of Regents

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About the Kansas Board of Regents:

The nine-member Kansas Board of Regents is the governing board of the state's six universities and the statewide coordinating board for the state's 32 public higher education institutions (seven public universities, nineteen community colleges, and six technical colleges). In addition, the Board administers the state's student financial aid, adult education, GED, and career and technical education programs. The Board also authorizes private proprietary schools and out-of-state institutions to operate in Kansas, and administers the Kan-ed network, a program for facilitating and promoting distance learning and telemedicine in schools, libraries and hospitals. Visit the Kansas Board of Regents online at www.kansasregents.org.