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## **Governor names Ed McKechnie to Board of Regents**

To promote and advance Kansas' higher education institutions, Governor Mark Parkinson has appointed Ed McKechnie to the Kansas Board of Regents. The governor named McKechnie to serve the remainder of former member William (Bill) Thornton's term which expires in June 2010. Thornton resigned after being named Secretary of the Department of Commerce.

"As a state legislator, business leader and lifelong Kansan, Ed has always been dedicated to promoting and improving all that our state has to offer," said Parkinson. "Ed knows from his many years in business that a strong economy requires a skilled, educated workforce. He will bring a unique perspective to the Board of Regents as it continues its critical mission of upholding our higher education institutions."

McKechnie is a former state representative and currently, the chief commercial officer for Watco Companies, Inc. During his tenure in the Kansas House of Representatives between 1991 and 2001, he served on a variety of committees, including Appropriations and the joint committee on Legislative Post Audit. For the past 10 years, McKechnie has been with Watco Companies, Inc. based in Pittsburg, leading the transportation company's business development, communications and government affairs divisions. Additionally, he is the secretary/treasurer on the Kansas Bioscience Authority Board, an entity committed to advancing Kansas' leadership in bioscience. McKechnie attained a bachelor of arts from Pittsburg State University and currently resides with his wife, Kristine, and his two young children on a ranch near Arcadia.

The Kansas Board of Regents is a nine-member body which governs the state's six universities, and supervises and coordinates 19 community colleges, six technical colleges, and one municipal university. Members are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Kansas Senate. Along with serving on the board, each member works on various councils and committees, primarily in the education field, throughout the year. These councils and committees draw on studies to determine allocation of funds, distribution of support materials and in making administrative decisions.

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