

Kansas Highlights

2014-2015

Kansas Key to Shaping the Compact's Initiatives

1. Kansas was the first founding member state to pass authorizing legislation to join the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), which was created in 1991.
2. Kansas legislators, members of the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments, were instrumental in the formation of the Compact.
3. Richard Short, Governor Sam Brownback's Commissioner Designee, was elected as MHEC's chair-elect during the November 2015 annual commission meeting.
4. Lana Oleen, former Senate Majority Leader, has served as a MHEC commissioner and Compact chair, and served as interim president twice.
5. The MHEC Purchasing Initiatives Committee is chaired by Barry Swanson, associate vice provost for operations/chief procurement officer, from the University of Kansas.
6. The Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit Licensure and Certification Workgroup is co-chaired by Karla Wiscombe, associate director of academic affairs and transfer coordinator of the Kansas Board of Regents.
7. Nearly 40 Kansans, including commissioners, commissioner alternates, and members of advisory program committees, provide significant direction for MHEC programs and services.

Kansas Benefits from Participation in MHEC Programs and Services

1. Entities in MHEC member states have saved over \$486 million since MHEC was founded in 1991 by using MHEC purchasing contracts and the MHEC property insurance program.
2. Kansas received a 67-fold return on its MHEC investment for FY15 when comparing total savings to the state's annual commitment (dues).
3. Kansas higher education institutions, school districts, and state and local governments have achieved cost savings of over \$75 million since 1991, by using MHEC's cost savings and student exchange programs.
4. In FY15, education institutions, school districts, state and local governments, and students achieved savings of over \$6 million.
5. In FY15, Kansas entities realized over \$913,000 in cost savings by purchasing over \$9 million in technology hardware, software, and services.

Commissioners



Barbara W.
Ballard
Representative
Kansas Legislature



Blake Flanders
President and CEO
KS Board of Regents



Ty A. Masterson
Chair, Senate Ways &
Means Committee,
Kansas Legislature



Richard E.
Short
President
Short & Son, Inc.



Helen
Van Etten
Board Member
KS Board of Regents



Marci Francisco
Senator
Kansas Legislature
(Alternate)



Marc Rhoades
Representative
Kansas Legislature
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Kansas Benefits from Participation in MHEC Programs and Services *(continued)*

6. The MHEC property insurance program insures Johnson County Community College, the institutions of the Kansas Board of Regents, and institutions from the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees and the Kansas Independent College Association. Their total property values are over \$12 billion, collectively saving nearly \$4 million since 1994 and over \$1 million in FY15.
7. MHECare, the student health collaborative, provides member institutions with sustainable student health insurance solutions and helps institutions support the student learning experience by providing protection from unexpected medical expenses. The Kansas Board of Regents' institutions began participating in MHECare in fall 2012. They were the first campuses to join the collaborative.
8. Kansas became the fourth state to become a member of the Midwestern State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (M-SARA).
9. Kansas students and families have saved over \$60 million in tuition through the Midwest Student Exchange Program since 1994. In FY15, Kansas residents saved over \$4 million.

Potential Savings or Benefits of Program Participation for Kansas

1. Since the membership is a state membership, not only can higher education institutions use MHEC's purchasing contracts, but school districts, state and local governments, and not-for-profit entities can also use most of the MHEC purchasing contracts.
2. MHEC is a statutorily created entity in each member state. The Compact conducts competitive sourcing events and negotiates contract terms and conditions, thereby allowing flexibility for state and local entities to tailor MHEC contracts to their needs without having to incur the cost of rebidding for the products or services covered in MHEC contracts.

Opportunity for a Midwest Voice from Kansans

1. Based on the many ideas that MHEC Commissioners and Commissioner Alternates submitted in late August of 2015, a survey was created with potential policy topics for our research, program initiatives, and professional development. Survey respondents evaluated the need for additional knowledge on various topics, identified the top three topics of interest, and selected the most helpful resource formats. The collective results were used to determine which policy topics MHEC should prioritize. Commissioners at the MHEC annual commission meeting voted to focus on affordability initiatives during the next fiscal year.
2. The theme for MHEC's 2015 policy forum was on accreditation. This policy discussion was held in conjunction with the Compact's annual commission meeting on November 16-17 in Chicago.
3. The locations of MHEC commission meetings rotate among the member states, showcasing each state's education initiatives to an audience comprised of Midwestern legislators and education leaders. MHEC held its Executive Committee meeting in Topeka in June 2008, and will hold the annual commission meeting in Kansas in November 2017.
4. All travel and lodging expenses for commissioners who attend Compact meetings are paid by the Midwestern Higher Education Compact.

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