



Kansas Applied Learning Scholarships Brief

• WSU School of Social Work •

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OVERVIEW

The Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) invests \$5,000,000 in applied learning opportunities at Wichita State University (WSU) annually. This brief examines the impact of the monies on affordability, retention, and workforce development for undergraduate and graduate social work students.

IMPLEMENTATION

In the 2025 Spring semester:

- 65 social work students were awarded applied learning scholarships
- These students completed over 13,000 hours of applied learning in Kansas communities

DATA

To evaluate the impact of funding, we examined:

- Student retention and completion rates in applied learning courses
- Surveys completed by
 - 27 students
 - 29 supervisors and faculty

RESULTS

According to the data:

- 100% of students were retained and completed their applied learning commitment
- 100% of students reported the scholarship had a positive or extremely positive impact on their connection to WSU
- 96% of students reported the scholarship had a positive or extremely positive impact on their mental health
- 73% of students reported the scholarship had a positive or extremely positive impact on their connection to Kansas

“This grant made all the difference for myself and my classmates”

“This funding has been a vital lifeline”

“[This scholarship] has eliminated any fears that I would not be able to make ends meet as a student”

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the evidence, we recommend KBOR and WSU continue to fund applied learning experiences for social work students to increase affordability, retain students, and strengthen the Kansas pipeline for social workers.

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