

# Creating Strategic Partnerships and Alliances to Advance Graduate Education

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# Kansas State University

- 23,588 students
  - 19,205 undergraduate
  - 3,921 graduate/462 veterinary medicine
- \$659M budget
  - 25% state appropriations
  - 24.3% tuition
  - 31.2% gifts/contracts
- \$147.7M new grants and contracts
  - 7 new patents in 2010
- 6,461 faculty/staff
  - (1,293 full-time faculty)
- \$90.9M raised by KSU Foundation



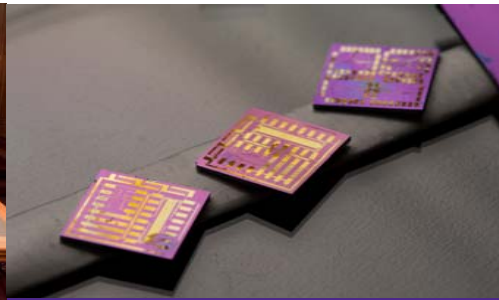
# CAREER TIMELINES

## KIRK & NOEL SCHULZ



# 4 Grand Challenges Facing Graduate Education

1. Legislative attitudes
2. Student voice in governance
3. Preparing for future careers
4. Increased financial support



# Challenge #1: Legislative Attitudes on Graduate Education

- Many legislatures focus exclusively on producing undergraduate degrees
- Research/graduate studies are non-essential parts of the university
- Why bother with a graduate degree
  - “I am successful and I don’t have one.”



# Kansas Board of Regents Foresight 2020



## FORESIGHT 2020

A 10-Year Strategic Agenda for the State's Public Higher Education System



*Foresight 2020* is a 10-year strategic agenda for the state's public higher education system. Adopted by the Kansas Board of Regents in September 2010, the plan sets long-range achievement goals that are measurable, reportable, and ensure the state's higher education system meets Kansans' expectations.

### ALIGN SYSTEMS & INSTITUTIONS

- ★ Identify gaps between preK-12 completion and higher education expectations and direct higher education institutions to partner with local preK-12 high schools to eliminate the gaps.
- ★ Revise state university admissions standards in order to better identify preparation and performance requirements that significantly enhance student success.
- ★ Identify and implement enhancements to improve alignment of the higher education system and its institutions.

### INCREASE PARTICIPATION

- ★ Improve participation rates across the system for adult learners of all ages with special attention to under-represented students and those that reflect the racial, ethnic, and economic demography of the state.
- ★ Improve participation in Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language programs and the number of these students that continue on to higher education.
- ★ Advocate for need-based assistance to students throughout the higher education system.
- ★ Use alternate delivery systems, including distance education, to accommodate the variety of student educational needs.

Learn more about the Kansas Board of Regents and find additional *Foresight 2020* information at [www.kansasregents.org/foresight\\_2020](http://www.kansasregents.org/foresight_2020).

### IMPROVE RETENTION & GRADUATION RATES

- ★ Implement programs to encourage working adults who have earned substantial credit but have not earned a credential or degree to return and complete their education.
- ★ Increase the first-to-second year retention rates across the higher education system.
- ★ Increase the graduation rates across the higher education system.
- ★ Increase the number of students that earn an associate degree or higher.

### ENHANCE STUDENT SUCCESS

- ★ Identify a set of foundational skills critical to the success of higher education graduates in their personal and professional lives.
- ★ Measure and report on student achievement of these foundational skills.

### ALIGN WITH KANSAS WORKFORCE NEEDS

- ★ Develop an annual report to identify the workforce needs of the state and the number of higher education graduates required to fill those needs.
- ★ Develop an annual report on university research initiatives designed to meet the needs of the Kansas economy.
- ★ Increase the percentage of credentials or degrees awarded in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

### ENSURE STATE UNIVERSITY EXCELLENCE

- ★ Identify and report on benchmarks of excellence in comparison with peer institutions.
- ★ Identify and pursue areas for expansion of research capacity.
- ★ Demonstrate increased collaboration within the higher education system.

★ LEADING HIGHER EDUCATION ★

# Challenge #2: Graduate Student Voice in Campus Governance

- On many campuses, student governance is predominantly focused on UG students.
  - Graduate students are often a small part of the university governance structure, despite numbers
- Some faculty want students “in the lab doing research work,” not governance



# Challenge #3: Providing Appropriate Financial Support for Graduate Students

- Stipends are still woefully low
- Graduate education not always essential area of budget
  - Pay for graduate initiatives with UG tuition & fees?
- Health Insurance and other benefits





# Challenge #4: Preparing Graduates for the Future

- Relatively few changes in graduate educational experience over the past 60+ years
  - What are we doing to prepare graduate mentors to prepare graduates for the workplace?
- Jobs are becoming increasingly interdisciplinary
  - What are we doing to prepare graduate students?
- Distance education is changing traditional models



# Responding to the Grand Challenges

- Ensure graduate education and research is an integral part of the Regents/Board agenda
  - Added a Chief Research Officers group to the Kansas Board of Regents.
  - Discuss need for increased graduate education around current politics (e.g., accountability, job creation) – do NOT use “higher ed” language
- Get graduate students in front of legislators
  - e.g., Graduate Research Symposium at Capitol in KS
  - Personalize graduate students to leaders



# Responding to the Grand Challenges

- President/Chancellor must PERSONALLY ensure graduate student voices are heard
  - Periodic meetings with graduate student leadership
  - Public discussions with alumni groups/boosters need to include graduate student achievements
  - Search committees need BOTH an undergraduate and graduate student representative



# Responding to the Grand Challenges

- Strong programs of faculty development
  - Emphasize “soft skills” needed to train next generation of graduate students
- Use distance educational pedagogy to ensure graduates from these programs have same skills as “on-campus” students
- Make graduate educational expenses an integral part of the university budget
  - Often the “first to go” in lean budget years



# Responding to the Grand Challenges

- “One-stop-shop” for corporations
  - Corporate Engagement Center at Kansas State University
  - Increased strategic partnerships between industry and universities
- Universities will need to develop increased educational opportunities in major metro areas
  - Many people will not or cannot come to rural campuses
  - This requires strategic partnerships with other educational institutions (both public and private!)



# Questions

