The Health Education Initiative
Addressing Kansas’ crucial physician shortage

The University of Kansas School of Medicine is the only medical school in Kansas and a premier institution for training primary care and rural physicians. To meet the state’s growing need for doctors, the school in 2011 opened a new campus in Salina and expanded its Wichita campus.

Despite these efforts, the state still doesn’t have enough physicians, and the shortage is expected to worsen in coming years. Meanwhile, KU’s health education facilities in Kansas City have reached capacity.

New education facilities in Kansas City
To continue the momentum created by expansions in Salina and Wichita and to train additional health care providers for Kansas communities, KU will continue seeking support for new education facilities on the Kansas City campus. This investment would:

- Enable the School of Medicine to increase the class size on its Kansas City campus by 50 students, from the current 175 to the proposed 225 students, by fall 2017
- Ensure that students are trained in the technologically advanced simulation environment required by the modern health care education curriculum

The projected cost to expand our Kansas City facilities is $75 million. KU Medical Center has already identified $35 million, including private gifts, for this project. Last year, the state appropriated $1 million to begin planning the facility. **KU will continue seeking public and private support to build these desperately needed new facilities.**

In addition to expanding facilities in Kansas City, KU continues to seek support to ensure the long-term stability of the School of Medicine–Wichita campus. That campus opened in 1971 to provide hands-on clinical training to medical students in their third and fourth years and in 2011 expanded to a full, four-year campus. Today, the campus has 28 first- and second-year medical students and 55 additional students transferring from Kansas City for their third- and fourth-year training.

What comes next?
As the only medical school in the state, KU is the only entity capable of addressing Kansas’ crucial physician shortage. That’s why it’s imperative that policymakers join us in advancing our Health Education Initiative to provide Kansas communities the physicians they desperately need.

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