Rainy-day funds are at the center of a storm front in Congress and the halls of higher education.

Amid all the economic issues being wrestled with on campuses and on Capitol Hill, this funding debate is growing more blustery by the day. It fixes on the laudable goal of making college more affordable to middle- and low-income families.

What's it all about? Endowments, and specifically, whether colleges and universities are hoarding too much of this $400 billion-plus pool of assets instead of helping more families manage tuition costs.

Many congressmen and parents are perplexed at why tuition continues to go up faster than the inflation rate while colleges invest huge sums of money donated by individuals, businesses and organizations.

But before you pound your fist on the breakfast table and demand accountability from college presidents, keep in mind that tapping these accounts is not the silver bullet to closing the affordability gap.

Endowments already help pay for faculty positions, new buildings and technology and, yes, tuition, room and board. In public schools in particular, the money also is needed to offset cutbacks in state and federal aid. However, there are limits to what colleges can and cannot do with their rainy-day funds, said Peter Mazareas, vice chairman of the College Savings Foundation, a nonprofit organization.

"Schools have an obligation to provide appropriate financial access," said Mazareas. "But the purpose of most endowment funds is to ensure financial stability for institutions so they will survive the ups and downs and be viable for years to come.

Several senators, including Charles Grassley, an Iowa Republican, are pushing for a mandated minimum payout on endowments so more families can send their children to college without piling up thousands of dollars of debt. The Senate Finance Committee last month asked the 136 wealthiest colleges for information on student aid, the cost of attendance, tuition increases and endowment spending over the past 10 years.

The senators are urging schools to increase spending from their funds, suggesting a minimum of 5 percent of their assets annually. In their opinion, colleges and universities have an obligation to provide more tuition relief instead of parking billions in the bank. The committee has recommended tying schools' current tax-exempt status to minimum financial-aid spending levels, tuition controls and other steps to bolster financial aid.

According to a recent study by the National Association of College and University Business Officers, endowments at 62 institutions exceeded $1 billion in assets last year. This included the University of Kansas and the University of Missouri.

So where does this leave families? If you're the parent of a soon-to-be or current college student, ask the financial aid officers about the school's endowment policy and how much is being earmarked for scholarships and grants. I think schools do listen to their customers. If you're donating money to a college, specify that it be applied only for financial aid.

University recently announced it would increase the money it spends on financial aid from its $22.5 billion endowment by 40 percent. Yale currently spends $60 million a year on aid for students, with the average annual grant totaling $28,000. Harvard University also said it would reduce tuition costs for students in families earning up to $180,000 a year.

That's good news because every additional dollar helps. Moreover, these financial-aid decisions may motivate other schools to do the same.

But the reality is that the vast majority of college students attend schools that do not have deep-pocketed endowments from which to draw. And with the jittery state of the stock markets, institutions may be dealing with poor-performing endowment investment returns for the foreseeable future.

Finally, the best thing to do is to set aside every dollar you can for your son or daughter's future college expenses rather than relying on long-term debt. "One dollar saved now will save you $4 later" in interest payments, Mazareas said. To reach Steve Rosen, call 816-234-4879 or send e-mail to srosen@kcstar.com.
Here are the college and universities reporting the largest endowments for the fiscal year ending June 30, along with a comparison of the universities of Kansas and Missouri:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>2007 endowment funds</th>
<th>Change in market value for year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Harvard University</td>
<td>$34.6 billion</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Yale University</td>
<td>$22.5 billion</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Stanford University</td>
<td>$17.1 billion</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 University of Kansas</td>
<td>$1.28 billion</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 University of Missouri</td>
<td>$1.09 billion</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
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</table>

Kansas Wheat and Kansas State University announced Jan. 25 that they have received a $200,000 planning grant from the Kansas Bioscience Authority for the purpose of developing plans for the proposed Kansas Innovation Center for Advanced Plant Design: “Plants for the Heartland.”

The Kansas Bioscience Centers of Innovation program is designed to establish centers of excellence that will clearly define Kansas as an international leader in research and commercialization for one or more bioscience platforms that will have a substantial, measurable and sustainable positive impact on the state’s economy.

At the end of the six-month planning grant period, the Bioscience Authority will review all submitted proposals and may award contracts for the completion of proposed centers.

The Kansas Innovation Center for Advanced Plant Design: “Plants for the Heartland” would focus on the emerging commercial opportunities for wheat, sorghum, small grains, and native plants and grasses. By coordinating efforts across the state, nation and the world, the Center would accelerate scientific discoveries and innovation in plant bioscience. The Center would be business collaboration among plant science industry groups and university research counterparts. The Kansas Wheat Commission of Manhattan and K-State will be the lead organizations for founding the center. Facilities for the Center would be headquartered on the campus of Kansas State University in Manhattan, collaborating with existing research programs at the University of Kansas in Lawrence and elsewhere. The Center would unlock the power of plant genomes to create a host of novel products.

“The Center would be a pivotal opportunity for Kansas,” said Kansas Wheat chief executive officer Dusti Fritz. “World food security depends on three major (wheat, rice, maize) and several minor (barley, sorghum, millets) cereal crops. Kansas is a major producer of two of these crops (wheat and sorghum). The current global shortage of wheat and sorghum demonstrates the opportunity that exists for Kansas to be in a pivotal position to lead innovation in these crops and continue as the breadbasket of the world. These crops now have the opportunity to meet other energy and industrial needs as we transition from fossil fuels into renewable sources of energy and industrial goods. The genomic sciences offer unprecedented opportunities to identify genetic advantages to redesign plants for target uses. The establishment of this center would be a game-changing opportunity for Kansas to take the premier leadership role in this new economy based on high-tech science.”

The Center’s Native Plants Innovation Team will be led by Dr. Barbara Timmerman, University Distinguished Professor and Chair of Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. Native Plants Team members will include faculty and staff from the University of Kansas, Kansas State University and the KU Medical Center. The Team’s efforts will focus on using advanced plant design techniques to produce novel therapeutic drugs derived from Kansas native plants.

“The Kansas Innovation Center for Advanced Plant Design will build a strong new future for exploration, discovery and development of valuable natural product drugs that prevent and cure diseases in humans and animals,” KU’s Timmerman said.

Dr. Fred Cholick, Dean of K-State’s College of Agriculture and director of K-State Research and Extension said, “This center will position Kansas as the global leader in plant genetics by translating innovative research into value-added agricultural products delivered to the market place. For Kansas, this would create new jobs and attract the best and brightest minds in plant bioscience to Manhattan, Kansas. Overall, it will enhance the economy of Kansas and the region, particularly in rural areas.”

“There is a new era emerging in agriculture. Wheat and sorghum are currently losing ground to corn and soybean production. In spite of their lack of environmental compatibility for
much of the state, corn and soybeans currently offer a short-term economic advantage to producers, and are more preferred by end users in the livestock and biofuel sectors,” said Kansas Wheat Commissioner Dean Stoskopf. “Because of this approach, profitability for dryland farmers is at risk and ground water resources are being depleted. Advanced plant design affords a sustainable, long-term solution to this challenge by improving the performance of wheat and sorghum, which are better suited for Kansas. Bioscience is the key to unlocking the maximum potential of crops grown for the benefit of the state’s economy and the world’s consumers.”
Grant will aid development of innovation center

Kansas Wheat and Kansas State University have received a $200,000 planning grant from the Kansas Bioscience Authority to develop plans for the proposed Kansas Innovation Center for Advanced Plant Design: “Plants for the Heartland.”

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Kansas Wheat is the cooperative agreement between the Kansas Wheat Commission and the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, joining together as “leaders in the adoption of profitable innovations for wheat.”

For more information contact: Dusti Fritz, CEO of Kansas Wheat at 785-539-0255 or dfritz@kswheat.com; or Forrest Chumley, K-State Associate Director for Research at 785-532-6148 or fchumley@ksu.edu
Gov. Sebelius urges students to caucus

By Sheila Ellis
KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius made K-State the first stop Monday morning on her Interstate 70 college tour promoting political interest among students.

She addressed students in the K-State Student Union Courtyard, where she urged them to caucus with more than 20 other states for presidential candidate Barack Obama on this Super Tuesday.

She began her speech by praising the K-State men’s basketball team’s victory against the University of Kansas Thursday night at Bramlage.

"By the way, congratulations on making history the other night – nice game here on the campus," Sebelius said. "But you have a better chance to make history tomorrow."

Sebelius said in this upcoming election, new voters — including young voters — are taking more interest, indicated by record turnouts for the last four caucuses. She said too many young people were not interested in politics, and they currently have the lowest voter

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turnout out of all the age groups.

“The decisions made by the next president of the United States will have a lot more to do with you and your generation than they will to do with me and my generation,” she said.

After stopping at K-State, the governor continued her tour at the University of Kansas and ended in Topeka at Washburn University.

Sebelius has been courted by all the major Democrats, according to the Associated Press. She made her announcement to support Sen. Obama the day after she gave the Democrats’ response to President Bush’s State of the Union address Jan. 28.

Sebelius said it has not been easy to choose which Democratic candidate to support, as she has experience balancing being a moderate Democrat who has succeeded in a Republican state, but she said she felt Sen. Obama is the best candidate.

“Frankly, I want the next president to be somebody who actually can reach across party lines – it’s the way I work here in Kansas,” Sebelius said. “I’ve ran and won in a state where 27 percent of the voters are registered Democrat, so I know what it takes to actually get Independents to support me and work with the Republicans.”

She said the main reason she endorsed Obama is because of his ability to unite America. “People are tired of being told how different from one another we are, as opposed to somebody who reminds us over and over again what our common values are and what our common vision is,” she said.

The governor warned students that this presidential election will be a tough race all the way to the end and encouraged them to be involved throughout the whole process, beginning with the caucus and ending with the final ballots. She also said students should encourage their friends to caucus and vote.

Sebelius highlighted the rare opportunity Kansans have to give their input on who the presidential nominees will be. “Kansas doesn’t get paid attention to very often,” she said.

Matt Wagner, K-State student body president and Obama supporter agreed with Sebelius. “I don’t think we’ve ever seen something like this before in the state of Kansas in the area of politics this early in the stages of the national race,” Wagner said. “I think this will bring much more awareness for our students ... I think this is one way in which we will see excitement for Super Tuesday as well as the Republican race coming up on the 9th.”

With only a few empty seats and students watching from all sides, the Courtyard was full of students, faculty and staff that supported Sen. Obama, were undecided or simply wanted to hear Sebelius speak.

Andre America, member of K-State Students for Obama, said when he first heard the governor was coming to campus to endorse Obama, he decided he would not miss hearing her for anything.

America said he thought Kathleen Sebelius coming to K-State sends a powerful message to students. “For the first time, you have someone [who is starting to make you believe what America stands for – so there’s no more black, white and hispanic boundaries – we are all Americans].”

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius presents a short speech Monday afternoon in the K-State Student Union Courtyard. She urged students to take charge and vote at the Democratic caucus.
College Goal Sunday 2008
Sunday, Feb. 10, 2008

1. Concorde
Chesapeake College
Community College
Room 258
2271 Campus Drive
FAFSA on the Web available.

2. Dodge City
Village Square Mall
2601 Central Ave.
FAFSA on the Web available.

3. Emporia
Emporia High School
Library
3302 W. 18th Ave.
FAFSA on the Web available.
Spanish interpreter available.

4. Garden City
Garden City High School
Cafeteria
1412 W. Main St.
FAFSA on the Web available.
Spanish interpreter available.

5. Great Bend
Front Door Facility
1615 10th St.
FAFSA on the Web available.

6. Hutchinson
Hutchinson Community
College and Area
Vocational School
Parker Student Union
1300 N. Plum
FAFSA on the Web available.

7. Joplin
Joplin Community College
Student Success Center
1001 N. Cottonwood
FAFSA on the Web available.

8. Junction City
Junction City High School
Cafeteria
900 N. Eisenhower St.
FAFSA on the Web available.

Donnelly College
"The Meeting Room"
608 N. 18th St.
FAFSA on the Web available.
Spanish interpreter available.

Kansas City Kansas
Community College
Jewell Building
7250 State Ave.
FAFSA on the Web available.

10. Lawrence
University of Kansas
Union Hall, Room 1001
(Campbell Commons)
1320 W. 12th St.
FAFSA on the Web available.
Spanish interpreter available.

11. Linn
Olath College
North High School
600 E. Prairie
FAFSA on the Web available.

12. Overland Park
Johnson County
Community College
Student Success Center
Second Floor, Student Center
12345 College Blvd.
FAFSA on the Web available.

13. Pittsburg
Pittsburg State University
Starrgarr Hall — Student
Wellness Center
1701 S. Broadway St.
FAFSA on the Web available.
Spanish interpreter available.

14. Salina
Kansas Wesleyan University
Peters Hall — Room 129
100 S. College
FAFSA on the Web available.

15. Topeka
Washburn University
Memorial Student Union
Washburn Room
1700 SW College Ave.
FAFSA on the Web available.

16. Wichita
Newman University
Thomas Center
3100 McCormick Ave.
FAFSA on the Web available.
Spanish interpreter available.

Wichita Area Technical College
Library Learning Resource Center
1001 S. Grove St.
FAFSA on the Web available.
Spanish interpreter available.

Evergreen Branch Library
2601 N. Arkansas
FAFSA on the Web available.
Spanish interpreter available.

County:
Shawnee

Topeka, KS
Circ. 48220
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KU-NCPA students visit Irwin-Potter Drug

KU pharmacy students visit 16 independent pharmacies in Kansas. Eleven members of the National Community Pharmacists association at the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy visited 16 independent pharmacies in central and southwest Kansas during their semester break.

KU Pharmacy Dean Ken Audus and Associate Dean Gene Hotchkiss accompanied the KU-NCPA members on the Jan. 9-11 road trip as part of a KU initiative to enhance student awareness of the career opportunities within Kansas in independent pharmacy.

This year KU-NCPA students included Joe Brummer and Ron Giesen at Irwin-Potter Drug in their 16 stops.

The KU-NCPA Student Chapter is a professional pharmacy student organization that promotes independent pharmacies as a career pathway option for pharmacy students at KU. Established in 1998, KU’s chapter has been honored as the national Chapter of the Year by the NCPA parent organization at their annual meeting four times in the past 10 years and was first runner-up in 2007.

KU-NCPA students have participated in more than 100 visits to independent pharmacies from Hiawatha to Hugoton, Atwood to Baxter Springs and destinations in between.
Voluntary standards should be mandatory, governor says

BY SARAH KESSINGER
Harris News Service
kessinger@dailynews.net

TOPEKA - The governor now says her voluntary standards for renewable power in Kansas aren’t enough – they should be law.

At a press briefing in her office Friday, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius said she’d like to see legislators codify goals for power companies to invest 10 percent in green energy by 2010 and 20 percent by 2020.

Her statement comes as 27 states have mandated renewable standards and the federal government is discussing doing so as well.

Kansas utilities traditionally have opposed such mandates. Instead, Sebelius and executives of the state’s power companies agreed last year to voluntary goals.

Since then, utilities have said they expect to meet them and have continued to announce new wind energy investments.

A Kansas City Power & Light spokesman said the company didn’t believe a mandate was necessary.

“Kansas City Power & Light is already pursuing, subject to regulatory approval, our commitment to the governor’s voluntary wind energy goal,” said Mike Deggendorf, vice president of public affairs.

The company noted the governor didn’t clarify at Friday’s press conference whether the state should have a mandatory or voluntary standard in law.

Still, Kansas remains at about 4 percent wind power, with the remainder of its electricity generated mostly from coal as well as some natural gas and nuclear energy.

Legislators who drafted a bill to facilitate construction of two new coal-fired plants this week added some green energy provisions as well, but didn’t go as far as adding a renewable mandate.

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‘Our primary goal is to see energy efficiency and wind energy pursued aggressively and other states ... have shown it’s possible to do that.’

Nancy Jackson, executive director of the Land Institute’s Climate and Energy Project at Salina, who helped author the bill, were questioned about the issue during a Democratic caucus Wednesday.

Kuether responded that a renewable portfolio standard had not been discussed. When asked why, Kuether said it was because “there has been a sense in this state that an RPS would not pass.”

Rep. Tom Holland, D-Baldwin, said Friday that he’s seen plenty of interest in more action to require wind, solar and other forms of power.

Holland, a panelist on green energy at public forums that drew crowds last week at Baker University and the University of Kansas, said he’d “love having a renewable portfolio standard.”

“I think that’s a very long-term energy strategy our state and country needs to have going forward,” Holland said. Constituents appear to be ahead of their legislators in calling for change on the energy scene, he added.

“I think this is really something that’s starting to catch the public’s attention.”

Nancy Jackson, executive director of the Land Institute’s Climate and Energy Project at Salina, said there’s a strong case to be made for renewable portfolio standards requiring utilities to dedicate part of their investments to clean energy.

“It should be fairly easy to achieve,” she said. “Our primary goal is to see energy efficiency and wind energy pursued aggressively and other states with a (renewable standard) have shown it’s possible to do that.”
TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Stephen Six took over Thursday as the state's new attorney general, leaving the relatively low-profile job of district judge to enter the hurly-burly of state politics.

Six was sworn in by his father, retired Kansas Supreme Court Justice Fred Six, during a brief ceremony in the Senate chamber. He took the oath with his hand on the family Bible with his wife Betsy at his side.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, a fellow Democrat who appointed him, was on hand.

After the oath was administered, the elder Six turned to the audience and said, "The new attorney general," followed by a loud round of applause. Stephen Six then addressed the crowd that was filled with friends, family and legislators.

"Over the years I have been shaped by my relationships with people who set high standards and through hard work achieved great things," Six said. "As attorney general, I promise to serve with integrity and independence as I face the challenges ahead."

He is replacing Paul Morrison, who was forced out of office by a sex scandal. He will fill the remaining three years of Morrison's term, and Democrats expect Six to seek a full term in 2010.

Morrison acknowledged in December that he had an extramarital affair with a former subordinate but denied her allegations of engaging in professional misconduct during their relationship.

Sebelius passed over prosecutors, former prosecutors and better-known political figures in appointing Six, a 42-year-old Douglas County judge. She described him as having strong legal skills and "a great personal record."

Six's new job comes with a pay cut of nearly $22,000: the salary for a district court judge is $118,297, compared to $96,489 for the attorney general. But he's said he took a pay cut as big or bigger when he went from private practice to the bench.

He's also entering an office under intense scrutiny from abortion opponents, who didn't trust Morrison, an abortion rights Democrat. Morrison filed 19 misdemeanor criminal charges against Dr. George Tiller, of Wichita, one of a few
U.S. physicians who performs late-term abortions.

Morrison alleged that Tiller didn’t get a second opinion on some late-term abortions from a second, independent physician, as required by state law. But abortion opponents don’t believe Morrison pursued Tiller aggressively enough, and they forced Sedgwick County to convene a grand jury to investigate the doctor further.

Abortion foes had backed incumbent Republican Phil Kline, whom Morrison ousted from the attorney general’s office in 2006. In an often-bitter race, Morrison spent more than $2.65 million on his campaign, easily a record.

In addressing the crowd Thursday, Six said, “It is critical that my office be an independent law enforcement office that conducts the state’s business with integrity and professionalism.”

It’s a professional environment new to Six, who received his law degree from the University of Kansas in 1993 and then served as a clerk for Judge Deanell Tacha of the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The following year, he joined Shamberg, Johnson and Bergman. The firm specializes in lawsuits dealing with defective products, transportation accidents, medical malpractice, health care fraud and environmental issues. Six became a partner after five years. Sebellus appointed him to the bench in January 2005.
Pauly, Hall named to respective honor rolls

Rachelle Pauly, 2006 graduate of Greensburg High School, was one of 231 student athletes at KU recently recognized as being named to the Athletic Director's Honor Roll for 2007, which requires an enrollment of at least 12 hours and G.P.A. of at least three.

The daughter of Lynette and Dennis Pauly of rural Greensburg, Rachelle is a sophomore majoring in pre-education secondary and currently a member of the women's rowing team. Honorees represent 28 Kansas counties and 39 other states and countries.

Recently named to the President's Honor Roll at Dodge City Community College was Logan Hall of Haviland. To qualify for the list a student must carry at least 12 hours and have a grade point average of at least 3.8 on a four-point scale.
Zach White, graduate of Greensburg High School and Haviland High grad Nathan Breeden of Mullinville were recently named to the 2007 Fall Honor Roll at KU recently. White is a Liberal Arts undergraduate, as is Breeden.

Architects J. Stephen Lane of Lawrence, Kansas and Chris Kliewer of Wichita, Kansas serve in an advisory capacity to GreenTown on the overall project.

For more information, contact Daniel Wallach, Executive Director of Greensburg GreenTown at 620-549-3752 or daniel@greensburggreentown.org

Organization's website is www.greensburggreentown.org