

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ralph Tanner at 9:00 a.m. on April 7, 1999 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Connie Burns, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Jerry Blakemore, President, Midwestern Higher Education Compact
Phillip Sirotkin, Chair, Midwestern Higher Education Compact

Others attending: See attached list

The Joint House and Senate Education Committees, Chaired by Representative Tanner and Senator Lawrence, met for a presentation by the Midwestern Higher Education Commission. Senator Lawrence called the meeting to order and asked Senator Oleen to introduce the Commission.

Senator Oleen introduced the president, Jerry Blakemore and the commission, with a brief background on the compact and the commissioners serving Kansas. (Attachment 1)

Jerry Blakemore, president, thanked the committee and the people of Kansas for the hospitality. He stated the purpose of the Compact is to advance Midwestern higher education through interstate cooperation and resource sharing. The Commission is the governing body of the Compact, and is comprised of five appointees from each member state. Three Commissioners are appointed by each state's governor, and two are appointed by the state's legislative leadership. the Commission meets twice annually to establish priorities and oversee the programs of the Compact.

The following are six programs active in Kansas:

1. Academic Course Scheduling Program
2. Interactive Video Classrooms
3. Midwest Telecommunications Alliance
4. Midwest Student Exchange Program
5. Regional Master Property Program
6. Natural Gas Program

Phillip Sirotkin, spoke on the goals and some of the programs. The Commission's goals are to:

- Enhance productivity through reductions in administrative costs
- Encourage student access, completion, and affordability
- Facilitate public policy analysis and information exchange
- Foster regional academic cooperation and services
- Promote quality educational programs
- Encourage innovation in the delivery of educational services.

The meeting was opened for questions and discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

MHEC in Kansas

Illinois Indiana **Kansas** Michigan Minnesota Missouri Nebraska Ohio Wisconsin

The Midwestern Higher Education Commission is a nonprofit regional organization established by compact statute to assist Midwestern states in advancing higher education through interstate cooperation and resource sharing.

Academic Course Scheduling Program \$109,300

Provides standards-based course scheduling software and support services to colleges and universities

Interactive Video Classrooms \$132,500

Provides standards-based interactive video classroom designs, equipment and support services

Midwest Telecommunications Alliance \$178,500

Provides colleges, universities, school districts and nonprofit organizations with worldwide voice, data, and video communications services

Midwest Student Exchange Program \$4,441,200

Enables students to attend colleges and universities out-of-state at reduced tuition rates

Regional Master Property Program N/A

Provides property insurance coverage tailored specifically to colleges and universities

Natural Gas Program N/A

Provides for regional natural gas procurement, transport, storage and local distribution to colleges, universities and state government

Gross Savings \$4,861,500
Less State Dues Paid \$464,000
Net Savings \$4,397,500

COMMISSIONERS

TOM BRYANT

*Interim Executive Director
 Kansas Board of Regents*

CHRISTINE DOWNEY

State Senator

DUANE GOOSSEN

State Budget Director

LINDA HOLLOWAY

Kansas State Board of Education

JEFF PETERSON

State Representative

**COMMISSIONER
 ALTERNATES**

LANA OLEEN

State Senator

RICHARD REINHARDT

State Representative

ANDY TOMPKINS

Commissioner of Education

Kansas



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