Legislators Support STEM Education Bill

Dear Editor:

Before starting their annual August work period, the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate worked to approve important legislation.

Kansas delegation members voted in favor of H.R. 2272, the America COMPETES Act. This legislation, supported by the University of Kansas as well as the business community, creates a comprehensive program to reverse the declining number of graduates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

The America COMPETES Act provides more than $33 billion for undergraduate and graduate school research programs in STEM fields. KU is also pleased the bill will strengthen K-12 programs, not only for students but for teachers, too. Under the bill, elementary, middle school and high school teachers will have the opportunity to spend time at a research university, learning about the latest discoveries or theories in their fields of expertise.

Kansans should thank their elected representatives for their support of this bill.

Students at KU will have more resources available to help them earn college degrees, which will keep Kansas and the United States moving forward as global leaders in knowledge, technology and innovation.

Richard Lariviere
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor
University of Kansas

County: Trego
Major concern

Officials should be concerned

THE LAWRENCE JOURNAL-WORLD

Are tuition premiums placed on some areas of study at Kansas University and other U.S. colleges pushing low-income students into majors with less career potential? According to comments by KU Provost Richard Lariviere in a recent New York Times article, the answer to that question appears to be “yes.”

“We are seeing at this point purely anecdotal evidence,” Lariviere told the Times. “The price sensitivity of poor students is causing them to forgo majoring, for example, in business or engineering, and rather sticking with something like history.”

The next question KU officials should be asking themselves is: “Does such a trend serve the state of Kansas and its students?”

KU is one of several universities mentioned in the New York Times article. KU began charging “differential tuition” (now referred to on the KU Web site as “course fees”) in the early 1990s. The fees were justified as a way to ensure students in certain majors have the up-to-date equipment and top-notch faculty necessary to succeed in their careers. However, the tie between higher course fees and majors that lead to higher paying jobs is undeniable.

Course fees this semester in the KU law school are $154 per credit hour. Pharmacy majors pay an additional $132 per hour, business students about $86 per hour and engineering students, $34. A move to add fees to courses in KU’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences failed earlier this year.

It’s worth noting that even this year’s entering freshmen, who will pay the much-touted four-year “guaranteed” tuition, must pay course fees. And, unlike their tuition, those fees will increase. The per-hour fee for business students, for instance will be at $102 by the time this year’s freshmen are seniors.

The evidence that low-income students are avoiding majors with additional course fees may be anecdotal, but it is nonetheless disturbing. Some observers try to justify the fees by saying that students in disciplines such as business or engineering should pay more because they will earn more when they graduate, but that is a weak rationale. Acquiring a well-paying job may be one goal of a university education but universities shouldn’t be in the business of placing a relative dollar value on various fields of study.

It’s also unsettling for university officials to point to scholarship programs that are funded by the additional fees. That amounts to having students who pay full tuition and fees actually subsidizing the education of some of their classmates.

Universities should be in the business of opening many doors of opportunity to students rather than discouraging them from entering certain fields because the cost of courses in those fields stretch a student’s ability to pay. Too many students already are being left behind because of the rising costs of higher education.

There’s nothing wrong with being a history major, but it doesn’t serve the state of Kansas and its economic future to push people into liberal arts majors rather than encouraging those who are interested to pursue professional degrees. If even anecdotal evidence that course fees are having that effect doesn’t worry KU officials, it should.
The University of Kansas
Office of Admissions and Scholarship's priority deadline
to apply for freshman scholarships is November 1, 2007.
High school seniors with a 3.25 unweighted GPA and a 26
ACT or higher, who submit a complete application by this
priority date, will automatically receive, at a minimum, a
$1,000 nonrenewable scholarship. This amount could
increase after the application is sent to the scholarship com-
mittee. December 1, 2007, is [the final scholarship
deadline to submit all materials for consider-
ation.}
‘Road Show’ Coming to SC on Wed.

The University of Kansas “Rock Chalk Road Show” will be visiting high schools in Scott City, Healy, Leoti and Dighton on Wed., Aug. 22.

KU staff will cover more than 3,000 miles in a swing through 40 counties to meet with school counselors during the day and with parents and students at evening receptions in five cities.

Students attending may enter a drawing to win prizes such as a $250 textbook certificate when the student enrolls at KU, free registration for a KU campus visit, KU football tickets and KU gear.

Evening events will be held at the following area sites:
• Colby Community Building, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Tues., Aug. 21.
• Garden City Community College, Beth Tedrow Student Center, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Wed., Aug. 22.

Staff members from various offices, including the Office of Admissions and Scholarships, will attend the events.

“Although our office has had contact with many of these students through earlier visits or college fairs, the roadshow receptions allow time for families to meet us and to learn ‘why choose KU’ and the admission and scholarship application process,” says Lisa Kress, director of the Office of Admissions and Scholarships.
KU brings roadshow to Macksville

LAWRENCE — For the fifth year, University of Kansas staff will take the “Rock Chalk Roadshow” to 60 high schools and community colleges in central and western Kansas, beginning Sunday, Aug. 19, and ending Friday, Aug. 24.

The Rock Chalk Roadshow will cover more than 3,000 miles in a swing through 40 counties to meet school counselors during the day and with parents and students at evening receptions in five cities. Students attending may enter a drawing to win prizes such as a $250 textbook certificate when the student enrolls at KU, free registration for a KU campus visit, KU football tickets and KU gear.

The evening events for parents and students in the area will be at the Cosmosphere, Hutchinson, 6-7:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 23; Hadley Center, Hays, 6-7:30 p.m., Monday, Aug. 20; and Garden City Community College, Beth Tedrow Student Center, 6-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 22.

The roadshow will be at Macksville and Stafford high schools on Aug. 23. Contact the school offices for more information.
KU Announces 52 Graduates of Law Enforcement Training

Monte C. Strait, special agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Kansas City, Mo., office, congratulated 52 graduates of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center at an Aug. 10 ceremony at the 4-H Encampment Building on the Kansas State Fairgrounds. Among the graduates were two from the Cloud County Sheriff’s Department, Kevin L. Diers, Deputy Sheriff, of Concordia, and Jesse W. Payeur, Deputy Sheriff, of Clyde.

The graduates, who began their training course April 30, represented 37 municipal, county and state law enforcement agencies from across Kansas. They were the 191st basic training class of graduates.

The training center is a unit of University of Kansas Continuing Education. Established in 1968 as the central law enforcement training facility for the state, the center is near Yoder.

Graduates receive certificates of course completion and Kansas law enforcement certification from the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers’ Standards and Training, the state’s law enforcement licensing authority. The training course fulfills the state requirement for law enforcement training. Classroom lectures and hands-on applications help train officers to solve the increasingly complex problems they face in the line of duty.

The center trains the majority of municipal, county and state law enforcement officers in Kansas and oversees the training of the remaining officers at seven authorized and certified academy programs operated by local law enforcement agencies and the Kansas Highway Patrol.

About 350 officers enroll annually in the 14-week basic training program. The center offered continuing education and specialized training to more than 2,500 Kansas officers last year. Funding for the training center is generated from court docket fees from municipal and state courts. No funds from the state’s general revenue are used to operate the center.
Greetings from Ness City High School. My name is Tonya Sme, and I am the new counselor. Throughout the school year, I will be posting important information in this section of the Ness County News. If you have any questions about this information, do not hesitate to call me at school.

Discover your place at KU! KU representatives will be at the Hadley Center, 205 E. 7th Street in Hays on Monday, August 20, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. This is your opportunity to learn what KU has to offer you. During this time, you can learn about academics at KU, the admissions and scholarships process, housing, financial aid, student life, and have a chance to win tickets to a KU football game, money for KU textbooks, along with other great prizes. For more information, go to www.admissions.ku.edu. If you have a senior who might be interested in KU for next year, this would be a great opportunity for you and your student to find out more information and be able to ask questions.

Washburn University will visit NCHS on September 13. Any senior who is interested in Washburn should sign up for this visit by September 11th.

The PSAT test is coming up soon. I would encourage sophomores and juniors to consider taking this test. It is an optional test. This test is used to assess reading, math, and writing skills. It will help prepare students for the SAT test. By taking this test, they can enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation competitions. They can also request free information from colleges and universities as well as have access to free resources and information about college and career planning. The deadline for signing up for this test is October 1. Any student who is interested needs to come by my office to sign up, pay the $13 fee, and pick up the practice test and student guide.

The deadline for the October 27, ACT is September 21. Registration can be done online. Ness City is not a test site for this date, but Dodge City, Great Bend, and Hays will offer the ACT on this date. If you have a senior who needs to take the test for the first time or did not score well on the test as a junior should consider this test date. They can still take the test again in December to try and get a better score.
Rock Chalk Road Show to stop at Marion County Schools

Three Marion County high schools will be part of 60-school visit Friday around the state of Kansas by the Rock Chalk Road Show at the University of Kansas.

The program will cover more than 3,000 miles in 40 counties to meet school counselors during the day, and with parents and students and evening receptions in five cities.

Staff personnel from KU Office of Admissions and Scholarships will be at Centre, Marion, and Peabody-Burns High Schools Friday for students to learn about what the state university has to offer.

The Road Show does not have set time it will be at the schools.

“Our visits in these communities are an opportunity for students and their families to meet with KU early in the school year,” Lisa Pinamonti Kress, director of the Office of Admissions and Scholarships, said.

“Although our office has had contact with many of these students through earlier visits or college fairs, the roadshow receptions allow time for families to meet us and to learn ‘why choose KU’ and the admission and scholarship application process.”

Evening visits that allow for a more in-depth look at the school for parents and students still on the calendar are:

- Garden City: Garden City Community College, Beth Tedrow Student Center, 801 Campus Drive, 6-7:30 p.m., Wednesday.
- Hutchinson: Kansas Cosmosphere, 1100 N. Plum, 6-7:30 p.m., Thursday.
Earle named interim director

LAWRENCE (AP) -- Jonathan Earle, an American history scholar, was named Friday as interim director of the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas.

Earle, associate director for programming at the institute, steps in for director Bill Lacy, who has taken a leave of absence to manage former Tennessee Sen. Fred Thompson's exploratory presidential campaign committee, Chancellor Robert Hemenway said.

"In Jonathan, the Dole Institute is in exceptionally capable hands," Hemenway said. "He is fulfilling Sen. Dole's mission to attract young people to become involved in civic affairs."
Rachel Norland earns KU honor

Lawrence — The 11th annual walk up the hill for Mount Oread Scholars occurred on Monday, Aug. 13. Kathryn Nemeth Tuttle, associate vice provost for Student Success, led the walk and provided commentary about campus history and Mount Oread, and pointed out landmarks along the way.

The walk signifies the beginning of a higher education journey for the 189 Mount Oread Scholars whose ultimate goal is to walk down the hill upon graduation. Two scholars carried the 2007 KU graduation banner to further mark this important beginning, and scholars were encouraged to wear their Mount Oread Scholars T-shirt that states, “What Goes Up, Must Come Down.”

Established in 1996, the Mount Oread Scholars Program is designed to facilitate academic connections on campus and is part of KU’s University Advising Center. New first-year students are invited to become Mount Oread Scholars during their first years at KU if they graduated in the top 20 percent of their high school classes and received an ACT composite score of at least 28 or a minimum SAT score of 1,240.

Mount Oread Scholars work individually with an advisor in their fields of interest, share class schedules to form study or discussion groups, attend scholar support sessions and enroll in relatively small classes taught by veteran faculty.

Rachel Ann Norland, daughter of Gretchen and Randy Norland of Lindsborg, is a Pre-Elementary Education Freshman at Mount Oread. She is a Smoky Valley High School graduate.