



State of Kansas Conference

May 6, 2025

To Presidents of Higher Education Institutions in Kansas,

According to published statistics from [NAFSA and International Education](#), Kansas is home to 8,685 international students. These students, and their economic contributions to the state, are threatened by the policies of the Trump administration. They contributed \$236.1 million to the state's economy and supported 1,577 jobs. The current administration has intensified its attacks on faculty and students: refusing scholars entry into the country, stripping students of their legal status and revoking visas, and seizing students in preparation for deportation. These actions, which are brazen attacks on the First Amendment and the right to learn have been enacted by hidden bureaucrats and masked agents and have proceeded without any semblance of due process. In addition to their impact on international students they also strike at the heart of academic freedom and the international community of scholars.

The Kansas Conference of the AAUP strongly and unequivocally condemns this targeting of international students and scholars.

The Kansas Conference of the AAUP is calling on all colleges and universities within the State of Kansas to take concrete steps to support students and scholars at risk and refuse to assist in this assault on higher education. We are calling upon leaders of all higher education institutions within the State of Kansas to:

1. Stop turning over personal student information in response to Title VI investigations.
2. Make a clear commitment to avoid voluntary cooperation or information sharing with Immigration and Customs Enforcement or other federal agencies charged with facilitating deportation or other forms of immigration enforcement.
3. Make a clear commitment to not comply with Section 3 of the expanded Executive Order 13899, which calls for universities to “monitor for and report activities by alien students and staff relevant to those grounds and for ensuring that such reports about aliens lead, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, to investigations and, if warranted, actions to remove such aliens.”

4. Keep international students enrolled in the event of visa revocation, legal status termination, detention, and/or deportation, and to follow the lead of institutions which have successfully advocated to make this happen.
5. Allow these international students and scholars to continue their studies and research remotely, if necessary.
6. Ensure that graduate students whose enrollment is contingent upon funding through graduate teaching or research appointments can continue their coursework, research, and teaching activities, even if this means that the institution covers the increased cost of assigning additional teaching appointments to a graduate student not residing in the United States.
7. Devote resources to communicating reliable, timely information to international students and scholars, including immediate notification of changes in their legal status.
8. Provide and pay for legal counsel for those students and scholars whose visas have been revoked.
9. Work swiftly and affirmatively—through lawsuits, if necessary—to stop the termination of legal status of students and scholars without any due process.

At a moment when the future of higher education and free speech are in peril, Kansas higher education institutions have obligations beyond doing no harm. If they fail to protect these international students and scholars, they jeopardize the safety and academic freedom of *all* students and scholars.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Turner, President