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State budget cuts spare higher education

A sluggish economy and lower than expected state revenues necessitated state budget cuts of more than \$540 million, according to state lawmakers and Governor John Engler. Along with the budget cuts, state spending priorities were reordered.

The higher education and K-12 education budgets were not cut, as lawmakers and the governor recognized the need to fund schools throughout the state to the fullest extent possible. Sparing education budgets was made possible in part by an agreement to shift \$350 million from the state's rainy day fund.

Oakland University will receive a 1.65 percent increase over last year's appropriation.

"We are grateful to the governor and the legislature that they held higher education harmless as they made painful and difficult budget cuts," said Oakland University President Gary D. Russi. "This action demonstrates that they put a high value on a quality education for students.

"We recognize that the economic climate in the state is not very favorable at this time, and that everyone has to tighten their belts. That said, Oakland University is committed to remaining fiscally prudent and to providing a quality education at an affordable cost for all our students."

SUMMARY

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