METL is a regional coalition of the Manhattan, Emporia, Topeka, and Lawrence Chambers of Commerce.

- Collective voice of nearly 3,000 Kansas businesses.
- Motto: Stronger Together
- Bringing business communities and legislators together to think and act regionally.
- 26 seats in the Kansas Legislature
Manhattan
- State University
- Technical College
- Independent College
- Federal Laboratory
- Military Base
- Regional Airport
- I-70 Corridor

Emporia
- State University
- Technical College
- Industrial & Manufacturing
- County Government
- I-35 Corridor
- I-70 Corridor
Topeka

• Municipal University
• Technical College
• State Capitol
• County Government
• Industrial & Manufacturing
• Service Sector
• I-70 Corridor

Lawrence

• State University
• Haskell Indian Nations U
• County Government
• Commuters to Topeka/KC
• I-70 Corridor
Legislative Advocacy
GET KANSAS STUDENTS READY TO WORK.
Availability of a trained and competent workforce is the most acute economic issue facing Kansas. METL urges the state to work with employers to develop creative approaches to workforce development and talent attraction. METL actively supports increased funding for higher education, career technical training and urges further collaboration among all the relevant stakeholders (K-12, higher education, early childhood education providers, technical educators, community colleges and the business community) in the area of workforce training.
Higher Education Funding Support Letter sent to Kansas Legislative Delegation

40 Senators
125 Representatives

March 18, 2019

Honorable Members of the Kansas Legislature,

On behalf of the Manhattan Emporia Topeka Lawrence (METL) coalition of chambers and its nearly 3,000 collective membership, we write to you to request your support of the Kansas Board of Regents funding request, which would add $560 million in state support for state universities and $27 million for Washburn University, community colleges and technical colleges.

Availability of a trained and competent workforce is the number one economic issue facing Kansas. METL urges the state to work with employers to develop creative approaches to workforce development and talent attraction. One of the chief avenues to achieve this goal is greater focus on resources dedicated to higher education.

During the Fall of 2018, METL conducted four Workforce Development Summits where business leaders were matched up with the University Presidents to dialogue on challenges. Those meetings allowed the university administrators and employers to identify challenges to recruiting a talented workforce for Kansas businesses. A recurring theme was higher education funding.

This talent shortage is a crisis nationally, and particularly in Kansas. We believe that increasing investment in higher education will improve our talent pipeline in Kansas.

Kansas businesses have a long history of innovation, entrepreneurship and hard work. We are proud to be part of that tradition and want to see our state’s economy flourish for decades to come. We hope that you will consider the Regents’ request as a way to support business and economic growth.

Respectfully,

METL – The Chambers of Commerce of Manhattan, Emporia, Topeka, and Lawrence
METL Workforce Summit

College/University CEOs – Business Community Leaders
Summits held in each member community
Leaders across the state are joining forces to build a better workforce.

https://www.wibw.com/content/news/Leaders-across-the-state-are-joining-forces-to-build-a-better-workforce-504128151.html
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