

March 23, 2021

Dear Chair Billinger and Member of the Senate Ways and Means Committee:

The University of Kansas, Kansas State University and Wichita State University are submitting written testimony in support of passing HB 2101. This legislation would extend University Engineering Initiative Act (UEIA) for another ten years allowing us to continue graduating engineers and providing workforce to businesses in Kansas. Please find attached with our testimony information about the UEIA as well as statements of support from businesses across Kansas that benefit from hiring our graduates.

Sincerely,



Richard B. Myers  
President  
Kansas State University



Douglas A. Girod  
Chancellor  
University of Kansas



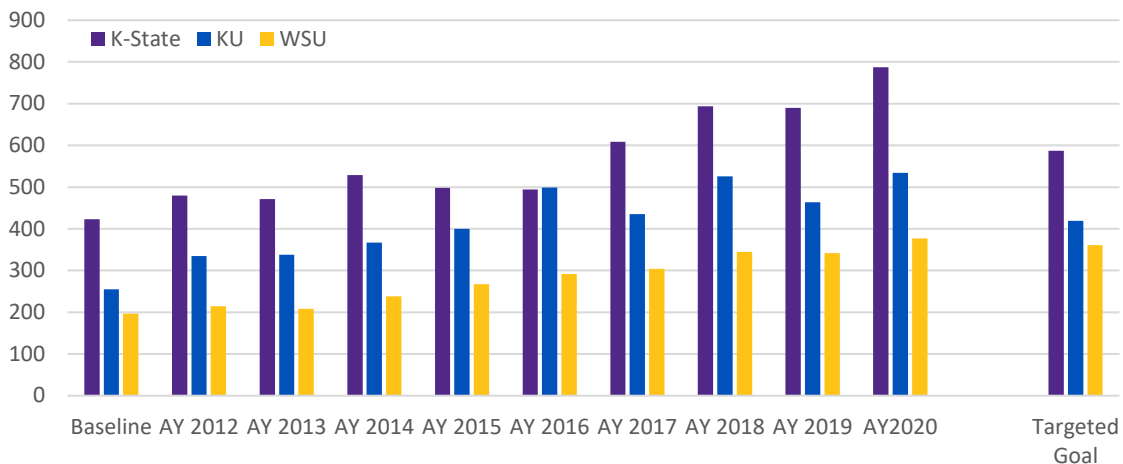
Richard D. Muma  
Interim President  
Wichita State University

# University Engineering Initiative Act (UEIA) Overview

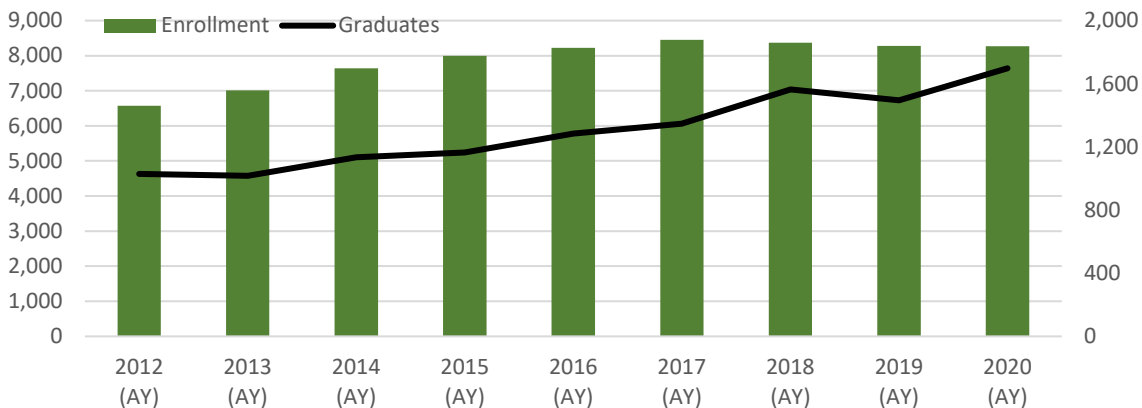
The overall goal of the UEIA was to increase the number of engineering graduates from Kansas State University, the University of Kansas, and Wichita State University from 875 graduates per year (collectively) to 1,365 graduates per year by 2021.

- The UEIA bill passed on May 25, 2011, providing \$105 million to the three schools over the ten-year period of the Act. Each school is provided \$3.5 million per year. Funds are from the Expanded Lottery Act Revenues Fund (not state general fund).
- Each school needed to provide a fund match of 1:1. Current scholarships alone, without including other programmatic support, provide a nearly 3:1 match.
- The schools have met and exceeded the goal of graduating 1,365 students by the year 2021. Demand for graduates remains strong; 95% of graduates are either employed in the workforce or seeking additional professional education.

## ENGINEERING GRADUATES



## ENGINEERING ENROLLMENT AND GRADUATES - ALL SCHOOLS





Hanna Bohl  
Netsmart Technologies  
11100 Nall Ave.  
Overland Park, KS, 66211  
January 18, 2021

Matt O'Keefe  
1046 Rathbone Hall,  
1701B  
Plat St., Manhattan, KS 66506

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of the campus recruiting team at Netsmart regarding the University Engineering Initiative Act (UEIA). Over the years, Netsmart has created a respected rapport with the engineering program at Kansas State. Working with faculty, student groups and different programs such as the ELI program, Netsmart has connected with a significant pool of engineering candidates who provide top talent to our company.

The UEIA provides students with the proper education and resources, along with a team of skilled facility members to help them successfully pursue their enthusiasm for engineering. In turn, this translates to promoted growth in our company. Netsmart truly values the funding and matching that UEIA provides to Kansas State University, as we have seen the impact of expansion and retention in our Kansas City offices and in our engagement with students on campus.

We hope for a positive outcome in the UEIA extension, as funding for talent in our Kansas City region not only plays an important role in our recruiting and retention efforts, but also in the future of the Kansas State Engineering students.

Warm regards,

Hanna Bohl  
Talent Acquisition Partner (Campus Recruiting)

---

[www.ntst.com](http://www.ntst.com)

4950 College Boulevard  
Overland Park, KS 66211  
800.842.1973



Garmin International, Inc.  
1200 East 151st Street  
Olathe, Kansas 66062  
P: 913-397-8200 F: 913-397-8282

January 19, 2021

Dr. Matthew J. O'Keefe  
Kansas State University  
Carl R. Ice College of Engineering  
1046 Rathbone Hall  
1701B Platt Street  
Manhattan, KS 66506

Dear Matt:

Garmin is a global technology company that brings GPS navigation and wearable technology to the automotive, aviation, marine, outdoor, and fitness markets. Our engineering group will ideate, design, code, and test over 100 new products each year. This takes a team of over 5,000 global engineering associates with 2,000 employed at our Olathe, Kansas headquarters. We anticipate hiring 150 engineers at our Olathe location in the next year to support our product line growth. Each summer we provide over 200 internships. Most of our Kansas-based engineers graduate from regional universities with a plurality coming from Kansas State University. Many of these graduates were prior Garmin interns.

Garmin has enjoyed a long relationship with Kansas State University and its faculty. The university has an excellent engineering program, which is in part due to the programs funded by the State of Kansas University Engineering Initiative Act (UEIA). Kansas State University and its faculty understand our need for highly educated engineers in areas such as embedded computer design, RF design, mechanical design, and cyber software that are critical in our products. Throughout the years, we have recruited and hired hundreds of KSU graduates.

Having superior engineering talent at our headquarters is essential to Garmin's future success as we compete against such companies as Apple, Facebook, Fitbit, and Samsung in the global marketplace. A strong local high-tech job market also assists in retaining engineering graduates in Kansas rather than having them relocate to other states.

We appreciate and need superior graduates from Kansas institutions to fuel Garmin's bright future. We appreciate the Kansas Legislature's support of higher education and appeal for their renewal of the State of Kansas University Engineering Initiative act (UEIA) to strengthen the Kansas State University staff and programs and their graduate's competencies.

Best regards,

GARMIN INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Michael R. Wieggers  
Vice President, Consumer Engineering



HALLMARK CARDS, INC.  
2501 MCGEE, MAIL DROP 701  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64108  
(816) 274-7939

**BETH WARD**  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT – GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN

January 15, 2021

Dear Dean O’Keefe:

I am writing to express my strong support for engineering education in the state of Kansas. Hallmark has been a strong employer in Kansas for over fifty years, with our Lawrence Production Center producing the majority of Hallmark’s global greeting card volume and our Leavenworth Production Center producing nearly all of Hallmark’s gift wrap.

In the last 20 years, Hallmark has hired 56 engineers from K-State’s Engineering program. It is critical to Hallmark’s supply chain success, especially in our Kansas production plants, that a steady stream of strong engineering talent is available for our intern and new hire pipeline. In fact, one-third of my current global leadership team at the VP- and Director-levels are made of up of K-State engineers who started their careers in our plants – together this team leads a \$2B global supply chain for one of the world’s most iconic and beloved brands. Hence, you can clearly see that K-State engineers contribute at every level of our company’s success.

Hallmark has successfully provided ‘made-in-Kansas’ greeting cards and roll wrap to our consumers for decades, and we plan to continue for many years to come. We must employ engineers in our Kansas plants who want to stay in Kansas... K-State’s program has proven incredibly successful in feeding that pipeline. It is important to our business that this continues.

Thank you for your support!

**Beth Ward**  
Senior Vice President – Global Supply Chain

## TESTIMONIALS

### **STEVE EDWARDS**

#### **Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Black & Veatch**

“Black & Veatch is a global company focusing on engineering, procurement, construction and consulting in critical infrastructure. Our success across the power, water, and telecommunications sectors – along with our work in oil and gas, mining, data centers, smart cities, and federal business lines – is greatly dependent on being able to recruit a wide range of qualified engineering and technology-focused professionals from our state’s regents universities. The talent and innovation being unlocked by engineering graduates, funded by the University Engineering Initiative Act, has been critical to supporting our growing workforce and diversification of the markets we serve. Our success – and that of other firms in the region and state – depends on these graduates. I strongly encourage the Kansas Legislature to extend the UEIA funding to continue investing in educating and graduating engineers for Kansas.”

### **CLIFF ILLIG**

#### **Founder, EnterpriseKC**

“The future of the Kansas economy depends on our ability to support enterprise companies, defined as businesses, regardless of size, that derive 70% or more of their revenue from outside the region. One of the key components to building a strong enterprise business is to establish a highly talented and skilled workforce. The University Engineering Initiative Act grows this workforce for Kansas in high-need sectors, including computer science and cybersecurity, building the foundation our state needs to compete in a competitive global economy.”

### **RICH SMITH, PE**

#### **President, CEO, Henderson Engineers**

“Over the past 10 years, Henderson Engineers has doubled in size and continued our rise as a national player in many areas of expertise. Without question, our growth and success has been fueled by a significant number of quality engineering graduates from the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, and Wichita State University. We are fortunate to be forecasting continued growth and success in the years to come. Without strong and growing engineering programs at our state universities, the progress at firms such as Henderson will be limited, restricting our economic impact on the State of Kansas. It is vital that the Kansas Legislature continue its investment in the University Engineering Initiative Act (UEIA) to bolster the economic prosperity of the state. Engineers continue to be in great demand in the workplace, and our Kansas universities produce some of the best in the industry. The resources and investment in collegiate engineering programs must continue for us to provide the best possible opportunities for young professionals and engineering firms to move the State of Kansas forward at the highest levels possible.”

## **Spirit AeroSystems**

Spirit AeroSystems relies on visionary engineers to design advanced structures and factories of the future suited for high-rate production. Our partnership with Wichita State University has enabled us to deliver our commitments to our customers while providing applied learning opportunities to students that lead to career opportunities in Kansas. Continued investment in WSU's engineering infrastructure will allow our industry to tap into high-quality talent that helps keep engineering students in the state after graduating. As the legislature considers renewing the Engineering Expansion Act, we encourage it to assign performance measures that are directly linked to industry needs. This will help ensure Kansas' engineering programs remain relevant to the rapidly changing needs of the aerospace and defense industry.

Sean Black PhD FIMechE FRAeS  
Vice President Chief Engineer

## **Great Plains Ventures**

Great Plains Ventures, was founded by an out of work engineer who took a risk and started a business. Fifty years later, the family of holdings in the Great Plains Ventures portfolio includes design and manufacturing companies Aerospace Systems and Components (ASC) and Great Plains Industries (GPI). Both companies are continually developing new products and must have well trained engineers. Some of our best engineers started as WSU interns who honed their skills while in school and joined us fulltime after graduation. Having these well qualified engineers is essential to our businesses. It allows us to grow employment in all areas of the companies. As a medium sized company, developing engineers here in Kansas is makes much more sense than trying to recruit engineers from out of state. We encourage renewal of the Engineering Expansion Act to help us continue to grow.

Susayn Brandes  
President & CEO

## **Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce**

"The Wichita region is a Midwestern hub for highly-skilled engineering talent. Not only do we graduate large numbers of accomplished engineering students from Wichita State University, but south central Kansas also attracts gifted engineers to work for the dynamic Kansas companies that have chosen to locate here. The Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce supports continued investment in our state's engineering infrastructure through the University Engineering Initiative Act (UEIA) so that our member companies can continue to thrive and grow. We also urge the Kansas Legislature to designate performance metrics for the UEIA that are tied directly to the rapidly-changing needs of industry partners."

Gary Plummer  
President/CEO

## **Textron Aviation**

Textron Aviation relies on Kansas Board of Regents schools to graduate pioneering engineers to launch our next generation aircraft, introduce ground-breaking technology into our factories of the future and design aftermarket upgrade solutions for Kansas-built aircraft owned and operated world-wide. Continued investment in Wichita State University's engineering infrastructure provides Textron Aviation access to high-quality talent who will call the Air Capital of the World home. We encourage the legislature to renew the University Engineering Initiative Act to ensure Kansas' engineering programs continue to evolve with the rapidly changing needs of the business and general aviation and defense industries.

Douglas Scott  
Manager Government and Public Affairs

## **Bunting Magnetics**

As a Kansas-based manufacturer that supplies global industrial customers, product design and innovation are core to our success. Our proximity to Wichita State University, along with previous collaboration, have presented us with the opportunity to provide meaningful careers to many local graduates. A large number of our current engineering staff have been originally introduced to Bunting through an intern program, or referral from a peer student from WSU. Even at this present time, the future of our own company's global product development is guided by a WSU alum.

Continued investment in the engineering infrastructure of WSU is vital to the growth of manufacturing and technology in Kansas. I encourage the legislature to renew the University Engineering Initiative Act.

Rob Henricks  
Director