



## KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

February 18, 2014

#### *Support for LB 826*

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**Vice President of Workforce Development**  
**Kansas Board of Regents**

Chairman Sullivan and members of the Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to support LB 826 which will begin planning for a career and technical education incentive program to improve opportunities for students and economic development in Nebraska. Our Kansas experience may assist these planning efforts.

In 2012, Kansas Senate Bill 155 became law and launched a bold and innovative plan to enhance career technical education in Kansas and better prepare high school students for college and careers. Senate Bill 155 provides free college tuition for high school students in postsecondary technical education courses and incentives to school districts for students earning industry-recognized credentials in high demand occupations. The initiative has received national recognition as “Top Ten Innovations to Watch” from the Brookings Institute.

#### **Financial components included in Senate Bill 155:**

- ★ Student tuition payment
- ★ \$1000 incentive to high schools for students earning an industry-recognized credential
- ★ Transportation reimbursement to provide student access to postsecondary programs
- ★ Marketing to increase student participation in career technical programs

#### **First Year Success**

- ★ Significant enrollment growth in postsecondary career technical education: over 6,100 secondary students enrolled in college level technical education courses generating over 44,000 college technical education credit hours - *a 50% increase in headcount and 54% increase in college credit hours over the previous year*

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Headcount	3,475	3,870	6,101
College Credit Hours	28,000	28,161	44,087

★ LEADING HIGHER EDUCATION ★

- ★ 711 (694 Public High School; 17 Private High School) secondary students earned industry-recognized credentials leading to a high demand occupation prior to graduation—*an increase of 28% over the 548 credentials earned the previous year*
- ★ Major areas for secondary student certifications: Health; Construction; Manufacturing; Automotive

### **Additional Benefits**

The legislation has provided a structural connection between secondary and postsecondary education. School districts and colleges are planning together to provide a seamless educational pathway for students. In some areas, joint program advisory committees are being developed to provide industry guidance to both secondary and postsecondary education. As well, individual plans of study for every high school student are now highly recommended which will provide smoother transitions into postsecondary education.

Thank you for the opportunity to enter this testimony in the written record. Please contact me if you have any questions.

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION  
**LEGISLATIVE BILL 826**

Introduced by McCoy, 39.

Read first time January 13, 2014

Committee: Education

A BILL

- 1 FOR AN ACT relating to education; to state findings; to provide for a  
2 study relating to education incentives for high-need  
3 occupations as prescribed; and to provide for a report  
4 and recommendations.  
5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. The Legislature finds that there is a need to  
2 create a career technical education in Nebraska. Such program would  
3 provide incentives to community colleges and high schools which  
4 cooperatively offer a technical-education curriculum by which high  
5 school juniors and seniors can take courses that allow them to  
6 graduate from high school with both a high school diploma and an  
7 industry-recognized credential in an occupation identified as a high-  
8 need occupation.

9           Sec. 2. The Education Committee of the Legislature shall  
10 conduct a study and report recommendations for a plan to implement  
11 the career and technical education incentive program described in  
12 section 1 of this act. The study shall include, but not be limited  
13 to:

14           (1) Identifying the purpose, role, and mission of a  
15 career technical education;

16           (2) Identifying Nebraska's high-need occupations and the  
17 Nebraska locations most in need of skilled labor to fill such  
18 occupations;

19           (3) Identifying the industry credentials that support the  
20 high-need occupations;

21           (4) Identifying what training programs are available for  
22 the high-need occupations and where those programs are located in  
23 Nebraska;

24           (5) Identifying necessary education programs for the  
25 high-need occupations which are lacking in the state;

1           (6) Determining how the community colleges and the  
2 cooperating high schools will provide the credits to qualifying high  
3 school students;

4           (7) Identifying the costs of such plan, including, but  
5 not limited to, marketing and transportation costs;

6           (8) Studying the award of college credit to the high  
7 school student;

8           (9) Recommendations for high school incentives for  
9 credentials earned, including, but not limited to, what courses  
10 should be eligible for funding under the program; and

11           (10) Recommend whether an existing commission or a new  
12 commission should oversee implementation of the plan.

13           The Education Committee shall request input from the  
14 Department of Economic Development, the Department of Labor, the  
15 Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, the Career and  
16 Technical Education division of the State Department of Education,  
17 the community colleges, state and local chambers of commerce, labor  
18 unions, an association of school administrators, and other interested  
19 parties as a part of conducting the study.

20           Sec. 3. The Education Committee of the Legislature shall  
21 report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and to the  
22 Legislature on or before December 31, 2014.