

Approved March 20, 1991
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by SENATOR JOSEPH C. HARDER at
Chairperson

1:30 ~~xxx~~/p.m. on Monday, March 18, 19⁹¹ in room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Mr. Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Ms. Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Mr. Dale Dennis, Assistant Commissioner of Education
Mrs. Millie Randell, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Presentation: Ag in the Classroom Update

HB 2014 - Teacher scholarship program, qualifications of students, period of time for which scholarships are awarded. Re Proposal No. 18

Proponents:

Mr. Ted Ayres, General Counsel, Kansas Board of Regents

Chairman Joseph C. Harder called the meeting to order and announced that the first item on the agenda is a presentation on Ag in the Classroom. He then recognized Ms. Mardelle Pringle, chairman, Kansas Foundation for Ag in the Classroom. Ms. Pringle introduced two Foundation members who were in attendance, Ms. Loreen McMillan, State Board of Agriculture; and Ms. Diane Gruver, Kansas Cooperative Council. Ms. Sharon Tally, staff administrator from Manhattan, also was introduced by Ms. Pringle. Ms. Pringle stated that she is a representative of the Kansas Livestock Association, the Kansas Cattle Women, and the Kansas Beef Council.

Ms. Pringle quoted from a 1989 report by the National Academy of Science which stated that beginning in kindergarten and continuing through the twelfth grade, all students should receive some sort of systematic instruction about agriculture. It also stated that agriculture is too important a topic to be taught only to the relatively small group of students who may be planning a career in agriculture or vocational training. Ms. Pringle, quoting Representative Pat Roberts, stated that the Kansas Foundation for Ag in the Classroom is accomplishing the goals of the National Academy of Science by offering teaching plans to incorporate agricultural information into already-existing school courses such as math, biology, arts, music, or whatever else may be taught in a particular school. Quoting a 1986 report of an Ag awareness study for students in elementary, junior high, and high school, Ms. Pringle stated that 30% of the students, urban and rural, could not answer questions on basic agricultural subjects. Ms. Pringle explained that although there had been previous concerns, the Ag in the Classroom concept was born in 1982 when a task force of education and agricultural leaders was formed to pursue the concept of Ag in the Classroom and to develop some groups within the state. Following a regional meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska attended by one of these groups, Ms. Pringle said a task force for Ag in the Classroom was born with a membership of twenty-one members. She said that later the task force became the Kansas Foundation for Ag in the Classroom for the purpose of raising funds for educational purposes.

Ms. Pringle stated that one of the first actions of the Foundation was to decide upon the purposes of the Foundation:

1. To provide for Kansas students an understanding and appreciation of the food chain, which is the foundation of human life.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION,
room 123-S, Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~xxx~~ p.m. on Monday, March 18, 19 91

2. To promote the well-being of agriculture as a necessary forerunner to the well-being of America.

Ms. Pringle stated that Kansas was one of the first states to organize and the first to have a foundation system structure. Many states, she said, use Kansas as an example for their foundation structure. She further stated that although membership in the Foundation is by invitation only, it has a wide base of representation, and members include Senators Frahm and Montgomery.

Funding, Ms. Pringle explained, comes from private donations except for funding by the legislature which is a grant of a 40/60 base not to exceed \$30,000. Ms. Pringle said the Foundation is very appreciative of the legislative support received in the past and would hope that the legislature can continue supporting them until they are able to find more private funds to support their basic budget.

Ms. Pringle introduced the next presenter, Ms. Sharon Tally, administrator, Kansas Foundation for Ag in the Classroom. Ms. Tally explained the information contained in the handouts (Attachment 1) and the procedures used for teachers wishing to enroll in summer coursework.

The final portion of the presentation on Ag in the Classroom was a report by Ms. Lynda Weaver, a fourth grade teacher at Pauline South Elementary School in the Topeka area Auburn-Washburn school district. Ms. Weaver described her experiences in summer school class and in the many field trips she took as part of the course. She said the course work was exceedingly helpful to her as a teacher, and she had discovered many resource opportunities of which she was previously unaware.

The Chairman thanked the presenters of Ag in the Classroom for their informative review and update on the Ag in the Classroom program.

HB 2014 - Teacher scholarship program.

The Chair next recognized Mr. Ted Ayres, general counsel for the State Board of Regents. Mr. Ayres stated that he was speaking in support of HB 2014 on behalf of the State Board of Regents. Before proceeding with his testimony, Mr. Ayres introduced Ms. Christine Crenshaw, the new director of financial assistance for the Kansas Board of Regents, and explained that today is her first official day in this capacity.

The Chair welcomed Ms. Crenshaw to the Committee.

Mr. Ayres reviewed the background of the Teacher Scholarship Program. He stated that the State Board of Regents endorses and supports the revisions proposed by the Legislative Educational Planning Committee and approved by the Kansas House of Representatives. He explained that the modifications to current law, as proposed in HB 2014, will help the Board address some questions which have arisen during the Board's administration of the statute and/or clarify legislative intent. (Attachment 2)

Following testimony by Mr. Ayres, the Chair announced that the hearing on HB 2014 was concluded and that the bill would be taken under advisement.

Senator Anderson moved, and Senator Montgomery seconded the motion that minutes of the Committee meetings of February 28 and March 4 (3 p.m.) be approved. The minutes were approved.

The Chair adjourned the meeting.

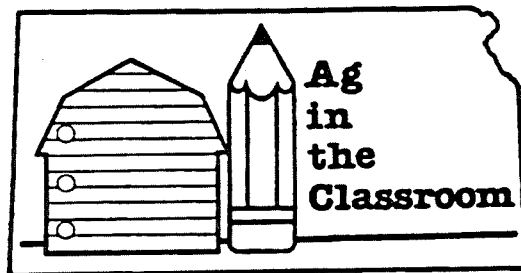
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TIME: 1:30 p.m. PLACE: 123-S DATE: Monday, March 18, 1991

GUEST LIST

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Rachael Warren	Box 548 Galva	Page
Tara Russell	Box 517 Galva	Page
Marcy Reed	Box 134 Galva	Page
Linda Ungto	Box 209 Canton	Page
Chuck Stuart	Topeka	U.S.A.
D. L. Wolk	Co. L	—
Kriste Wardell	Topeka	ASK
Meredith Pringht	Yate, Centu	Ks Foundation for Ag in Classroom
Jocelyn Jackson (Millan)	Topeka	Ks. Ind. for Ag in the Classroom
Diane Louwer	Topeka	Co. of Admin. / Ag in Classroom
Lynnda Weaver	Topeka	Ks Foundation for Ag. ^{4th grade} teachers
Marion Tally	Manhattan	Ks. Found. for Ag in Classroom ^{Pauline Scott}
TED D. AYLES	TOPEKA	KS BOARD OF REGENTS ^{Administrators}
Christine Crenshaw	"	" " " "
Monica Dieren	Hutchinson	Closeup Kansas
Chad Schmitt	RR #1 Box 83, Mt. Hope, KS	Closeup Kansas
Neine Aft	Topeka	U.S.A. # 500
Matt Tubel	Topeka	AP
Ken Collins	Topeka	KNEA
Jim Zarally	Overland Park	USD # 5127
Ann C. Bennett	Topeka	USD 301

**Kansas Foundation for
Agriculture in the Classroom
1990 Annual Report**



EDUC
3/18/91
A1-1

In 1990, the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom continued to carry out its major objectives:

1. To provide for Kansas students an understanding and appreciation of the food chain, which is the foundation of human life.
2. To promote the well-being of agriculture as a necessary forerunner to the well-being of America.

The Foundation helps educate K-12 students by providing resources that integrate information about agriculture into the science, math, language arts, social studies and other classes already taught.

This philosophy is gaining widespread acceptance and use in education as the interdisciplinary, whole language, holistic or integrated approach of teaching. Using this educational theory, all subject matters are taught around a common theme. For example, the topic of wheat can teach students plant growth, fractions, research and writing, geography, history, nutrition and much more. As one teacher said, "The students can't tell when one subject ends and another one begins since they all revolve around one topic."

The Foundation works with teachers, volunteers, students and others to carry out six concepts:

- Agriculture is ...
-the business that provides our food, clothing and shelter.
 -interdependent with the well-being of society in Kansas, the United States and the world.
 -a vital, dynamic system shaped by research and development.
 -influenced by government.
 -interdependent with the environment and uses natural resources.
 -historically significant.

Sharon Tally, Administrator (June-present)
Becky Vining Koch, Administrator (January-June)
Dana Thomson and Carolyn Farris, Student Assistants
(September to present)
Candace Plett, Jackie McClaskey and Danette King,
Student Assistants (earlier 1990)

Kansas Foundation for
Agriculture in the
Classroom
Bluemont 124, KSU
Manhattan, KS 66506
913 532-7946

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Summer Courses

The Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom established another first in 1990 by extending the Integrating Agriculture Into the Classroom summer courses to three. This allowed a total of 78 K-12 teachers to enroll.

The June 11 - 22 class met in Manhattan with an enrollment of 28 teachers primarily from north central Kansas counties. To learn of agriculture they visited the KSU research farms, Johnson's cow/calf operation, the Mertz farm, Dillon's supermarket, Kansas Artificial Breeding Service Unit, the KSU flour mill, veterinary medicine and dairy processing complexes and the Manhattan community gardens. Activities included making omelets, experiencing giant cockroaches, studying plant pathogens and attending a resource fair.

KFAC once again traveled to the Kansas City area with the July 2-13 summer course attended by 24 teachers. Approximately half of the attendees were from urban Kansas City schools with the remainder being from Leavenworth, Douglas, Miami, Franklin, and Linn counties. Class homework was provided by Farmland Industries Research Farm, rural Bonner Springs. Tours included the Bob Daly farm,

Kansas City Board of Trade, General Mills flour mill, Bartlett grain terminal, Fresh Start Bakeries, Masson's Greenhouse, Armour meat processing plant and Farmland Industries Research Farms. This course also experienced a resource fair as well as learning of entomology, plant pathology and agricultural careers.



Barbara Hund,
K-6 Physical Education
and Health Instructor,
St. Mary's Grade
School, Salina,
tries milling grain
by hand at the
'90 Summer Course
in Wichita.

Both the Manhattan and the Kansas City courses offered graduate credit from Kansas State University Colleges of Agriculture and Education.

The first KFAC Summer Course to be held in Wichita occurred July 23-Aug. 4, with classes based in the Sedgwick Farm Bureau building. Twenty-six teachers came from the Wichita area, northeast, central and western Kansas. This course featured a new approach with instructional responsibility shared between The Wichita State University College of Education and Kansas State University College of Agriculture. Tours in Wichita featured Rainbo Bakery, F & E Wholesale Food Distributing, the Wehrman farm, Botanical Gardens, the Henry home gardens and the Sedgwick County Fair. A Day on the Farm, co-sponsored by the Agri-Women and the Sedgwick County Farm Bureau Women, featured multiple presentations by numerous agricultural specialists at the Ott and Woodard farmsteads. The teachers did bread-in-a-bag and butter-in-a-jar activities which they will be able to re-create with their students. Participants experienced a workshop on Project Learning Tree and a Resource Fair. Environmental conservation was integrated within this course as in the two other summer programs.

Each teacher in the three courses completed a teaching unit to be used in his or her own classroom featuring some agricultural topic in one or more subject areas. The final two days of class provided time to share some of those ideas with each other. A few of those units included The Dairy Case, This Little Piggy, Growing Kansas Gold, Soil -- It Isn't Just Dirt, Ag Tripping Across Kansas, Surprising Soybeans, Exploring Strange New Worlds: Kansas From Space, Marvelous Milo, Wonderful Ways With Wool, and Cobs, Corn and Kernels.

Each course featured a Scholarship luncheon where teachers could enteract with scholarship donors and foundation members. More than \$19,500 was donated by agricultural organizations, agribusinesses, foundations and individuals to make the course possible for the 78 teachers. Class "graduates" were encouraged to present programs to their sponsors where appropriate and to conduct in-service training to other teachers in their school districts.

*In 1991, the Foundation
will sponsor four summer
courses --
in Hays,
Kansas City,
Manhattan and
Wichita.*

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3/18/91

State Fair Activities

Eriah Bueller,
Reno County
4-H Junior Leader,
helps a young fair goer
with her Ag-Citing
Adventure.



Food, the Most Important Fuel in Space served as the theme for the 1990 Ag-Citing Adventure at the 1990 Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson Sept. 7-16. The KFAC exhibit in the Pride of Kansas Building featured a mural of the earth as seen from the moon. The traditional Ag-Citing school boy and girl donned space suits for this year's appearance while a space helmet served as the drawing container. A video of astronauts eating food aboard their space ship played non-stop while an actual tomato plant grown from seeds taken into space completed the exhibit.

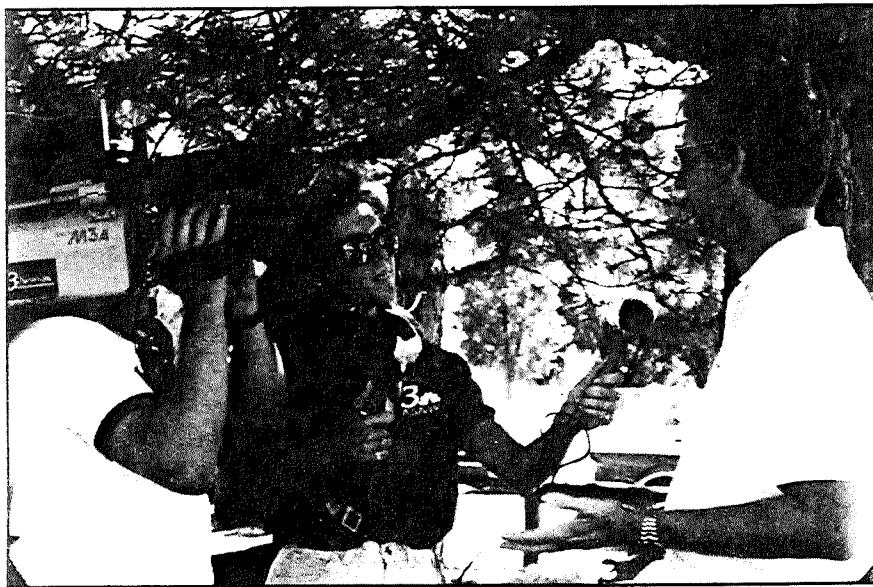
More than 1,350 children completed the revised Ag-Citing activity sheet. Answers to agricultural questions were located throughout the other exhibits within the building. Thirty organizations and agri-businesses provided items as rewards for those completing the activity.

Highlighting the week was the appearance of astronaut Steve Hawley, a native Kansan, on Friday, Sept. 14. Hawley spoke to visiting classes as well as the mass media on behalf of the Agriculture in the Classroom philosophy.

Hop Aboard the Agri-Express will be the theme of the 1991 State Fair Ag-Citing Experience.

In addition to presentations by Hawley, visiting school groups learned from mini-classes and tours. The Giant Cheeseburger and Getting to the Core, presented to an audi-

ence of parents and grandparents from the Pride of Kansas stage, provided ideas for use with family youngsters on food chain education from basic topsoil knowledge to understanding the balanced four food groups in a cheeseburger.



Astronaut Steve Hawley visits with a Kansas television crew between mini-classes outside the Pride of Kansas building, at the 1990 Kansas State Fair.

Adopt-a-Classroom

During the 1990-91 school year, 54 classes were paired with farm families through the Adopt-a-Classroom program. Exchanges varied between the matched classrooms and families depending upon individual interests. Writing letters and sending photos, drawings and crop samples is a usual way of communicating. Modern technology makes video exchange a popular way to convey messages. An example of this was the introduction by way of video of Janet Allen's second grade in Olathe to their farmer, Allen Zimmerman at the other corner of the state near Sublette.

Farm families try to visit their class when possible. Distance can limit this but even one visit/year does wonders. Rudy Bahr, cattle rancher from Gridley, is a storyteller. He tries to get up to Kansas City once a year to visit his second grade and tell them the story of the baby calf from the time its born until it leaves the farm.

KFAC helps volunteer farm families find ways to connect with classrooms wanting to learn about agriculture.

EDUC
3/18/91

Annual Meeting

Linda Gutsch, Elementary Principal from Goodland, spoke at the Eighth KFAC Annual Meeting October 25 at the Brunswick Hotel in Lindsborg. She used slides and examples of material to augment her explanation of the agricultural studies by her '89-90 fifth grade class. It started with the Sunflower Power unit that she developed in the 1989 Kansas City summer course, but expanded to include all grains grown in Sherman County. Examples of how the students took leadership once into the studies showed the integrated holistic nature of Gutsch's approach to teaching.

Gutsch's work with teaching Agriculture in the Classroom lead to her appearance on the program at the national Agriculture in the Classroom convention in Washington D.C. in June, and her participation in a curriculum writing workshop for Project Food, Land and People in Colorado in October. Her example of what Ag in the Classroom can mean for both students and an individual teacher was greatly appreciated by KFAC members and guests.

Golden Apple Awards were awarded to Becky Vining Koch and Dr. Jerry Horn for contributions to the Agriculture in the Classroom efforts. Koch served as Administrator until leaving the state in mid-'90. Dr. Horn also left the state in mid-summer. He had assisted KFAC in their cooperative relationship with the Kansas State University College of Education where he served as Associate Dean.

National Agriculture in the Classroom Convention

KFAC member Linda Gutsch accepted an invitation to the 1990 national AITC meeting in Washington, D.C. June 3-5 to present information concerning her experiences as a teacher of an integrated agricultural unit. Convention attendees learned about her fifth grade class's enthusiastic response to her Sunflower Power unit developed during her participation in a KFAC Integrating Agriculture into the Classroom Summer Course. Her presentation was a part of the theme *Agricultural Literacy in a Changing World: Thinking Globally, Thinking Locally*.

EDUC
3/18/91
A1-7

Teacher Resources

A spring semester *Ag-Citing News* newsletter for teachers was published in 1990. This newsletter informed teachers of resources available including upcoming KFAC events: AgWeek '90, 1990 Integrating Agriculture Into the Classroom Summer Courses, 1990 Kansas State Fair Ag-Citing Experience. The newsletter went to the over 1,500 teachers on the list who have made contact with KFAC and to all 1,025 K-12 school library media specialists in the state.

A library is made up of materials from many sources such as ag commodity organizations plus teaching units developed by past summer course participants. It is maintained in the KFAC offices within the College of Education, KSU, Manhattan. These are used directly by teachers visiting the campus as well as by staff to answer requests.

Ag Week '90

Governor Mike Hayden proclaimed March 18-24, 1990, Agriculture in the Classroom Week in Kansas, "to honor the teachers and volunteers who are educating young people about our state's No. 1 industry -- agriculture."



Gov. Hayden signs the proclamation designating March 18-24, 1990, as Agriculture in the Classroom Week in Kansas, while KFAC members and staff look on.

AgWeek '90 activities developed by KFAC for use by teachers and volunteers were a set of art projects featuring Pasta Leaf, Woolly Lamb, Udderly Awesome Painting, Where's the Beef, Two Trees in One, Potato Printing and others.

EDUC
3/18/91

1990 Donors

\$1,000 or more

Dane G. Hansen Foundation
Kansas Beef Council
Kansas Livestock Association
Kansas Sheep Association
Wyandotte County Farm Bureau

\$500 - \$999

Douglas Co. Farm Bureau
Johnson County Farm Bureau
Kansas Agriculture Aviation Association
Kansas Soybean Commission
Osage County Conservation District
Pottawatomie County Conservation District
Saline County Conservation District
Sedgwick County Farm Bureau
Wyandotte County Conservation District

Members of Shirley Steiger's third grade class at Salt Creek Valley Elementary, Leavenworth County, pose with Pattie Reece, Mid-America Association of Conservation Districts Chairperson. Reece is holding the 1990 Achievement Award presented Steiger for her work in conservation education. The class produced Steiger's original play, *Gone With the Wind*, which she wrote during her participation in the 1989 KFAC Kansas City Summer Course.



\$250 - \$499

American Royal Association
Bank IV/Fourth Financial Corporation
Cargill Corporation
Citizens for Safe Water
Cowley County Farm Bureau
Dillons Stores
Douglas County Conservation District
Farmland Industries
Franklin County Conservation District
Franklin County Farm Bureau
Geary County Conservation District
Grant County Farm Bureau
Jackson County Agri-Women
Jackson County Conservation District
Jefferson County Pomona Grange
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers
Kansas CattleWomen
Kansas Cooperative Council
Kansas Corn Commission
Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission
Kansas Pork Council Women
Kansas Pork Producers Council
Kansas Soybean Association
Kansas Wheat Commission
Kansas Wheathearts
Lane County Conservation District
Leavenworth County Conservation District
Leavenworth County Farm Bureau
Marshall County Conservation District
Mobay Corporation - Ag Chemicals Division
Senator Don & Nancy Montgomery
Pawnee County Farm Bureau
Pony Express Chapter - Soil & Water Conservation Society
Reno County Conservation District
Reno County Farm Bureau
Riley County Farm Bureau
Scott County CattleWomen
Sharp Brothers Seed Company
Shawnee County Conservation District
Shawnee County Farm Bureau
Southwest Kansas CattleWomen
Stanton County Farm Bureau

(more Cash Donors page 10)

EDUC
3/18/91
A1-10

\$100 - \$249

Jack Beauchamp
Butler County Conservation District
Senator Norma Daniels
Federal Land Bank of Colby Kansas
Gove County Farm Bureau
Kansas Agri-Women
Linn County Conservation District
Miami County Conservation District
Miami County Farm Bureau
Montgomery County Conservation District
Montgomery County Farm Bureau
Northwest Kansas Production Credit Association
Pottawatomie County Farm Bureau
Riley County Conservation District
Seward County Conservation District
Seward County Farm Bureau
Wabaunsee County Conservation District
Wabaunsee County Farm Bureau
Washington County Conservation District

\$3 - \$99

Anderson County Farm Bureau
Atchison County Farm Wives
Marvin Clark
James & Helen Cubit
Farmway Co-op
Senator Sheila Frahm
Greenwood County CattleWomen
Grove Harvest Grange
Rich Hager
Kansas Extension Homemakers
Barbara Meyer
Osage County Farm Bureau
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Republic County Pork Producers & Porkettes
Mr. & Mrs. Sonny Rundell
Senator & Mrs. Don Sallee
Scott County Conservation District
Richard & Nancy Spiegel
Cecil & Pat Vining
Woodson County CattleWomen

1991 Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

Chairman
Mardelle Pringle
Kansas Beef Council
Kansas Livestock Assn.
Kansas CattleWomen
Route 1
Yates Center, KS 66783
316 537-7833
316 625-2098

Vice Chairman
Tim Christian
Soil Conservation Service
760 South Broadway
Salina, KS 67401
913 823-4570

Recording Secretary
Carolyn Schmitt
Kansas-National Education
Association
7078 East Kellogg Apt. C
Wichita, KS 67207
316 685-2397

Corresponding Secretary
Loreen Locke McMillan
Board of Agriculture Staff
901 South Kansas Ave.
Topeka, KS 66612-1282
913 296-1165

Treasurer
Larry Parker
Citizens Bank and Trust
P.O. Box 218
Manhattan, KS 66502
913 776-9400

Board of Directors

Jack Beauchamp
Route 3
Ottawa, KS 66067
913 242-3540

Altis Ferree
KS Board of Agriculture
Route 1
Yates Center, KS 66783
316 625-2603

Steve Fisher
4-H/Youth Programs
Umberger 201, KSU
Manhattan, KS 66506
913 532-5800

Richard Grant
KS Assn. of School Boards
812 Main
Osawatomic, KS 66064
913 755-3941

Linda Gutsch
West Elementary School
Route 1, Box 36
Goodland, KS 67735
913 899-6163

Rich Hager
314 Laura
Salina, KS 67401
913 823-4523

Sen. Janis Lee
Route 1
Kensington, KS 66951
913 476-2294

Nancy Lindberg
5715 SW 31st Terrace
Topeka, KS 66614
913 296-2215

Barbara L. Meyer
Kansas Farm Bureau
2627 KFB Plaza
Manhattan, KS 66502
913 587-6000, Ext. 6126

Linda Pease
KS Pork Producers Council
2601 Farm Bureau Road
Manhattan, KS 66502
913 776-0442

Rep. Jo Ann Pottorff
144 N. Oliver
Wichita, KS 67208
316 682-5581

Sonny Rundell
KS Board of Education
PO Box 813
Syracuse, KS 67878
316 384-7732

Foundation Members

Jim Adams
Extension 4-H/Youth
Umberger 201, KSU
Manhattan, KS 66506
913 532-5800

Helen Bausch
Kansas Agri-Women
Route 2, Box 191
Mayetta, KS 66509
913 986-6331

Sue Blubaugh
RR # 1, Box 148
Burrton, KS 67020
316 463-6561

John Bunck
Bunck Seed Farms
Route 1
Everest, KS 66424
913 548-7443

Sen. Sheila Frahm
985 S. Range
Colby, KS 67701
913 462-6948

Diane Gruver
KS Cooperative Council
700 Kansas Ave., Ste. 615
Topeka, KS 66603
913 233-4085

Barbara Havlicek
Center for Extended Services
009 Bluemont Hall, KSU
Manhattan, KS 66502
913 532-5886

Irlene Huntington
Route 3, Box 74
Eureka, KS 67045
316 583-5862

Dee James
205 N. Broadway
PO Box 128
Abilene, KS 67410
913 263-7077

Duane Lankard
Merchants National Bank
6100 SW 21st
Topeka, KS 66604
913 291-1041

Ferman Marsh
KS Dept. of Education
120 East 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612
913 296-3047

Nila Meyer
Osage City Elementary
Route 4, Box 185
Osage City, KS 66523
913 528-3171

Sen. Don Montgomery
1218 Main
Sabetha, KS 66534
913 284-2670

Bob Paris
KS Assn of Wheat Growers
HC 2, Box 330
Dighton, KS 67839
316 397-2140

Delores Paris
Kansas WheatHearts
HC 2, Box 330
Dighton, KS 67839
316 397-2140

Karen Pinkall
Chapman Elementary School
Route 1, Box 55
Junction City, KS 66441
913 257-3440

Albie Rasmussen
Rt. 1 Box 143
Randolph, KS 66554
913 785-2476

Mildred Sharp
Sharp Brothers Seed Co.
Healy, KS 67850
316 398-2201

Twyla Sherman
Instructional Services
Box 28
Wichita State University
Wichita, KS 67208
316 689-3322

Nancy Spiegel
Women Involved in Farm
Economics
Route 1, Box 102
Formoso, KS 66942
913 794-2361

Clayton Stultz
712 Parkview Drive
Wamego, KS 66612
913 456-9279

Crysta Torson
Lane Co. Conservation Dist.
PO Box 985
Dighton, KS 67839-0985
316 397-5632

Lee Weis
Williamsburg High School
Williamsburg, KS 66095
913 746-5741

Chris Wilson
KS Grain and Feed Assn.
KS Fertilizer and Chemical
816 SW Tyler
PO Box 2429
Topeka, KS 66601-2429
913 234-0461

Honorary Members

Dr. David Mugler
Dir. of Resident Instruction
College of Agriculture
Waters 117, KSU
Manhattan, KS 66506

Sam Brownback
Secretary
Kansas Board of
Agriculture
901 South Kansas Ave.
Topeka, KS 66612-1280

Dr. Lee Droegemueller
Commissioner of Education
Kansas Dept. of Education
120 East 10th
Topeka, KS 66612

Staff

Sharon S. Tally
Administrator

Carolyn Farris
Dana Thomson
Student Assistants

Bluemont 124, KSU
Manhattan, KS 66506
913 532-7946

1990 Financial Report

January 1, 1990 - December 31, 1990

	Beginning Balance	\$9,349.11
Income		
Donations	\$24,410.79	
Sales of Materials (software, teaching units, curriculum guides)	1,877.96	
Miscellaneous (interest, reimbursements)	937.78	
State Matching Grant (based on \$30,000 per fiscal year)	31,474.50	
	Total Income	\$58,701.03
Expenses		
Summer Course (scholarships, expenses)	\$18,153.12	
State Fair (supplies, travel, assistant fee)	1,404.06	
Curriculum Development (Farm and Food Bytes, curriculum guide printing)	1,397.50	
Communications (newsletter, phone, postage)	5,183.99	
Programs (presentations travel, meeting registrations)	1,166.04	
Office Supplies (copying, supplies)	748.10	
Salaries (administrator, student assistants)	35,739.11	
Miscellaneous (bank charges, business expenses)	880.92	
	Total Expenses	\$64,672.84
	Year-End Balance	\$3,377.30

Chairperson Harder and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ted D. Ayres and I am General Counsel to the Kansas Board of Regents. I am here this afternoon representing the Board of Regents. I speak in support of House Bill 2014.

As you know, the Teacher Scholarship Program is administered by the Kansas Board of Regents. Our office has done so since the statute became effective in July of 1990. On November 29, 1990, Clantha Carrigan McCurdy reviewed the program for the LEPC and a copy of her testimony is attached to my written statement.

The Board endorses and supports the revisions proposed by the Legislative Educational Planning Committee and approved by the Kansas House of Representatives. I feel that the modifications which are proposed by H.B. 2014 will help us address some questions which have arisen during our administration of the statute and/or clarify legislative intent with regard to the program.

Thank you for your attention to my comments.

EDUC
3/18/91
A2-1

KANSAS TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

TESTIMONY BY

Clantha Carrigan McCurdy

Legislative Educational Planning Committee
November 29, 1990

Background: The Kansas Teacher Scholarship Program was enacted by the 1990 Legislature for the purpose of providing scholarship assistance to students interested in pursuing teacher education as a career. The program is designed specifically to attract students into "hard-to-fill teaching disciplines" in Kansas at the elementary and secondary school level.

Legislation requires that "hard-to-fill teaching disciplines" be determined by the State Board of Education, which are reflective of critical shortage of teachers. Further, that the determination for individuals qualified for teacher scholarship awards be made by the Executive Director of the Kansas Board of Regents.

Selection Criteria: Applicants for the Kansas Teacher Scholarship Program must: (1) be a resident of Kansas; (2) demonstrate high academic achievement, determined by performance on the ACT Assessment, cumulative high school grade point average and/or college grade point average and class rank; (3) be enrolled or admitted to a full-time undergraduate program leading to teacher certification in a hard-to-fill teaching discipline; and (4) sign an agreement with the Board of Regents to teach in a "hard-to-fill" discipline as required.

Scholarship and Teaching Obligation: The Teacher Scholarship Program provides for a \$5,000 annual award that is renewable for the length of the course of instruction leading to the degree that will enable the student to teach a hard-to-fill discipline. Generally, recipients are required to teach for a period of one year, in the hard-to-fill teaching discipline, for each year of scholarship assistance received. Failure to fulfill the teaching obligation results in repayment of all scholarship monies received at the penalty interest rate of 15%.

1990-91 Award Statistics

For Fiscal Year 1991, \$253,500 was appropriated for the Kansas Teacher Scholarship Program. Fifty (50) students were selected from a pool of approximately 500 applicants to receive this award. The number of students selected in each "hard-to-fill" discipline was proportion based on the number of available scholarships, and the total number of applications received for

each academic discipline. The distribution of scholarships for 1990-91 were as follows:

Math	21
Science	11
Special Ed	10
Foreign Language	6
Industrial Arts	1
Library Media	1

The enrollment of Teacher Scholarship recipients is as follows:

Baker University	3
Bethany College	5
Bethel College	4
Friends University	2
Southwestern College	1
Allen County CJC	1
Emporia State Univ	7
Ft. Hays State	2
Kansas State Univ	9
University of Kansas	5
Wichita State Univ	7
Pittsburg State Univ	4

Issues of Concern

I have been asked to address two issues of concern regarding the Kansas Teacher Scholarship Program: (1) treatment of minority students, and (2) whether current legislation permits the continuation of awards to recipients who may be required to continue enrollment beyond the undergraduate degree to teach in a "hard-to-fill teaching discipline."

Legislation for the Kansas Teacher Scholarship Program stipulates that applicants selected to receive this award demonstrate high achievement on the ACT assessment. Given this requirement, the higher the ACT score, the better the chances are for selection. With the exception of Asians, minority student achievement on the ACT Assessment is less than the achievement level of white or Caucasian students. Overall, the average ACT scores for Kansas students is 23.2. Depending on the ethnic group, minority students average scores range between 16.5 - 20.0. However, minority students are competitive when you compare grade point averages and class rank.

ACT scores for students selected for the Kansas Teacher scholarship in all categories ranged from 27 - 33. The one exception exists in the discipline of library media, where test scores of eligible applicants ranged from 18-23.

Race or ethnic background was not collected on the teacher

EDUC
3/18/91
A2-3

scholarship application. However, experience with a similar program, the Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program, would suggest that none of the applicants selected represents a minority group.

If it is the intent of the Legislature to include minority students in the selection of Kansas Teacher Scholarship recipients, this intent should be clarified in the legislation. Perhaps language found in the Nursing Scholarship Program would be sufficient for our staff to address in the rules and regulations. Briefly, this language stipulates that "to the extent practical and consistent with the provisions, consideration shall be given to minority applicants."

Unless we are able to stress these provisions, it is likely that minority students will not benefit from this program. Minority students achieving competitive scores on the ACT assessment usually do not consider education as a career path. These students usually pursue other areas such as engineering and math.

The second issue of concern relates to the continuation of the teacher scholarship beyond the undergraduate degree. The statute clearly states that the recipient be enrolled in an undergraduate program leading to teacher certification in a hard-to-fill discipline. However, it further stipulates that the scholarship shall be awarded for the length of the course of instruction leading to a degree that will enable to recipient to teach in a hard-to-fill teaching discipline.

According to our interpretation, teacher scholarships are restricted to students enrolled in undergraduate degree programs. Certain disciplines may require additional course work beyond the bachelor's degree for certification. It is our understanding that the recipient is not eligible to receive funds beyond the undergraduate degree, although the student is expected to complete all requirements for certification.

Students awarded the teacher scholarship for library media and special education have been told that certification to teach in these fields requires course work beyond the undergraduate degree. These recipients were also informed of the expectation to continue enrollment beyond the bachelor's degree to comply with the teaching obligation. These students were not promised additional scholarship monies for this course work.

It appears that it was the intent of the legislature to award scholarship funds for the duration of the program required to become certified in a hard-to-fill teaching discipline. However, it is the opinion of our staff that this is not permitted, unless legislation for awarding scholarships under the Kansas Teacher Scholarship Program is revised.

EDUC
3/18/91
A2-4