

Testimony opposing **SB193** from David Reist, President, Highland Community College

Dear Representative Highland,

I want to talk with you about SB 193. This is the bill that requires a degree prospectus. **Nearly all of this information is already accumulated, accessible and exists without any extra cost to the State or to the colleges.**

SB 193 requires: A degree prospectus to allow students and their parents to make informed decisions on their investment in higher education.

- a description of each degree program offered by such institution
- average years to obtain degree;
- aggregate cost and cost per year incurred by the individual;
- aggregate degree investment incurred by an individual subtracting grants and scholarships awarded;
- average time between graduation and full-time employment;
- a graphical representation of the salary distribution of students who obtain the degree;
- percentage of graduates who obtain the degree and become employed in the field from such institution;
- percentage of graduates who are employed within six months from the date of graduation; and a chart displaying the number of years required to fully recoup the degree;
- investment incurred by an individual

Community Colleges run lean and provide affordable higher education. We do not all have Institutional Research Staff, but we do believe in transparency and helping students and parents understand our colleges and what it costs to attend as well as career and salary expectations.

We think we can provide most of what you want without any additional cost to our colleges or the State by promoting and using **the U.S. Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences National Center for Education Statistics** website called the **College Navigator**.

It is a free tool for students and parents that allows them to search the database of nearly 7,000 colleges and universities in the United States. As you navigate the college decision process, the U.S. Department of Education provides tools for you and your family to make it easy to compare important information such as college costs, average student loan debt, and graduation rates across different institutions.

By using the **Net Price Calculator** one can explore the net price of any given college - that is, the price after subtracting the scholarships and grants you are likely to receive. Then, you can easily compare estimated net prices across the institutions that you are considering. This is at <http://collegecost.ed.gov/netpricecenter.aspx>

In addition, KBOR produces a report called **The Kansas Training Information Program (K-TIP)**

http://www.kansasregents.org/workforce_development

This report addresses:

the technical degrees and certificates awarded at the 2 year colleges,
the total # students Enrolled in technical Courses,
total # graduates,
total # pursuing additional education,
total # of technical program major students completing at least 12 hours in the discipline exiting and employed, represents the average earnings of program graduates within the declared majors who: left public postsecondary education; and were determined to be employed by the end of the 2nd quarter following the end of the academic year; and for which salary information was available.

Wages are calculated on an annual basis as reported by students during the follow-up surveys conducted by the institution and/or reported through a review of the unemployment insurance files provided by the Kansas Department of Labor as available.