

# KANSAS HIGHLIGHTS

## 2023-2024

### OVERVIEW

Kansas enacted authorizing legislation in 1990 to join the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC). Over the past 35 years, commissioners, commissioner alternates, and members of advisory committees from Kansas have provided and continue to provide important governance and strategic direction for MHEC. Kansas Rep. Barbara Ballard served as MHEC's board chair in 2023-2024.

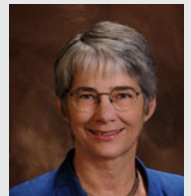
### HOW MHEC BENEFITS KANSAS

- ▶ **Strong return on investment.** Kansas received a 46-fold return on annual compact membership commitment of \$115,000:
  - » **Technology Contracts.** Kansas entities saved \$1.63M through MHEC contracts with Dell, Oracle, Parchment, Xerox, and others.
  - » **Distance Education.** By participating in the Midwestern-State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (M-SARA), Kansas saved approximately \$1,729,800 and avoided a costly state-by-state, institution-by-institution approach.
  - » **Tuition Reciprocity.** Kansas students and their families who participated in the Midwest Student Exchange Program saved more than \$1.98M.
  - » **Student Health Insurance.** 7,401 students at 7 Kansas institutions participated in MHEC's contract for student health insurance.
  - » **Master Property Insurance Program.** Five colleges and universities and the Kansas Board of Regents received dividends of \$221,368 for program participation.
- ▶ **\$5.34M in total annual savings.** Kansas colleges, universities, school districts, state and local governments, and students and their families realized more than \$5.34M in cost savings through MHEC's contracts and programs.
- ▶ **Open Education Resources.** MHEC support Kansas's statewide open education resources (OER) committee with funding for a pilot project to incentivize the use of OER for Kansas Board of Regent Systemwide Transfer courses, the outcome of which is a public-facing list of recommended resources.
- ▶ **Professional Development and Support.** Kansas leaders attended MHEC's FAFSA Summit and follow up state conversations. Nine technology leaders engaged in MHEC's free professional development and networking.

### COMMISSIONERS



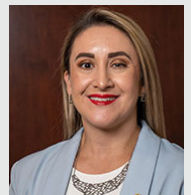
**Blake Flanders**  
Kansas Board of  
Regents,  
President and CEO



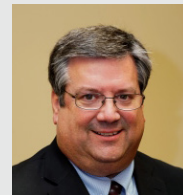
**Marci Francisco**  
Kansas Legislature,  
State Senator



**Aaron A. Otto**  
Kansas Governor's  
Designee



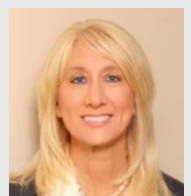
**Diana Mendoza**  
Kansas Board of  
Regents,  
Vice Chair



**Ken Rahjes**  
Kansas Legislature,  
State Representative



**Barbara W. Ballard**  
Kansas Legislature,  
State Representative  
Minority Caucus Chair  
(alternate)



**Renee Erickson**  
Kansas Legislature,  
State Senator  
(alternate)



The Midwestern Higher Education Compact seeks to improve individual career readiness and regional economic vitality through collective problem-solving and partnerships that strengthen postsecondary education. To achieve this vision, the Compact focuses its work in three strategic priority areas:

## **INCUBATE**

### **Advance innovation, efficiency & effectiveness**

- » Serve as an incubator, studying challenging topics where MHEC can play a valuable role and piloting potential solutions.
- » Lead in expanding use and utility of open educational resources.
- » Respond rapidly to member states' requests for research on pressing topics such as workforce development, loan forgiveness programs, and college affordability.
- » Provide state-by-state data through an interactive dashboard on key performance indicators including preparation, participation, affordability, completion, finance, and workforce.

## **LAUNCH**

### **Develop collaborative solutions to regional problems and opportunities**

- » Take on projects, issues and opportunities that are too big for one state to do alone, working jointly to improve higher education and to strengthen the Midwest region.
- » Convene and connect higher education leaders to navigate timely and critical issues facing higher education, such as FAFSA, distance education delivery, and tuition reciprocity.
- » Help Midwestern states navigate accreditation standards to meet the significant increase in demand for dual and concurrent enrollment.

## **SAVE**

### **Drive cost savings & business solutions**

- » Leverage the combined technology needs of higher education institutions in member states to reach favorable agreements with technology vendors that result in tremendous time and cost savings.
- » Explore opportunities to serve risk management needs.
- » Offer affordable solutions that improve student well-being.