

Governor Declares 'Kansas Private College Week'; Schools to Host Week of Visits



Photo from Office of the Governor of Kansas

From left to right: Dr. Doug Penner, President, Kansas Independent College Association; Mr. Ron Hovis, President, McPherson College (McPherson); Louise Cummings-Simmons, VP for Enrollment Management, Baker University (Baldwin City); Kathleen Sebelius, Governor of Kansas; Dr. Ed Robinson, President, MidAmerica Nazarene University (Olathe); Dr. Phil Kerstetter, President, Kansas Wesleyan University (Salina); Dr. John Sheriff, President (interim), Bethel College (North Newton); Dr. Paul Formo, President, Bethany College (Lindsborg)

Winfield, Kan., May 3, 2006 – Governor Kathleen Sebelius has declared June 5-9, 2006, Kansas Private College Week, celebrating the wide range of choices among the state's higher education offerings.

The 18 private colleges in the state will mark the week with a special campus visit event, encouraging interested students and their guests to spend time at any or all of the schools.

Participating in Kansas Private College Week are Baker University (Baldwin City), Benedictine College (Atchison), Bethany College (Lindsborg), Bethel College (North Newton), Central Christian College (McPherson), Donnelly College (Kansas City), Friends University (Wichita), Hesston College, Kansas Wesleyan University (Salina), Manhattan Christian College, McPherson College, MidAmerica Nazarene University (Olathe), Newman University (Wichita), Ottawa University, Southwestern College (Winfield), Sterling College, Tabor College (Hillsboro), and University of Saint Mary (Leavenworth).

"We are hoping that high school students take advantage of this week to begin to explore their opportunities in Kansas private colleges and universities." says Doug Penner, president of the Kansas Independent Colleges Association. "For the student who hopes to combine outstanding academic

achievement with a personalized, relationship-intensive college experience, we believe the private colleges are ideal.”

Penner adds that opportunities to participate in varied activities and intercollegiate athletics are available to students at all of the schools.

About 22,000 students from across the nation enroll at the Kansas private colleges each year. These schools annually award about 21 percent of the state’s bachelor’s degrees, and about 27 percent of the state’s master’s degrees.

The institutions support their students through generous financial aid, awarding more than \$57 million each year in institutional grants and scholarships to supplement grants and scholarships from the federal and state governments.

For more information on Kansas private colleges, or on Kansas Private College Week, contact Mark Millikan at (785) 235-9877 or visit www.kscolleges.org.