

Appendix A:

Support Letters
Community



2562 CENTENNIAL RD
SALINA, KS 67401
785.309.3100
WWW.SALINATECH.EDU

October 28, 2021

Dear Dr. Starkey,

The Salina community has been fortunate to have the availability of higher education services to serve the people in Saline County and the region. The unique blend of offerings available through the universities and college located in Salina has been coordinated beautifully for many decades among Kansas State University, Kansas Wesleyan University, the University of Kansas, and Salina Area Technical College. Each institution brings some positive energy to the region and offers some unique programs as well complementary offerings that allow students to live and work in the region.

The community and region are made better from the investment given by the constituents and businesses around Salina. The synergy among the colleges is manifest in various partnerships, articulations, and agreements that leverage valuable resources for the common good. The focus on critical infrastructure needs allows each college or university to play a critical role in the growth and development of the community and the region, despite scarcity of resources. Although we serve the same region, our collective missions serve to meet the needs of everyone in the region.

The Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) program at KSU is among the best in the nation and provides critical diversity among the aviation focal point of the campus in Salina. As a neighbor to KSU, the people of Salina Tech share values in developing our programs to reach the ultimate capabilities to serve our students. With such an esteemed partner institution in our community, we have allocated our resources to meeting other needs for the region. However, I shutter the thought that our decision to not compete with KSU in the UAS program would relegate Salina Tech into an unfavorable position.

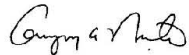
The AAS degree that KSU desires to offer brings angst among college peer institutions and the Technical Education Authority (TEA). My own organization does not offer the program, but providing this option to any other college to come into Saline County would be rejected by Salina Tech. The resources available at KSU are already sufficient to provide the program and the revenue stream they project does not threaten the community and technical college funding model currently. I would certainly join the many college presidents who object to the AAS degree option if the funding model for colleges were accessed by universities, or if the allocation for Excel in CTE funds were made available for universities.

The resources already made available for universities from the state of Kansas are more than three times the funding allocation for colleges. Thus, the source of funding for universities and colleges are, and should remain, separate to ensure the resources needed to provide higher education in Kansas remains accessible to all Kansans. Having said that, KSU and Salina Tech often partner in order to save the taxpayer and we would be a welcome partner if needed.

From our perspective, KSU already has the UAS program and we choose not to compete with them for the benefit of our community. I have thought extensively about the perspective of mission creep, resource allocation, and various other concepts that my peers may have considered. This issue is very dynamic and has many points to consider. I would say that my greater fear in this proposal is that people all across the state seemed more upset about KSU offering an AAS degree than about Salina Tech being infringed upon by various other colleges. Infringement was evident among many college leaders and TEA members who repeatedly and consistently cited partnering with Cloud Community College or WSU Tech who already have similar programs. The reality is that duplicate programs exist throughout the state in many areas including some that were recently approved, such as Welding and Construction, yet forced collaboration was not cited in those cases.

Salina Tech has for the past five years been the fastest growing college in Kansas. We grew 22% this year after the decline due to the pandemic. Our community knows the value of Salina Tech and realizes our limited resources. We cannot afford to be all things to everyone, but we must protect the resources that have been invested in this community. Salina Tech realizes the investment you have made in the UAS program and wish you success in meeting the needs of the aviation industry. We stand ready to assist KSU if the Board of Regents determines that the AAS degree should not be awarded and will seek to work with you and your team to collaborate as we have on many occasions.

Sincerely,



Gregory A. Nichols



August 24, 2021

Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Support for the Kansas State University Salina UAS Associate Degree

Dear Regents:

This letter is in support of Kansas State University (KSU) Salina Campus' submission of an Associate of Applied Science in UAS. We have partnered with KSU for over 20 to support early entry into aviation and STEM-related careers and anticipate expanding these opportunities for students as we work together to fulfill the board's new strategic plan, *Building a Future*.

The Polytechnic Center for Applied Technology Studies (PolyCATS) Academy allows high school students in Salina to earn industry-recognized credentials and receive college credit toward an associate degree. We look forward to adding the UAS associate degree to the other offerings available to students from Salina Tech, KSU Salina, and Kansas Wesleyan University.

This proposal supports KBOR's goals of affordability, access, and success for students and families. The initial cohort of PolyCATS students this fall saved over \$20,000 in tuition by taking classes in high school. Students in the Academy are able to enter the workforce in highly skilled jobs upon graduation. This program is critical to supporting the economic growth and viability of Salina. In addition, the stackability of these classes ensures that 100% of coursework transfers to bachelor's degrees for students who want a four-year degree.

KSU Salina has nationally ranked curricula for education and training in unmanned systems and we want our students to have the opportunity to learn from them while still in high school.

We strongly encourage your positive consideration of Salina's associate degree proposal.

Sincerely,

Geoff Andrews
Superintendent of Schools
Diocese of Salina



Area Chamber of Commerce

120 W. Ash, P.O. Box 586 • Salina, KS 67402-0586 • 785-827-9301 • fx 785-827-9758 • www.salinakansas.org

9/13/2021

Dr. Blake Flanders
President and CEO
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Dr. Flanders,

It is an exciting time in Salina overall and equally exciting around the aerospace and aviation industry. Salina has had numerous economic development related expansions and projects including an MRO and increased flight testing and new aerospace and aviation opportunities in the pipeline. The purpose of this letter is to demonstrate the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce's support of KSU Salina's proposed associate's degree in unmanned aircraft systems.

KSU Salina was an early adopter in unmanned aerial systems going back to 2007, with that experience comes national prominence and recognition specific to both the quality of education and long term, trusted relationships with both public and private partners. KSU Salina received the nation's first Federal Aviation Administration that permits KSU Salina to fly unmanned aircraft beyond visual line of sight, or BVLOS, in all Class G airspace nationwide. This is just one example of the difference in the outcomes and quality of the research and UAS degree programs being offered in Salina: other UAS degree programs in Kansas are either in their infancy or very niche to a specific industry.

KSU Salina focuses on developing professional aviators in sectors like public safety, utilities, military, maintenance of aircraft systems and many more. As you are aware, there is a workforce shortage across numerous sectors but specifically in the realm of aviation and aerospace. As with any high demand, low supply workforce scenario, technology is being developed and looked at to create new efficiencies like utility partners using UAS to survey electrical lines. Additionally, many employers are lowering their education expectations and requirements including accepting lower degree levels and/or certifications to meet their workforce needs.

There has been significant investment from the University, City of Salina, the State of Kansas, private partners, and other entities to support KSU Salina both in physical assets and financial support. KSU Salina has experienced an 18% increase in their overall enrollment in the last year and much of that is in their aviation, both manned and unmanned, degree programs. KSU Salina, since 1967, has offered associate degrees and in order to meet industry, public, community, and state need in addition to student demand we support the approval of KSU Salina's proposed associate's degree in unmanned aircraft systems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric L. Brown".

Eric L. Brown, IOM
President & CEO
Salina Area Chamber of Commerce

September 13, 2021

Dr. Blake Flanders
President and CEO
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Dr. Flanders:

As the economic development organization for Salina and Saline County we are in full support of Kansas State University Salina's proposed associate's degree in unmanned aircraft systems. The university has offered two-year degrees since 1967 so this is not a new effort for KSU Salina.

The Unmanned Aircraft Systems program is one of the top ranked programs in the United States. Federal agencies like the FAA come to facility and staff at KSU Salina for advice and program development in unmanned aviation. Bringing other schools to Saline County would only confuse the offerings that are available from a world class institution that KSU Salina is.

During today's national shortage of aviation professionals, we need to support all efforts at both 2-year, 4-year and graduate level programs at KSU Salina. By expanding the national prominence of KSU Salina the entire community and the State of Kansas will benefit with an expanded workforce increasing the needed pipeline of skilled and educated graduates.

If you have any questions, please contact me at any time.

Respectfully Submitted,



D. Mitch Robinson, CEcD
Executive Director



Administrative Resource Center

300 W. Ash Room 217
PO Box 5040 Salina, Kansas 67402-5040
FAX: (785) 309-5811
www.saline.org

September 10, 2021

Dr. Blake Flanders
President and CEO
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Dr. Flanders:

On behalf of Saline County and our Board of County Commissioners, I write today to express our support for the unmanned aerial systems Associate degree at Kansas State University-Salina. Saline County has a long and proud tradition of being home to a variety of educational institutions that serve the spectrum of post-secondary needs. KSU-Salina, in particular, has offered Associate degrees in this community since 1967.

We understand that the Board of Regents seeks to deploy post-secondary public education assets around the state with minimal duplication, and we certainly appreciate that focus. However, the Board has stated that "student demand and community needs may engender requests for Associate degree programs" from universities, and that is precisely the case with respect to KSU-Salina. Saline County has a track record of growing industry, particularly in the aviation sector. The focus of the proposed degree program at KSU-Salina will directly support our aviation businesses as well as UAS applications in public safety that are of particular importance to our local government. This focus is different than other existing Associate degree programs offered by two-year institutions around the state.

We are particularly proud of the fact that KSU-Salina has developed a strong reputation nationally and internationally in the UAS field. We would hope that the Board of Regents would seek to capitalize on world-class programs rather than limit the growth of your institutions and our communities by wedging ill-fitting programs into communities in pursuit of the goal of non-duplication.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to a successfully implemented Associate degree program in UAS at KSU-Salina.

Sincerely,

Phillip Smith-Hanes
Saline County Administrator

Administrator/Finance/Purchasing
(785) 309-5810

Human Resources
(785) 309-5812



August 25, 2021

The Kansas Board of Regents
100 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612-1368

The Kansas Board of Regents,

Please allow us to express our appreciation for your steadfast advocacy for doing what is best for the students of Kansas during these challenging times. We are writing to urge your support of the KSU Salina Polytechnic's Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Associate's Degree.

The challenges of this past year has necessitated that everyone, everywhere, rethink current practice and policies. The business of education is certainly no different. During uncertain times, it is easy for us to seek comfort by returning to past practice, but I assure you, education, like other entities, will never be the same moving forward. In order to remain relevant, it is crucial for education leaders to reflect on existing practices and change with the times. USD 305 and KSU Salina Polytechnic have worked together to help move our community forward.

Similar to other rural communities across Kansas, Salina's best export remains its young people, specifically, high school graduates. Each year, about 35% of USD 305 graduates leave the community in pursuit of post-secondary training and employment. For years, our community has assumed that this exodus of priceless human capital was inevitable—but now, with USD 305's partnership with KSU Salina Polytechnic, we recognize it does not have to be.

With your support of the newly created KSU Salina Polytechnic's UAS Associate's Degree, our high school students benefit by having greater affordability and accessibility to earn a credential in this career field that is quickly becoming an important part of our national transportation system. KSU Salina Polytechnic campus offers our students a discounted rate of tuition. Also, the campus is close to our high schools making it easily accessible to USD 305 students. Unlike other education institutions, KSU Salina Polytechnic can provide face-to-face and hands-on instruction to our students learning at a collegiate campus replete with one of the largest enclosed unmanned flight facilities in the nation. With this program's approval, our students can benefit from rigorous UAS/robotic training and connect with outside industries like Westar and many others local employers who have partnered with KSU. The program allows our young students to recognize that they do not have to leave Salina to receive specialized training, nor to obtain a career that offers competitive wages.

The last two United States Census reports projected Salina's population to be slightly less than the coveted 50,000 benchmark—whereby our community will be able to attract more businesses and qualify for Community Development Block Grant Programs (CDBGPs). Achieving a population of 50,000 people would allow Salina to gain access to federal programs, helping our community leverage resources for better housing and greater economic opportunities. If our community ever expects to grow, we must first be given a chance to retain our young population.

During these uncertain times, the KSU Salina Polytechnic's UAS Associate's Degree offers our students specialized hands-on training needed in an increasing job market. By approving this program, you will help make this rigorous education affordable and accessible to our students. This partnership will allow USD 305 high school students to recognize that training and competitive-wage jobs exist right here in Salina helping us grow our population and economic vitality. We respectfully request that the Kansas Board of Regents approve the KSU Salina Polytechnic's UAS Associate's Degree.

Sincerely,

Linn M. Exline
USD 305 Superintendent

Curtis Stevens
Director of Secondary Education

Salina Public Schools

Unified School District 305
www.usd305.com

PO Box 797
(785) 309-4700

Salina, KS 67402
FAX: (785) 309-4737

An Equal Employment/Education Opportunity Agency

Appendix A:

Support Letters
Industry



September 13, 2021

Blake Flanders
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear President Flanders,

Founded in 2010, AgEagle is one of the nation's leading commercial drone technology, services, and solutions providers. With our headquarters in Wichita KS, our daily efforts are focused on delivering the metrics, tools, and strategies necessary to define and implement drone-enabled solutions that solve important problems and provide new perspective on achieving critical objectives. One of our three growth strategies is centered on establishing ourselves as the world's trusted source for turn-key drone solutions. To that end, we support Kansas State University's Aerospace and Technology Campus's proposal for an associate degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. K-State is a UAS leader in education, training, and workforce development. With their UAS Department's focus on developing aviation professionals, to include developing flight instructors at the associate's level, we look forward to hosting interns and hiring their graduates.

Sincerely,

Matt Martin
Vice President of Operations
AgEagle Aerial Systems, Inc

Cc: Charles Taber, Provost and Senior Vice President, Kansas State University
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents



Enel North America, Inc.
Unit/Staff Function/Business Area Name

Address City, Province – Country
T +00 000 000 000

September 20, 2021

Blake Flanders
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear President Flanders,

Enel Green Power has plants powered by renewable resources all around the world. We work to set new standards in the field of sustainable energy, constantly pushing the technological limits and fostering stakeholder awareness. We manage more than 1,200 power plants on 5 continents. Further, Enel operates 5 sites within the state of Kansas generating 1.4gw of power, and we maintain an office in Lenexa. We are Kansas' largest wind operator and are pursuing a solution to a gap in finding trained green energy technicians with a strong drone background.

Enel recently established a partnership with Kansas State University's UAS department to provide training and consulting to our efforts in integrating drones into our operations. I have seen firsthand the talents of their alumni which recently provided flight training to some of our technicians. In addition to developing courses for our existing employees, we are working with K-State to develop UAS-specific content for us to share with our technical school and community college partners for them to incorporate into their programs. The K-State training quality and content is second-to-none and we look forward to leveraging their expertise to help prepare students in our service and operating areas for a successful career entry into our renewable energy domain. As such, we strongly support the approval of their UAS Associate Degree. As we continue to grow our drone operations, we will welcome the opportunity to employ their graduates in our company.

Sincerely,

Bill Badnaruk
Drone Program Manager-Industrial Risk and Cross Technology Improvement, North America
Operations & Maintenance

Cc: Charles Taber, Provost and Senior Vice President, Kansas State University
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents

September 9, 2021

Blake Flanders
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear President Flanders,

Evergy supports Kansas State University's Aerospace and Technology Campus' proposal for an associate degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Evergy established a strategic partnership with K-State when we established our own UAS program back in 2015. Our Senior UAS Coordinator is one of their alumni. While we see a clear place for employees with their Bachelor of Science degree, we also see a strong fit for entry level opportunities for graduates of their proposed AAS program. The quality of their undergraduate education programs is second-to-none; we know this will hold true for future alumni after earning the proposed AAS.

Sincerely,

Mike Kelly, Sr UAS Coordinator, Evergy

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Kelly".

Cc: Charles Taber, Provost and Senior Vice President, Kansas State University
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents



1600 47th Ave S Unit A
Grand Forks, ND 58201
701-838-2610
www.skyskopes.com

9 Sep 21

Blake Flanders
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street
Topeka, KS 66612

From: Matt Dunlevy

Subject: Letter of Support

President Flanders,

This letter is written in support of Kansas State University's Aerospace and Technology Campus' proposal for an associate degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. SkySkopes is a member of the UAS program's advisory committee and employs program graduates. We participated in discussions examining the program creation and market employment needs. As an employer who relies on employees having the combination of the unique skillsets that the KSU program provides, we ascertain that the addition of an associate degree to the institution's degree options would not only provide an additional credential making graduates more competitive, but also provide a pipeline to entry-level skilled UAS aviation professionals that is not readily available in the aviation industry today.

Please feel free to reach out to me at matt@skyskopes.com with any questions.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Dunlevy".

Matt Dunlevy
Founder

Cc: Charles Taber, Provost and Senior Vice President, Kansas State University
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents



September 9, 2021

Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Support of Kansas State University Salina Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)
Associate Degree program proposal

Dear Regents:

Textron Aviation is pleased to submit a letter on behalf of Kansas State University Salina Aerospace and Technology Campus (K-State Salina) in support of their efforts to further aviation workforce development in the state of Kansas; specifically, their proposal to offer an UAS Associate Degree program.

With nearly 10,000 aviation employees in the state of Kansas, our workforce needs are ever present. While Textron Aviation designs, builds, delivers, and supports manned aircraft, a UAS associate degree program could set in motion a pathway that ultimately leads to a career at Textron Aviation.

Kansas State's efforts are instrumental to advance the success and safety of the aviation industry. Just as Textron Aviation has previously supported Kansas State's initiatives to ensure high-quality UAS operators, aviation maintenance professionals, and pilots to meet the needs of a global aviation industry, Textron Aviation fully supports K-State Salina's current UAS Associate Degree proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Douglas R. Scott'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and contact information.

Douglas Scott
Manager, Government Relations
dscott2@txtav.com
M +1.316.347.0116

Appendix B:
KSU's Correspondence
Addressing Concerns from
various KS Community Colleges
and KS Technical Colleges



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS
KANSAS POSTSECONDARY TECHNICAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY

September 30, 2021

Director Samantha Christy-Dangermond
Kansas Board of Regents
Academic Affairs
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Director Christy-Dangermond,

On behalf of the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority (TEA), please accept this letter as our formal opposition to the proposed Associate of Applied Science in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) program that has been submitted by Kansas State University Polytechnic (KSU Polytechnic). The TEA has had multiple meetings and discussions regarding this program and after thoroughly reviewing the information and hearing from everyone involved, have voted unanimously to oppose this program request.

One of the primary reasons the TEA opposes this program is that this proposal goes against Board policy discouraging state universities from offering associate degrees. While the TEA feels there are times where exceptions should be made, we feel these exceptions should only occur when similar programs are impractical for the two-year sector to offer. This is clearly not the case with this program as multiple two-year colleges already offer an associate degree in UAS. While we understand that demand for UAS pilots is expected to grow in the future, with only 26 jobs posted in the last two years for UAS operators according to EMSI, the TEA does not feel there is currently sufficient unmet demand for this program. Just as importantly, if this program were to be approved by the Board, where would the line be moving forward? Would universities be free to offer any associate degree they want, and would two-year colleges be encouraged to investigate the possibility of offering baccalaureate programs? In our opinion, neither of these considerations would be in the best interest of the students, businesses, or Kansas overall.

The TEA understands that when KSU Polytechnic merged with KSU back in the early 90's, they were offering technical and associate degrees. However, the postsecondary landscape has drastically changed over the past 30 years with technical colleges and community colleges now part of the higher education equation. We believe that the system is best served by keeping the separation of degree offerings by the postsecondary sector while strongly encouraging collaboration and partnership between the universities and two-year sector colleges in Kansas. Therefore, we believe a better solution is for KSU Polytechnic to actively develop partnership agreements with two-year sector colleges to create a seamless transfer into their existing baccalaureate programs. Not only would this partnership potentially lead to more students enrolling in the KSU Polytechnical UAS baccalaureate program, but it would allow high school students to take advantage of Excel in CTE funding to help pay for the cost of classes.

In summary, the TEA opposes this program request because it is our belief that the system is not well served by creating an adversarial situation between universities and the two-year sector. Instead, the TEA believes it is in the best interest of both students and businesses for Kansas postsecondary institutions to work together rather than in competition. By working together, the programs at all involved institutions are improved, students have access to funding streams not available to universities, and overall, the system can focus its resources to better meet the needs of business and industry.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,



Ray Frederick
Frederick Plumbing & Heating
Chair, Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority

cc: Dr. Blake Flanders

October 29, 2021

Mr. Ray Frederick
Frederick Plumbing and Heating
Chair, Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority

Dear Mr. Frederick,

Thank you for sharing the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority's concerns about Kansas State University Salina's proposed Associate of Applied Science degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS).

We appreciate the TEA's position that the Kansas Board of Regents should allow its state universities to offer associate degrees when it is "impractical for the two-year sector to offer" them. In this case, K-State Salina has multiple FAA approvals for advanced UAS operations that no other educational institution in the state has the capabilities or the authority to possess. As we gain approvals for advanced authorizations, we work with faculty to quickly incorporate these into the appropriate degree courses. An example of these are routine operations within controlled/restricted airspace with the Salina Airport's Class D airspace and at night--KSU prepares students to plan, coordinate, and operate within more complex environments than standard FAA provisions allow. Two other points of distinction include authorizations to conduct BVLOS (Beyond Visual Line of Sight) operational missions and flight instructor development. No other associate degree program in Kansas includes these elements, yet they are highly acclaimed by our industry partners.

We agree that postsecondary needs and realities are changing. Within the changing realm of Higher Education, it is imperative for institutions to remain nimble and to provide educational opportunities in a variety of ways to meet the widest student and industry demands. We believe that collaborations and complementary programming across Kansas will benefit the state, our students, and our collective institutions. By working together across the state, we provide more opportunity for those we educate, and we provide stronger ties to our industry partners.

We have an opportunity to strengthen Kansas' position as an aerospace industry training center. We look forward to working with our Kansas higher education partners in leading this effort.

Sincerely,



Charles Taber, Ph.D.
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents



September 7th, 2021

Blake Flanders, President and CEO Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson St Ste 520
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear President Flanders,

On behalf of the 19 Kansas Community Colleges Boards of Trustees, the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed Associate Degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) being proposed by Kansas State University (KSU) Polytechnic in Salina. We strongly oppose approval of this new program. The program being proposed is the exact type of program duplication that the Kansas Board of Regents and other policy makers have been focused upon, ensuring that when new programs are offered there is a clearly unmet need which will help the Kansas economy and one that could not be fulfilled by another existing institution or program. Cloud County Community College has this same program less than 60 miles away, they would be willing to deliver it to Salina high schools if there is indeed interest, and they are willing to partner with KSU on a transfer pathway to ensure a smooth transfer of the credits for students who may want to pursue a four-year degree at KSU Polytechnic. However, these efforts have not been pursued prior to suggesting a duplicative program be created at the associate degree level, which has long been the role of Kansas Community and Technical Colleges.

Only after this program was submitted (and many letters of opposition were generated in March) did KSU reach out to Cloud County Community College for a conversation. However, while Cloud has offered multiple times to partner to ensure successful transfer and articulation, no suggestion of a transfer and articulation agreement have been suggested by KSU. The mission creep of a four-year institution into the area of a new associate degree which could be achieved through an existing community college in close proximity is troubling. While there are a few associate degrees available at four-year institutions they were historically grandfathered in or are in a very niche area. In fact, the community and technical colleges did support a very niche associate degree be offered at Pittsburg State University within the last year which focused on training technical education teachers. This made sense as it did not duplicate programs and was attached to the teacher training mission of PSU in technical education. We work hard to support all sectors of the system when programs make sense and serve an unmet need for Kansas students. However, that is not the case in this situation. If four-year institutions are allowed to start offering associate degrees, it is highly likely that two-year sector institutions may be interested in offering bachelor's degrees, as has become a nationwide trend. The KBOR policies in place, which clearly define associate degrees as the purview of Kansas Community and Technical Colleges, have served the system well and should be followed in this case. While KSU Polytechnic does have a unique mission, that does not alleviate the need to ensure programs are not duplicated.

Additionally, the student population identified as being served by this new program warrants concern. The proposal states that the program will target the high school population. This is interesting because in that case, the classes would have to be paid for by the students, by the USD, granted tuition relief by KSU, or by a donor. If the same classes were offered by Cloud County Community College the classes would be able to be fully funded under Excel in CTE/SB 155. However, because KSU is not allowed to access Excel in CTE/SB 155 funds, the classes would not be able to be offered at no cost to students, parents, or the school district. There is concern that the end goal may be to try to find a pathway to make these classes offered by KSU as Excel in CTE/SB 155 eligible. This situation would be highly problematic and could jeopardize the great work occurring through Excel in CTE/SB 155 at Kansas Community and Technical Colleges. We value the great work occurring at KSU, however in this case, allowing a new duplicative associate degree without an effort to utilize the existing system for strong transfer and articulation agreements does not most efficiently serve Kansas students.

Sincerely on behalf of Kansas Community College Boards of Trustees,

Nancy Ingram

Nancy Ingram
President
Kansas Association of Community College Trustees
913-461-5381
nqi1475@gmail.com

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H Morgan", is positioned above the typed name and title of Heather Morgan.

Heather Morgan
Executive Director
Kansas Association of Community College Trustees
785-221-2828
hmorgan@kacct.org

CC: Scott Smathers, Daniel Archer

October 29, 2021

Kansas Association of Community College Trustees
700 SW Jackson, Ste. 1000
Topeka, KS 66603

Dear President Ingram and Executive Director Morgan:

Thank you for sharing your opposition to Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Associate Degree in Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your note.

We understand that program duplication in central Kansas is a consistent concern due to the congestion of institutions serving this portion of the state. However, the fact remains that K-State Salina has multiple FAA approvals for advanced UAS operations that no other educational institution in the state has the capabilities or the authority to possess. As we gain approvals for advanced authorizations, we work with faculty to quickly incorporate these into the appropriate degree courses. An example of these are routine operations within controlled/restricted airspace with the Salina Airport's Class D airspace and at night--KSU prepares students to plan, coordinate, and operate within more complex environments than standard FAA provisions allow. Two other points of distinction include authorizations to conduct BVLOS (Beyond Visual Line of Sight) operational missions and flight instructor development. No other associate degree program in Kansas includes these elements, yet they are highly acclaimed by our industry partners.

KSU Salina and Salina Area Technical College hold service area authority in Saline County. Salina Tech has no objection to KSU Salina offering this associate degree has indicated they will not authorize Cloud County access to provide a degree in Saline County. Doing so would be detrimental to them but the other three institutions of higher education located in Salina.

During the last 45 days, for due diligence K-State Salina has engaged with the local community leaders, industry partners, and our program and campus advisory boards on this topic. The City of Salina, Salina Chamber of Commerce, Salina Community Economic Development Organization, and the Salina Airport Authority have reiterated to us that their preference and priority is fulfill this community workforce development need with the expertise available in our local community. The public and private secondary school leaders have communicated their preference that this need be fulfilled by an educational provider within the local community. Industry partners that are familiar with both KSU and CCCC's capabilities have provided commentary on the workforce need for the difference in preparation and skillset graduates from both programs bring to this growing industry sector.

Kansas State University does not intend to request SB155/Excel in CTE funds. State statute prevents this from occurring.



Office of the Provost and
Executive Vice President

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Kansas Community Colleges, and we look forward to future collaborations across the system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chas Taber".

Charles Taber, Ph.D.
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents

August 19, 2021

Samantha Christy-Dangermond
Director, Academic Affairs
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612-1368

Re: Kansas State University-proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program

Dear Director Christy-Dangermond,

The Kansas Technical College Presidents received notification regarding the above referenced proposal August 18, 2021. The Kansas Technical College Association opposes the request from Kansas State University for the AAS degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). Further communication from individual member colleges voicing their objection to this proposal will also be forthcoming.

This proposal duplicates current programs being offered by other colleges in contravention of current Kansas Board of Regents policy. In considering new programs KBOR policy states “The minimization of unnecessary program duplication is a high priority of the Kansas Board of Regents”. Both Cloud County Community College (CCCC) and WSU-Tech offer programs in UAS.

New program proposals per KBOR policy requires that the entity applying “shall determine if each proposed program is similar to others in the state and may serve the same potential student population” and if it is determined “that one or more similar programs exist” the program proposal narrative shall take into account “the ability/inability to offer the program collaboratively.” This proposal by K-State does not identify similar programs already existing or examine offering the new program collaboratively with other two-year colleges.

KBOR policy further states that “...the Board of Regents discourages the state universities from offering associate degrees in academic or technical programs where the baccalaureate is available...”. In this proposal Kansas State University details the fact that it already offers a baccalaureate degree in this area begging the question how this proposal is not diametrically opposed to KBOR policy.

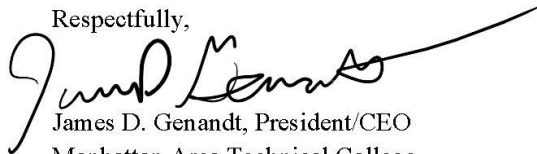
Page Two
KTC Letter – Christy-Dangermond
August 19, 2021

Instead of approving a new program in UAS, our member colleges strongly encourage K-State to collaborate with Kansas two-year colleges to develop appropriate 2+2 programs. Before a duplicate program is approved, we recommend that K-State work toward partnering with two-year colleges like CCCC and WSU-Tech and be required to bring forward articulable reasons why such partnership(s) are not viable in lieu of standing up a new program.

Such collaboration would support the KBOR policy that the roles of the state universities and the State's community colleges and technical colleges are clearly differentiated, which preserves the two-year colleges mission of associate degrees, while strengthening partnerships and collaboration with the state universities essential to higher education attainment.

Thank you for your consideration of the Kansas Technical Colleges position of opposition to this proposed program by Kansas State University.

Respectfully,



James D. Genandt, President/CEO
Manhattan Area Technical College
President, Kansas Technical Colleges

Cc: Kansas Technical College Presidents
Blake Flanders – President – Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer – KBOR Vice President for Academic Affairs
Scott Smathers – KBOR Vice President Workforce Development
Ray Frederick – Chair, Kansas Technical Education Authority

September 8, 2021

James D. Genandt, President, Manhattan Technical College
Council Members of Kansas Technical Colleges
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612-1368

RE: Response to Manhattan Technical College concerns and Council of Kansas Technical College concerns about Kansas State University's proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program.

Dear President Genandt and Members of the Council of Kansas Technical Colleges,

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of opposition contained in your August 19 note, including claims of program duplication, the need to identify similar programs, and lack of collaboration.

1. The proposal represents program duplication. Cloud & WSU Tech have been approved to offer UAS programs. Per KBOR policy (Ch. II. A.7.d.i.(a): *When the Board considers the establishment of a new degree program or major, information regarding its need, quality, cost and means of assessment become paramount. The minimization of unnecessary program duplication is a high priority of the Kansas Board of Regents.*

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC or WSU Tech and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development and maintenance.

2. The proposal did not identify similar programs as required by KBOR policy (Ch. II. A.7.e.iii.(1)(a)(iii): *The proposal shall discuss and compare similar programs in the region and compare their quality with the program under consideration.*

The focus of our program is on developing professional aviators. As such, our AAS creates a well-rounded UAS professional pilot capable of using their degree to apply to many use cases involving UAS. With foundation courses in UAS flight operations, maintenance, design and construction, and processing remotely sensed data, they will have a strong foundation on all aspects of UAS operations. Additionally, we leverage some of our other aviation courses to help develop aviation professionals, not just drone operators, such as Introduction to Aviation and Human Factors in Aviation.

Cloud County Community College (CCCC) offers an AAS in small UAS and does require FAA certification. Their degree offering is focused on developing graduates with a master of using UAS for wind turbine inspections. It is a solid program for UAS applications in renewable and wind energy. The KSU UAS program is broader in scope.

WSU Tech also offers a strong program and will be a good source of industry talent once fully established. WSU Tech provides students various levels of flight training experience, but again, our graduates will be qualified for different career segments upon graduation. Again, based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. Ours is the only program that emphasizes flight instructor development and maintenance.

While Northwest Technical College does not have a formal degree program in UAS, they do have a recognized skillset in UAS applications in precision agriculture. Our program does not specifically address this industry segment, which is a beneficial specialized application to the Kansas workforce.

The variation in UAS degrees is a good thing for this growing industry in Kansas. No one educational provider will be able to offer a comprehensive program in this area. Having institutions that support industry application needs in wind technology, precision agriculture, general UAS safety, and professional aviation talent development strengthens Kansas higher education's ability to support the workforce development needs within the state.

3. The proposal includes no mention of ability/inability of the institution to offer the program collaboratively as required by KBOR policy (Ch. II. A.7.e.iii.(1)(a)(v): *The proposal shall consider and demonstrate the advantages and disadvantages of the program being a freestanding, cooperative or joint program including collaborative degree options.*

Multiple conversations have occurred with various institutions about the possibility of developing joint programs in this area. While formal collaborations have not surfaced from these conversations, it is KSU's sincere hope that as an educational community we can work together to leverage the strengths of the individual institutions and create a network that enhances Kansas' assets in UAS rather than diverting resources. Our UAS expertise is not in applications related to wind energy or precision agriculture. But by blending the application strengths that Cloud Community College, WSU Tech, NW Tech, and KSU bring, we could support educational and industry workforce needs across the state.

4. State universities are discouraged from offering associate degrees per KBOR policy (Ch. II. A.7.i.):

Associate Degree Programs: The roles of the state universities and the State's community colleges and technical colleges should be clearly differentiated. Therefore, the Board of Regents discourages the state universities from offering associate degrees in academic or technical programs where the baccalaureate is available; provided, however, that the Board acknowledges that student demand and community needs may engender requests for associate degree programs, particularly in areas of technology education.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and

degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college with no clear delineation in either segment. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our niche industry focus.

We appreciate the Board's acknowledgement that "*student demand and community needs may engender requests for associate degree programs.*" This need is a key element in this proposal. KSU Salina's work with local school districts to offer a pathway for secondary students to earn associate degrees while in high school addresses many of the goals for families and businesses as outlined in KBOR's *Build the Future* strategic plan.

Again, we thank you for communicating the concerns of the Kansas Technical Colleges to Kansas State University. We expect this response addresses the issues raised and we look forward to our continued collaborations to make Kansas an aviation education center.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Kansas Technical College Presidents
Blake Flanders, President, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President of Workforce Development, Kansas Board of Regents
Ray Frederick, Chair, Kansas Technical Education Authority

September 10, 2021

Scott Smathers
Vice President for Workforce Development
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson St. Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612-1368

Dear Mr. Smathers:

I am writing in opposition to the request by Kansas State University – Polytechnic to offer an Associate’s Degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. My first objection is the fact that Cloud County Community College has an existing program. My understanding is that Cloud County has expressed their willingness to partner with KSU to develop a program that could transfer to KSU, and that offer has not been acted upon.

It seems that this program might be an attempt by KSU to access Excel in CTE funding, which to this point has only been available to community colleges and technical colleges. The funding is already being stretched to the point that proration is discussed annually. The addition of the Regent Universities to this funding source would rapidly deplete the pool of funds available.

It has been my experience that many of the career/technical education programs offered in Kansas are hampered by low enrollment. One of the reasons for this is that too many colleges try to offer the same things, reducing the potential for enrollment and the viability of the programs.

For the above reasons, I am in opposition to the request. Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,



John Masterson
President

September 27, 2021

John Masterson
President
Allen Community College
1801 N. Cottonwood
Iola, KS 66749

Dear President Masterson,

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your September 10 note, including Cloud County Community College's program and funding requests.

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than the offering from Cloud County Community College.

The focus of our program is on developing professional aviators. As such, our AAS creates a well-rounded UAS professional pilot capable of using their degree to apply to advanced use cases involving UAS. With foundation courses in UAS flight operations, maintenance, design and construction, and processing remotely sensed data, students will have a strong foundation on all aspects of small and large UAS operations. Additionally, we leverage some of our other aviation courses to help develop aviation professionals, not just drone operators, such as Introduction to Aviation and Human Factors in Aviation. The curricular differences required to prepare students for the demand of the aviation sector do not align with Cloud's program and it would be a disservice to both institutions and the industries we serve to try and make it fit.

Kansas State University does not intend to request SB155/Excel in CTE funds. State statute prevents this from occurring.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Allen Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents

BARTON

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

September 2, 2021

Dr. Blake Flanders
President & CEO
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1368

Dear Dr. Flanders:

In consideration of the recent request by the Kansas State University to extend its coursework to include an Associate degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), I wish to share my concern. This concern is based on two conditions.

The first condition hinges on the differentiation of mission that distinguishes the two and four year sectors. For decades, it has been rightly recognized that public universities emphasize bachelor's, master's, and doctoral studies. Kansas State University has long maintained this mission and has a rich history of doing so with great success. Through application, the move to establish an UAS associate degree program would clearly upend the roles and expectations that distinguish the mission of the two and four year sectors. Would not such application and perhaps approval of KSU's application, serve as the basis for the two year sector to justify four year degrees and therefore becoming an element of its respective mission? In addition, mission overlap can lead to host of predictable developments that would disrupt mission balance - oversight, funding, and accountability to name a few.

Secondly, with a similar associates program in place at Cloud County Community College and like interests of other two year institution to seek this programming capacity, should not the attention of the four year sector be focused on transferability of student course credits? As well, I do not believe that demand has outpaced the capacity of the two year sector. In our world of scarce resources, I would advocate for an efficient course articulation pathway that would maximize student preparation in meeting employer demands.

With the above thoughts, I petition the Regent body to disapprove Kansas State University's application to provide an Associate degree program in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Carl Heilman, Ph.D.
President

Sincerely,



Tricia Reiser
Board of Trustees, Vice Chair

cc: Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development

September 10, 2021

Dr. Carl Heilman, Ph.D.
President
Barton Community College
245 NE 30 RD
Great Bend, KS 67530

Dear Dr. Heilman and Vice Chair Reiser:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your September 2 note, including mission differentiation and program duplication.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development, public safety, and maintenance. This requires a different preparatory requirement than Cloud CC's focus on small UAS and application to support energy and wind technology. Market demand for UAS operators is significant and industry partners have indicated they need as many training providers as possible to fill the upcoming demand in a variety of market sectors.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Barton Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents



Office of the President

September 8, 2021

Dr. Blake Flanders, President and CEO Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson St., Ste 520
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear President Flanders,

Butler Community College appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) proposed by Kansas State University (KSU). This degree program was initially proposed by KSU early in spring 2021 and then removed from consideration. With the recent email in mid-August that KSU is once again requesting approval for the AAS in UAS, on behalf of Butler Community College, I am submitting this letter in strong opposition to approval of this request.

In December 2017, Butler and KSU Polytechnic announced a partnership for an UAS Early College Academy providing an opportunity for high school juniors and seniors to complete an AAS in UAS while still in high school. Once a student graduated from Butler's UAS program, that student, upon acceptance, would transfer seamlessly into Kansas State Polytechnic's UAS program and within two years receive a bachelor's degree. The student also had the option to directly enter the workforce with this cutting edge education for careers in agriculture, real estate, law enforcement, fire science, industry, and the military.

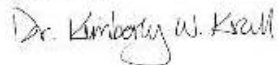
At that time, Kansas State Polytechnic was one of the first universities in the nation to offer a bachelor's degree in UAS. KSU Polytechnic noted a joint partnership with Butler would ensure career preparation for the highly competitive UAS job market would remain accessible and affordable for the citizens of Kansas. Only two years later, KSU determined enrollment in the Early College Academy didn't support continuation of the partnership so it was put "on-hold".

The current proposal identifies the population to be served is high school students and with Butler's Early College Academy model for high school student enrollment, Cloud County Community College's approved UAS program and WSU Tech's recently approved UAS program, approval of KSU's AAS degree will simply duplicate existing programs and create "mission creep" into a very strong 2-year Kansas system already charged with offering associate degree and certificate programs. It also creates the potential for KSU to then access tiered technical funding of which there is already an existing funding gap, and Excel in CTE funding. KSU has an opportunity to partner with existing programs to strengthen educational opportunities and career pathways in the field of unmanned aircraft and they should do so.

Approval for KSU's request to offer an associate degree and duplicate current programs will then provide an opportunity for the 2-year Kansas community colleges to capitalize on conversations with our Higher Learning Commission Liaisons seeking support to offer bachelor degrees in Kansas. Community Colleges have the ability to provide bachelor's degrees at lower cost, in smaller, more personal class settings to increase student retention and success and taught by credentialed professors.

I strongly urge the Technical Education Authority and the Kansas Board of Regents to deny KSU's proposal for an AAS in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Thank you for your consideration and please know I'm available for any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Kimberly W. Krull". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kimberly W Krull, Ph.D.
President

cc: Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs

September 10, 2020

Dr. Kimberly W. Krull, Ph.D.
President
Butler Community College
901 S. Haverhill Rd.
El Dorado, KS 67042

Dear Dr. Krull:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your note.

Our partnership with Butler Community College is appreciated. As agreed, we ran the program through two cohorts of students. Unfortunately, program interest came in much lower than either institution anticipated, well below the 15 students required to cover the expense of faculty travel. We learned some valuable lessons on joint programs of this nature and we value Butler's willingness to experiment and explore the possibilities.

When reviewing KSU's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than WSU-Tech and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development, public safety, and maintenance.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

Kansas State University does not intend to request SB155/Excel in CTE funds. State statute prevents this from occurring.



Office of the Provost and
Executive Vice President

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Butler Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Taber".

Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents

CLOUD COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Concordia Campus

P.O. Box 1002
2221 Campus Drive
Concordia, KS 66901
785.243.1435
Fax: 785.243.1043

Geary County Campus

631 Caroline Avenue
Junction City, KS 66441
785.238.8010
Fax: 785.238.2898

Online & Outreach

1.800.729.5101
www.cloud.edu

September 8, 2021

Dr. Blake Flanders, President & CEO Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1368

Dear President Flanders:

Cloud County Community College (CCCC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) program request submitted by Kansas State University (KSU) Polytechnic in Salina. CCCC strongly opposes the approval of this program as we currently offer the same degree 50 miles from Salina. Since the original request to offer this program last March, CCCC has tried to work with KSU to partner on a transfer pathway to provide students with seamless transfer into a four-year degree at KSU. However, our effort has not been met with the same willingness to partner.

Per our phone conversation and email follow up with Provost Tabor on March 17, 2021, we were encouraged about the possibility of building a partnership regarding UAS. After several needs to reschedule by KSU Polytechnic, the meeting finally occurred on June 17th in Salina. We received a tour of the facilities and had discussion during the tour but were never asked to sit down afterwards to discuss partnership. However, we did schedule a follow up visit for KSU Polytechnic to visit CCCC on August 27th to tour our facilities and meet with our faculty. Before that meeting could occur, KSU submitted their program request again to offer an AAS in UAS. During the meeting on August 27th, it was shared that their intention was always to bring back their request. CCCC asked several times during the meeting for the opportunity to partner but were told that it is within their right to offer the degree per statute. However, of this duplication of program creates the possibility of unfettered duplication of other programs and services across the state.

The Kansas Universities and the Kansas Community Colleges have a tradition of strong partnerships through the transfer function of the system. It would stand to reason that KSU Polytechnic should collaborate with CCCC to partner to achieve a focused effort by both institutions to serve our students. Unfortunately, this process hasn't had the opportunity to be thoroughly visited yet. Although KSU Polytechnic has a unique mission, it does not alleviate concerns regarding program duplication. Additionally, it is in the student's best interest to earn their AAS in UAS through CCCC where, as high school students, they would have access to SB155/Excel in CTE funds. This leads to a separate concern that KSU will then request SB155/Excel in CTE funds, which could jeopardize those funds. Ultimately, if KSU's request is approved, it could lead to community and technical colleges being less comfortable innovating and investing in starting new programs if universities could simply start programs in direct competition with the community or technical college program.

KSU is an exemplary institution, serving students for their bachelor's, master's, and/or doctoral degree. However, their request lends to program duplication and mission creep. KBOR clearly defines associate degrees as the mission of Kansas Community and Technical Colleges. Community colleges are the value provider for many Kansans who are seeking a two-year degree or short-term certificate that they can use to enter the workforce. Rather than create a duplicated program, KSU Polytechnic should utilize a partnership with CCCC for transfer and articulation as a better use of state resources to meet the education needs of students in UAS.

Sincerely,

Amber Knoettgen
President

Jesse Pounds
Chairman, Board of Trustees

cc: Scott Smathers, Daniel Archer

Cloud County Community College prepares students to lead successful lives and enhances the vitality of our communities.

September 10, 2021

Amber Knoettgen
President
Cloud County Community College
2221 Campus Drive
Concordia, KS 66901

Dear President Knoettgen and Chairman Pounds:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your September 2 note.

We have appreciated the recent conversations our Salina campus has had with your institution. Scheduling is often an issue during the summer months but were grateful that despite the tight timeline on the day of your visit, you were able to tour campus and visit with our UAS faculty. This background proved useful when you hosted our staff, showcased your facilities, and discussed the need to update our existing transfer agreements.

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than the offering from Cloud County Community College.

The focus of our program is on developing professional aviators. As such, our AAS creates a well-rounded UAS professional pilot capable of using their degree to apply to advanced use cases involving UAS. With foundation courses in UAS flight operations, maintenance, design and construction, and processing remotely sensed data, students will have a strong foundation on all aspects of small and large UAS operations. Additionally, we leverage some of our other aviation courses to help develop aviation professionals, not just drone operators, such as Introduction to Aviation and Human Factors in Aviation. The curricular differences required to prepare students for the demand of the aviation sector do not align with Cloud's program and it would be a disservice to both institutions and the industries we serve to try and make it fit.

We were very impressed with your knowledge and expertise in small UAS applications in renewable and wind energy. KSU is sincere in our desire to leverage the strengths of both institutions to expand opportunities for students at both institutions and bring industry prominence to central Kansas. The variation in UAS degrees is a good thing for this growing industry in Kansas. No one educational provider will be able to offer a comprehensive program in this area. Having institutions that support industry application needs in wind technology, precision agriculture, general UAS safety, and professional aviation talent development strengthens Kansas higher education's ability to support the workforce development needs within the state.

Kansas State University does not intend to request SB155/Excel in CTE funds. State statute prevents this from occurring.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Cloud County Community College. We were excited by the innovative activity at your institution and regardless of the decision on this proposal, we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents

CLOUD COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Concordia Campus
P.O. Box 1002
2221 Campus Drive
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785.243.1435
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631 Caroline Avenue
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785.238.8010
Fax: 785.238.2898

Online & Outreach
1.800.729.5101
www.cloud.edu



September 29, 2021

Dr. Blake Flanders, President & CEO Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1368

Dear President Flanders:

Please accept this letter as continued opposition from Cloud County Community College (CCCC) despite Kansas State University Aerospace and Technology's (KSU Polytechnic) response to concerns regarding their proposed Associate of Applied Science in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Although KSU Polytechnic asserts there is differentiation in their proposed degree, they have yet to thoroughly explore curriculum with this same degree currently offered by both Wichita State University Tech (WSU Tech) and CCCC. From CCCC's perspective, KSU Polytechnic has not done their due diligence to ensure a viable partnership with either institution. CCCC students are prepared for the FAA Part 107 test for a Remote Pilot Certificate in Unmanned Aircraft Systems just as KSU Polytechnic students.

KSU Polytechnic shared that their program is much "more in depth" than CCCC's at the Technical Education Authority Curriculum Committee meeting on September 10th as a reason a partnership would not be viable. However, KSU Polytechnic has yet to thoroughly examine our courses. Furthermore, their assertion raises the question of how an Associate of Applied Science in Unmanned Aircraft Systems at KSU Polytechnic can be labeled as the same degree as the one Cloud currently offers, yet be so different. Students are earning the same credential, so program alignment then becomes an issue. Additionally, KSU Polytechnic includes 13 hours of 300 and 400 (junior and senior) level courses in their proposal for the Associate of Applied Science in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Why are their junior and senior level courses in an associate of applied science degree? WSU Tech's Associate of Applied Science in Unmanned Aircraft Systems degree does not include any 300 or 400 level courses.

Lastly, if this is truly a local need for Salina high schools, it would be in the best interest of the students to have access to the courses through CCCC as they would be eligible for SB155/Excel in CTE funding and be offered at a lower tuition rate. The best use of state resources must be a consideration, but so must the best interest of the students. A partnership between KSU Polytechnic and CCCC would serve both those purposes. If there are needed adjustments to CCCC's courses, it would benefit all parties involved to work on program alignment and partnership. CCCC worked with KSU Polytechnic to create a partnership for our Associate of Applied Science in Wind Energy students to transfer to KSU Polytechnic to complete their bachelor's degree. If KSU Polytechnic's request is allowed, should the Regents then consider allowing community colleges to offer bachelor's degrees for our specialized programs, such as wind energy, rather than partner with the universities as other states have begun?

KSU mentions in their request they are members of the FAA's Collegiate Unmanned Aircraft Systems Collegiate Training Initiative. CCCC's program has also been selected as a member. Our program is not a niche program for wind energy as suggested by KSU Polytechnic. We offer the exact degree they are proposing with students earning the same credential. Rather than create a duplicated program where the demand does not exist, KSU Polytechnic should utilize a partnership with CCCC or another institution for transfer and articulation as a better use of state resources to meet the education needs of students in UAS.

Sincerely,


Amber Knoettgen
President

cc: Scott Smathers, Daniel Archer

Cloud County Community College prepares students to lead successful lives and enhances the vitality of our communities.

October 29, 2021

Amber Knoettgen, President
Cloud County Community College
2221 Campus Drive
Concordia, KS 66901

Dear President Knoettgen and Chairman Pounds:

Thank you again for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your note.

During the last 45 days, for due diligence K-State Salina has engaged with the local community leaders, industry partners, and our program and campus advisory boards on this topic. The City of Salina, Salina Chamber of Commerce, Salina Community Economic Development Organization, and the Salina Airport Authority have reiterated to us that their preference and priority is fulfill this community workforce development need with the expertise available in our local community. The public and private secondary school leaders have communicated their preference that this need be fulfilled by an educational provider within the local community. Industry partners that are familiar with both KSU and CCCC's capabilities have provided commentary on the workforce need for the difference in preparation and skillset graduates from both programs bring to this growing industry sector. In addition, the other institutions of higher education in Saline County have provided communication that they would not approve CCCC authority to offer their program in this service area.

We understand that program duplication in central Kansas is a consistent concern due to the congestion of institutions serving this portion of the state. However, the fact remains that K-State Salina has multiple FAA approvals for advanced UAS operations that no other educational institution in the state has the capabilities or the authority to possess. As we gain approvals for advanced authorizations, we work with faculty to quickly incorporate these into the appropriate degree courses. An example of these are routine operations within controlled/restricted airspace with the Salina Airport's Class D airspace and at night--KSU prepares students to plan, coordinate, and operate within more complex environments than standard FAA provisions allow. Two other points of distinction include authorizations to conduct BVLOS (Beyond Visual Line of Sight) operational missions and flight instructor development. No other associate degree program in Kansas includes these elements, yet they are highly acclaimed by our industry partners.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Cloud County Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Charles Taber, Ph.D.
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents



September 8, 2021

Kansas Board of Regents
ATTN: Scott Smathers
Vice President of Workforce Development
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612-1368

RE: Kansas State University's Request for AAS in Unmanned Air Systems Program

Dear Mr. Smathers:

I recently received notice from the KBOR staff that Kansas State University (KSU) is requesting authorization to add an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems at the KSU Polytechnic Campus in Salina. I'm concerned about the TEA or KBOR granting authorization for a university with a bachelor and graduate mission to venture into the offering of Associate degrees for the following reasons:

- Duplication of Existing Programs in the Region. Cloud County Community College is already equipped and prepared to offer this certificate and associate degree program in the region. As KSU provided in their application packet, they have already announced a partnership with USD 305 Salina to provide the Associate degree program to high school students prior to approval of the degree by the TEA and/or KBOR. KSU is already approved and offering a bachelor degree in this area.
- Mission Creep. Each of the educational entities in the State of Kansas have clearly defined missions to support their communities, counties, and regions in the state. The mission of community colleges is to provide certificate and associate degrees to our communities and region as needed to prepare students for the workforce or for transfer to a university. Providing associate degree programming for area high schools does not appear to be a part of KSU's stated mission

Again, I am concerned about the request for a university to offer associate degrees in Kansas. As noted an associate degree option at a community college is already available in the region.

Sincerely,

Marlon Thornburg

Marlon Thornburg, Ed.D
President
Coffeyville Community College

September 10, 2021

Marlon Thornburg
President
Coffeyville Community College
400 West 11th Street
Coffeyville, KS 67337

Dear President Thornburg:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your note.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development, public safety, and maintenance. This requires a different preparatory requirement than Cloud CC's focus on small UAS and application to support energy and wind technology. Market demand for UAS operators is significant and industry partners have indicated they need as many training providers as possible to fill the upcoming demand in a variety of market sectors.

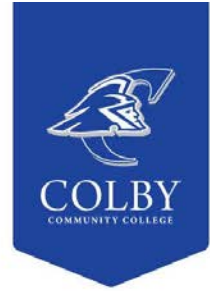
Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Coffeyville Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents



September 8, 2021

Vice President Smathers
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1368

Vice President Smathers,

I am writing on behalf of Colby Community College to express my concern regarding the proposed Unmanned Aircraft Systems Associate Degree program from Kansas State University. In my opinion, this program is duplicative, as a variation of the program is currently being offered at Butler Community College and Cloud County Community College. Is there current evidence that supports that these institutions are not meeting the needs of the industry or has the need/demand exceeded their current enrollment capacity?

Kansas State University is a baccalaureate, master, and doctoral degree offering Regent University. To introduce an associate degree in this field would seemingly stray from their mission of serving students who seek to obtain one of the aforementioned types of degrees. Ultimately, the continual pursuit of offering associate degrees from Regent Universities will hurt the community and technical colleges, as it would hurt Regent Universities if the two-year sector were to pursue baccalaureate offerings.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Your considerations are greatly appreciated. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Seth Macon Carter".

Seth Macon Carter
President, Colby Community College

cc: Dr. Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Blake Flanders, President

September 10, 2021

Seth Macon Carter
President
Colby Community College
1255 S. Range Ave
Colby, KS 67701

Dear President Carter:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your note.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development, public safety, and maintenance. This requires a different preparatory requirement than Cloud CC's focus on small UAS and application to support energy and wind technology. Market demand for UAS operators is significant and industry partners have indicated they need as many training providers as possible to fill the upcoming demand in a variety of market sectors.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Colby Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
DR. DENNIS C. RITTLE

September 8, 2021

Dr. Blake Flanders, President and CEO Kansas Board of Regents

1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520

Topeka, KS 66612

Dear President Flanders,

In response to the proposed Associate Degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) proposed by Kansas State University (KSU) Polytechnic in Salina, Cowley College firmly opposes the approval of this new program. This proposal appears to be a clear example of mission creep as one or more public two-year colleges in the state of Kansas could readily offer such a program and keep with the mission of two-year colleges. Additional concerns and nuances to this particular proposal are well articulated in a joint letter from the Kansas Association of Community Colleges Trustees (KACCT) dated September 7, 2021 and signed by President Nancy Ingram and Executive Director Heather Morgan. Cowley College supports the aforementioned KACCT correspondence.

Respectfully,

Dennis C. Rittle, Ph.D.

COWLEY COLLEGE

125 S. Second | PO Box 1147 | Arkansas City, KS 67005

800.593.CCCC | cowley.edu

September 10, 2021

Dr. Dennis C. Rittle, Ph.D.
President
Cowley College
125 S. Second
Arkansas City, KS 67005

Dear Dr. Rittle:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your September 2 note, including mission differentiation and program duplication.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the Board of Regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Cowley College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents



DODGE CITY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

P: 620.225.1321
T: 800.367.3222

E: about@dc3.edu
dc3.edu

2501 N. 14th Ave.
Dodge City, KS 67801

September 8, 2021

Dr. Blake Flanders
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612-1368

Dear Dr. Flanders:

I am writing on behalf of Dodge City Community College to express my concern regarding Kansas State University's proposed Unmanned Aircraft Systems Associate Degree program. I feel this is a duplicate program that is currently being offered at Butler Community College and Cloud County Community College. Do you have documentation that shows these colleges are not meeting their goals and needs of the industry? I feel it would be more beneficial to increase capacity through the use of the institutions already producing graduates who earn associate degrees and/or certificates.

Kansas State University is a baccalaureate, master, and doctoral offering university. To offer this program from a Regent University would hurt technical and community colleges. For those who are interested in earning a bachelor's degree, strong transfer and articulation pathways can, and should, be established so that the needs of students and employers are met in the most efficient, cost-effective manner.

Thank you for your considering Dodge City Community College's thoughts in this matter and I urge you to please decline Kansas State University's proposal to offer an Associate degree program for Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Thank you for your consideration in this matter and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Harold Nolte".

Dr. Harold E. Nolte
President, Dodge City Community College

cc: Dr. Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Mr. Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development

September 10, 2021

Dr. Harold E. Nolte
President
Dodge City Community College
2501 N. 14th Ave
Dodge City, KS 67801

Dear Dr. Nolte:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your September 8 note, including program duplication and mission differentiation.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development, public safety, and maintenance. This requires a different preparatory requirement than Cloud CC's focus on small UAS and application to support energy and wind technology. Market demand for UAS operators is significant and industry partners have indicated they need as many training providers as possible to fill the upcoming demand in a variety of market sectors. The program at Butler Community College does not appear to be active.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Dodge City Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents



Samantha Christy-Dangermond
Director, Academic Affairs
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson, Ste. 520
Topeka, KS 66612



Fort Scott Community College
2108 South Horton
Fort Scott, KS 66701

Dear KBOR Staff,

Please accept this letter as formal opposition from Fort Scott Community College regarding Kansas State University Aerospace and Technology (KSU Polytechnic) offering an Associate of Applied Science in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. The reason for the opposition is multifaceted and is outlined throughout this letter. FSCC believes that should this program be approved and offered by KSU Polytechnic, it sets an unwanted precedent for higher education in the state of Kansas.

KSU Polytechnic outlined three items in the vision for the degree. The first one is a two year option or additional exit point for students within the pipeline for the bachelor's degree. The KBOR Policy Manual (2021) addresses this type of proposal directly, "The roles of the state universities and the State's community colleges and technical colleges should be clearly differentiated. Therefore, the Board of Regents discourages the state universities from offering associate degrees in academic or technical programs where the baccalaureate is available" (p. 29).

The exception to this item is typically when industry demand necessitates it. However, with the location of this program, another community college (Cloud County Community College) and a technical college (WSU Tech) in the region already offer similar programs - including all of the general education which is directly transferable. The third item outlined in the vision of the proposed program involves 2+2 programs. FSCC believes KSU Polytechnic has the opportunity to collaborate and have serious alignment discussions with those institutions, who already have the expertise involved with teaching this specific program meant for entry into industry.

FSCC strongly believes in partnerships with the university sector in the state of Kansas. We believe the KBOR policy ensures offering the best opportunity for educating students and supporting the balance of institutions throughout the state. This helps the community colleges remain truly affordable and accessible to students throughout the state. FSCC believes the approval of this program is program duplication, lacks demonstrated industry need, lacks adequate student population at this time, lacks genuine effort at program alignment, and does not meet the mission focus in the KBOR policy for new associate's degrees. For those reasons, FSCC opposes this proposal.

Sincerely,

Adam Borth and Alysia Johnston
Fort Scott Community College

Cc: Scott Smathers, Vice President of Workforce Development



September 27, 2021

Adam Borth and Alysia Johnston
Fort Scott Community College
2108 South Horton
Fort Scott, KS 66701

Dear Adam Borth and Alysia Johnston:


Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your September note, including mission differentiation and program duplication.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development, public safety, and maintenance. This requires a different preparatory requirement than Cloud CC's focus on small UAS and application to support energy and wind technology. Market demand for UAS operators is significant and industry partners have indicated they need as many training providers as possible to fill the upcoming demand in a variety of market sectors.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Kansas Community Colleges, and we look forward to future collaborations to strengthen educational offerings throughout the state.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents




Dr. Blake Flanders
President & CEO
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1368

Dear Dr. Flanders,

This letter is submitted in opposition to the application of Kansas State University – Polytechnical Institution to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. As a two-year institution in the state of Kansas, Garden City Community College views this application as an entry point for the four-year sector to offer associate degree options. Community colleges are designed for access and affordability, but this application serves as a platform for mission creep for KSU to offer the Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Associate of General Studies, and the Associate of Applied Science degrees. If the Kansas Board of Regents allows the regent universities to award Associate degrees, there is a cultivation of duplicative services. There currently exists community colleges who offer this program, with Cloud County Community College being in the same service region of KSU. It would be better use of state resources to develop partnerships or bridge agreements between the 2-year and 4-year sector. There has been strong collaboration and partnership on articulation and transfer agreements between the 2-year and 4-year sector in Kansas and those partnerships need to continue to develop and be accentuated. Rather than convoluting the system with the approval of this application, the Kansas higher education system should be looking at measures to incentivize and encourage collaboration and partnerships, not creating divisiveness.

The majority of technical and career training and workforce development is already occurring at Kansas community colleges. If this program is approved, it will create an undesirable impact on the Kansas higher education system. Will community colleges be allowed to offer baccalaureate degrees in Kansas next? Several states have laid the groundwork for bachelor's degrees to be offered at community colleges. The most efficient use of state resources is to align existing programs with transfer options. Community colleges are created on the premise of access and affordability. Garden City Community College does not support the approval of this application. We need to return to a practice of collaboration and partnership among the 2-year and 4-year sector and keep the mission of each sector aligned with the sector. Together, we will build a stronger Kansas through collaboration and partnership among the higher education system.

Sincerely,


Ryan J. Ruda Ed.D.
President Garden City Community College

September 10, 2021

Dr. Ryan J. Ruda, Ed.D.
President
Garden City Community College
801 Campus Dr.
Garden City, KS 67846

Dear Dr. Ruda:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your note.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development, public safety, and maintenance. This requires a different preparatory requirement than Cloud CC's focus on small UAS and application to support energy and wind technology. Market demand for UAS operators is significant and industry partners have indicated they need as many training providers as possible to fill the upcoming demand in a variety of market sectors.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Garden City Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents



HIGHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

September 8, 2021

Dr. Blake Flanders
President & CEO
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1368

Dear Dr. Flanders:

Highland Community College is onboard with collaboration efforts among four-year universities, technical colleges and other Kansas community colleges. We have heard over and over again the message of not duplicating programs. Upon appearance, the message does not seem as strongly heard among Kansas Regent universities.

Kansas State University is seeking to offer an Associate degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Can they not partner with Cloud County Community College to offer this degree in their area? If the demand is so great, wouldn't Cloud County Community College be poised in meeting the demand with an already approved program?

Highland Community College's Board of Trustees and Administration are concerned with the message being one-sided and the Regent's institutions not being held to the same standard of working with other Kansas institutions. We have students tell us frequently they wish Highland was again, a four-year institution. Is this something we should be considering as four-year institutions begin moving towards offering two-year degrees?

Kansas State University has always been friend to Highland Community College. We send many of our students there to complete a Bachelor's degree. We would also hate to find ourselves in a similar situation as Cloud County Community College when another four-year university decides they want to offer an Associate's degree that is readily available.

We urge the Kansas Board Regents to deny Kansas State University's request to offer an Associate degree program in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Thank you for allowing us to present our concerns.

Sincerely,

Deborah Fox
President, Highland Community College

September 10, 2021

Deborah Fox
President
Highland Community College
606 W. Main
Highland, KS 66035

Dear President Fox:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your note.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development, public safety, and maintenance. This requires a different preparatory requirement than Cloud CC's focus on small UAS and application to support energy and wind technology. Market demand for UAS operators is significant and industry partners have indicated they need as many training providers as possible to fill the upcoming demand in a variety of market sectors.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Highland Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents



**HUTCHINSON
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
1300 N. PLUM ST.
HUTCHINSON, KS 67501-5894
620-665-3505

1-888-GOHUTCH • WWW.HUTCHCC.EDU

September 8th, 2021

Blake Flanders Ph.D., President and CEO Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson St Ste 520
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear President Flanders

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. This letter is submitted in opposition to the application of Kansas State University – Polytechnical Institution to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. As a two-year institution Hutchinson Community College has a concern if this application is allowed to advance. Specifically, they two-year mission for the community colleges in Kansas has historically been to offer the Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Associate of General Studies, and the Associate of Applied Science (AAS). This is the Mission area assumed by the two-year sector of higher education in Kansas. If the Kansas Board of Regents allow the Kansas universities to grant additional AAS degrees the mission creep begins to accelerate, and the possibility of unfettered duplication of programs and services becomes even more of a possibility. There is currently a community college in close proximity to the KSU – Polytechnical campus that offers a similar program and is willing to provide the program in Saline County. Rather than create an additional AAS degree at a university it would seem a much better use of state resources to create a partnership whereby the community college and KSU Polytechnical can fulfill the educational need of students in Kansas interested in this program. It is my understanding that such a partnership has been discussed and there was no agreement reached to allow the community college to offer the degree.

The Kansas Universities and the Kansas two-year sector have a tradition of strong partnerships especially through the transfer function of the system. KSU – Polytechnical Institute currently has a Bachelor's Degree in this program area. It would stand to reason that a seamless transfer between the two outstanding institutions could be achieved by a focused effort by both institutions.

If this program is allowed to be approved it could also lead to community and technical colleges being less comfortable innovating and investing in new program start-up if universities could simply start programs in direct competition with the community or technical college program. Community colleges are the value provider for many Kansans who are seeking a two-year degree or short-term certificate they can use to enter the workforce. If community and technical colleges are no longer developing the programs that business and industry demand--

who will? HutchCC believes very strongly in the mission assignments that the Regents have given to each sector and we believe that the system is stronger if we each focus and concentrate on the areas where we each have particular strengths and can help Kansas business and industries grow and thrive. If state universities are allowed to expand their offering of associates degrees what is next, mission creep by community colleges into the baccalaureate area?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carter L. File". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carter" being the most prominent part.

Carter L. File Ph. D.
President, Hutchinson Community College

September 10, 2021

Carter File
President
Hutchinson Community College
1800 N. Plum St
Hutchinson, KS 67501-5894

Dear President File:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your note.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development, public safety, and maintenance. This requires a different preparatory requirement than Cloud CC's focus on small UAS and application to support energy and wind technology. Market demand for UAS operators is significant and industry partners have indicated they need as many training providers as possible to fill the upcoming demand in a variety of market sectors.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Hutchinson Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents



Independence Community College
1057 W. College Ave. Independence, KS 67301
www.indycc.edu

Office of the President

September 8, 2021

President Flanders
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson St., Suite 520
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1368

Dear Dr. Flanders,

I am writing on behalf of Independence Community College to express our concerns regarding the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Associate Degree program being proposed by Kansas State University.

Similar programs are already offered by Cloud County Community College and Butler Community College. Cloud County Community College is less than 60 miles away from Kansas State University Polytechnic in Salina. I believe Cloud County Community College is both willing to provide this program to Salina-area schools and partner with KSU Polytechnic to create a transfer pathway. The expansion of this program into areas already offered by community and technical colleges is a cause for concerns related to mission creep. Is there evidence to support community colleges cannot meet the needs of Kansas industry leaders in this sector?

Kansas State University is an innovative and dynamic provider of a quality education. The institution has a long history of providing exceptional baccalaureate, master, and doctoral degrees. I am proud to have such a fine institution as a Regent University in our state. In this situation, I believe that the proposed Unmanned Aircraft Systems Associate Degree program is duplicative.

I urge the Kansas Board of Regents to decline the proposal to launch an Unmanned Aircraft Systems Associate degree program at Kansas State University. Thank you for thoughtful consideration of our concerns. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vincent Bowhay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Vincent Bowhay, Ed.D.
President
Independence Community College

cc: Dr. Daniel Archer, Vice President, Academic Affairs
Dr. Scott Smathers, Vice President, Workforce Development
Heather Morgan, Kansas Association of Community College Trustees

September 10, 2021

Vincent Bowhay, Ed.D.
President
Independence Community College
1057 W. College Ave
Independence, KS 67301

Dear Dr. Bowhay:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your note.

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development, public safety, and maintenance. This requires a different preparatory requirement than Cloud CC's focus on small UAS and application to support energy and wind technology. Market demand for UAS operators is significant and industry partners have indicated they need as many training providers as possible to fill the upcoming demand in a variety of market sectors. The program at Butler Community College does not appear to be active.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Independence Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents



JOHNSON COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

12345 College Blvd. • Overland Park, KS • 66210-1299

September 2, 2021

Dr. Blake Flanders
President & CEO
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1368

Dear Dr. Flanders:

Earlier this year I sent a letter to you outlining the initial concerns about Kansas State University's desire to expand its offerings to include an Associate degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. The concerns I shared, mission creep and competition with existing associate degree programs, have not changed.

My primary concern with the proposed UAS associate degree program at Kansas State is that this is an example of mission creep. As a Regent University, Kansas State University is charged with serving students seeking a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree. They are an exemplary university, serving well the students within their current programs. That said, offering a new associate degree program expands their work into areas that are clearly within the role of community and technical colleges. This offering opens a door that has been hotly debated in recent months by the Board of Regents, resulting in a procedural step to include the community and technical colleges in the approval process through BAASC should such offerings be brought forward in the future.

The second concern is that we have community colleges in the state of Kansas, such as Cloud County Community College, that already offer comparable programs. Does employment demand exceed the capacity of our Community and Technical College system? Would it not make more sense to increase capacity through use of the institutions already charged with producing graduates who earn associate degrees and/or certificates? For those who are interested in earning a bachelor's degree, strong transfer and articulation pathways can, and should, be established so that the needs of students and employers are met in the most efficient, cost-effective manner.

When considering these two concerns in tandem, I strongly urge the Kansas Board of Regents to decline Kansas State University's proposal to offer an Associate degree program in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for considering this feedback.

Sincerely,

Andy Bowne, Ed.D.
President

cc: Dr. Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Mike Johnson, Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority
Heather Morgan, Kansas Association of Community College Trustees

September 10, 2021

Dr. Andy Bowne, Ed.D.
President
Johnson County Community College
12345 College Blvd.
Overland Park, KS 66210-1299

Dear Dr. Bowne:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your note.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development, public safety, and maintenance. This requires a different preparatory requirement than Cloud CC's focus on small UAS and application to support energy and wind technology. Market demand for UAS operators is significant and industry partners have indicated they need as many training providers as possible to fill the upcoming demand in a variety of market sectors.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Johnson County Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents



Office of the President
7250 State Avenue : Kansas City, KS 66112
Phone 913.288.7123 : Fax 913.288.7680

September 13, 2021

Dr. Blake Flanders, President & CEO
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1368

Dear Dr. Flanders:


I write to let you know I find it concerning that discussions regarding Kansas State University (KSU) offering a new associate degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems are still taking place at the Board of Regents level, since communication began this last spring that Kansas Community Colleges, such as Cloud Country Community College, already offer such a degree.

Should KSU be granted authority to offer this degree, it seems to go against the Board of Regents' desire to not allow unnecessary duplication and proliferation of the same degrees in similar regions and across the state. It also appears to go against providing high-quality educational programs to students at the best economical value for them and their families. I understand that high school students are a planned target audience for this proposed KSU degree. High school students taking this degree from Cloud Country Community College would be able to access Excel in CTE/SB 155 funds which would allow them to complete the program with little to no cost. Students taking the same program at KSU would not have access to these funds, would have to pay the much higher tuition and fee rates, and/or obtain other access to grant funds or even student loans.

Lastly, and what appears to be becoming more critical is the continued mission creep that is being demonstrated by Kansas State University. As a Regent University, KSU is charged with serving students seeking bachelor's, master's or doctoral degrees, not associate degrees. Their continued requests to add associate degrees clearly crosses into the realm of the mission of Kansas' Community and Technical Colleges.

Should these requests continue to be approved, and the mission lines continued to be blurred, it only opens the door for what many states across the country have already approved; community colleges offering bachelor's degrees. Community colleges can offer the same high-quality degree at a significantly reduced cost than state four-year institutions, while being increasingly responsive to community needs.

While articulation agreements currently exist to get students from associate degrees to bachelor's degrees, albeit also in need of additional work, I contend this is a better route than what is currently proposed by Kansas State University. Please feel free to reach out with any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Greg Mosier
President

cc: Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Ray Daniels, KCKCC Board of Trustees, Chair



"We Create Our Future"

September 27, 2021

Dr. Greg Mosier
President
Kansas City Kansas Community College
7250 State Avenue
Kansas City, KS 66112

Dear President Mosier,

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your September 13 note, including mission differentiation and program duplication.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus since 1991, and stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered at KSU Salina since that time. The campus currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development, public safety, and maintenance. This requires a different preparatory requirement than Cloud CC's focus on small UAS and application to support energy and wind technology. Market demand for UAS operators is significant and industry partners have indicated they need as many training providers as possible to fill the upcoming demand in a variety of market sectors.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with our colleagues across the Kansas Community Colleges, and we look forward to our continued collaborations to offer accessible quality education across the state.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Ray Daniels, KCKCC Board of Trustees, Chair



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Mark Watkins, Ed.D.

200 S. 14th Street
Parsons, KS 67357

P. 620.820.1223
F. 620.421.0921
markw@labette.edu

www.labette.edu

Friday, September 3, 2021

Dr. Blake Flanders
President & CEO
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612-1368

Dear Dr. Flanders,

Recently, K-State pulled their request to offer a two-year degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). However, we've been recently informed of K-State's proposal to move forward on the AAS degree in UAS which is a concern. I am concerned with future Kansas universities who pursue two-year degrees as part of their offerings.

Please know, I fully support Kansas universities. My family has earned multiple undergraduate and graduate degrees from every public Kansas university. We happily support Kansas universities with our tax dollars.

Common understanding indicates when revenues decrease, competition for students becomes more aggressive. Fortunately, our Kansas institutions of higher learning have been working through KCOG to make transfers from community colleges to universities seamless. While this has not always been easy, this does demonstrate the willingness to work together in support of our students and taxpayers. We also work together to establish articulation agreements to provide students with several viable options.

However, allowing universities to cross the line into the two-year sector becomes problematic. I am aware of previous two-year degrees made available by our universities and am concerned about further exploitation for additional offerings when attempting to shore up revenues during these difficult times.

Labette Community College does not support K-State's proposal for the AAS in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. The Regents have voiced concern regarding the propagation of additional associate degrees at universities, and I believe this policy position makes sense.

Contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mark Watkins
President
Labette Community College

Cc: Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development

September 10, 2021

Dr. Mark Watkins, Ed.D.
President
Labette Community College
200 S. 14th Street
Parsons, KS 67357

Dear Dr. Watkins:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your note.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Labette Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents

Neosho County Community College

September 7, 2021

Dr. Blake Flanders
President & CEO
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1368

Dear Dr. Flanders:

It is my understanding that Kansas State University is hoping to expand its offerings to include an Associate degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Neosho County Community College is asking that this request by Kansas State University be denied.

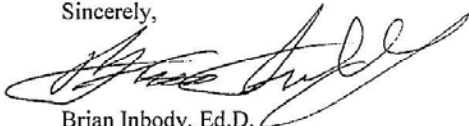
It has been NCCC's practice to not stand against new programs offered by other institutions and for the last 10 years or longer we have filed no letters of concern on any programs, even when neighboring institutions have offered similar programs to ours. We have felt that the market should decide what programs succeed and which ones fail, and that efforts to control the free market of programs have resulted in fewer opportunities for Kansans. Any effort to address non-duplication with State control has ended poorly, taking away local control and holding back the mission of individual colleges.

Kansas State University is a fine institution of higher education and a point of pride for the State of Kansas. My daughter is a student at KSU currently, so you can see that I believe this statement beyond just words to the point that I am trusting K-State with the education of my daughter. It is not a matter of quality or capacity to offer said degree which gives me pause. The issue, of course, is mission creep.

I join my fellow two-year sector institutions to raise our concerns about any four-year institution adding any associate's degree beyond those legacy associates degrees approved in the distant past. Speaking as a community college president with five other community colleges within easy driving distance I know how important it is to stick to my mission and respect the boundaries with my neighboring colleges in order for us all to meet the needs of the region. Any public four-year institution should respect the boundaries in the form of educational offerings that exist between different classifications of institutions.

I strongly urge the Kansas Board of Regents to decline Kansas State University's proposal to offer an Associate degree program in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for considering this feedback.

Sincerely,



Brian Inbody, Ed.D.
President

cc: Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development

800 West 14th Street
Chanute, KS 66720
620.431.2820

Online Campus
www.neosho.edu
800.729.6222

900 East Logan Street
Ottawa, KS 66067
785.242.2067

The Mission of Neosho County Community College is to Enrich Our Communities and Students' Lives

September 10, 2021

Dr. Brian Inbody, Ed.D.
President
Neosho County Community College
800 West 14th Street
Chanute, KS 66720

Dear Dr. Inbody:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your note.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Neosho County Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents



348 NE SR 61 Pratt, KS 67124 www.prattcc.edu 620-672-5641

September 7, 2020

Dr. Blake Flanders
President & CEO
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1368

Dear Dr. Flanders:

It is my understanding that Kansas State University is seeking approval for an Associate degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). I strongly oppose this request for the following reasons. Cloud County Community College already offers this program and they are geographically close. This request makes little sense to duplicate a program that is located nearby. Another concern with the proposed UAS associate degree program at Kansas State is that this is a strong example of mission creep. As a Regent University, Kansas State's mission is serving students seeking a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree. Offering a new associate degree program expands their work into areas that are clearly within the role of community and technical colleges, which is opens a door that has been hotly debated in recent months by the Board of Regents, including a determination being made this past month for a procedural step to include the community and technical colleges in the approval process through BAASC should such offerings be brought forward in the future.

I strongly urge the Kansas Board of Regents to decline Kansas State University's proposal to offer an Associate degree program in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for considering this feedback.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Michael D. Calvert". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Michael Calvert
President

cc: Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development

September 10, 2021

Michael Calvert
President
Pratt Community College
348 NE SR 61
Pratt, KS 67124

Dear President Calvert:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your note.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development, public safety, and maintenance. This requires a different preparatory requirement than Cloud CC's focus on small UAS and application to support energy and wind technology. Market demand for UAS operators is significant and industry partners have indicated they need as many training providers as possible to fill the upcoming demand in a variety of market sectors.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Pratt Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents



SEWARD COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

1801 N. Kansas Ave, P.O. Box 1137, Liberal, KS 67905-1137

620-624-1951 or 1-800-373-9951

September 10, 2021

Dear Ms. Christ-Dangermond:

This letter is in response to the application of Kansas State University - Polytechnical Institution to offer an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. While the need for programs like this exist in the state, we have a concern with allowing this proposal to pass. There is already an AAS program available at a nearby community college and this seems to violate the missions of the different higher education institutions in the state.

While each institution has the ability and responsibility to offer programs that meets the needs of their students and community, we also abide by the expectations of the state concerning the level and types of degrees offered. Community colleges and technical colleges offer certificates and associates degrees. Universities offer bachelors, masters, and doctorate degrees. Blurring these lines results in duplication of services and resources in a time when there is already not enough to go around .

With the existence of an identical program nearby, a question arises, from where does the need for the duplicate program come? Since Kansas State University Polytechnic already offers a bachelor's degree it appears that a partnership of collaboration with the community college would be a better solution to the need. Institutions in the state of Kansas have a long history of working together for provide better opportunities than we could provide working alone. This appears to be another opportunity to continue that spirit of collaborative partnership.

We strongly urge the Kansas Board of Regents to decline Kansas State University's proposal to offer an Associate degree program in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for considering this feedback.

Sincerely,

Dennis M. Sander
Interim President
Seward County Community College

September 27, 2021

Dennis M. Sander
Interim President
Seward County Community College
1801 N. Kansas Ave.
P.O. Box 1137
Liberal, KS 67905-1137

Dear President Sander:

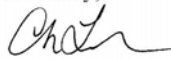
Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your September 10 note, including mission differentiation and program duplication.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development, public safety, and maintenance. This requires a different preparatory requirement than Cloud CC's focus on small UAS and application to support energy and wind technology. Market demand for UAS operators is significant and industry partners have indicated they need as many training providers as possible to fill the upcoming demand in a variety of market sectors.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Kansas Community Colleges, and we look forward to future collaborations.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents

August 30, 2021

Samantha Christy-Dangermond
Director, Academic Affairs Kansas
Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612-1368

Re: Kansas State University August 18, 2021 Proposal
Unmanned Aircraft System program

Dear Director Christy-Dangermond,

As a new president with the Kansas Technical Colleges, I stand firm with the stance of The Kansas Technical Colleges in opposing the request from Kansas State University for the AAS degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). Upon a review and understanding of existing KBOR policy guiding new programs, this proposal appears to lack evidence the institution has completed its due diligence in proposing the program.

In reviewing KBOR policy, I would ask KBOR to reflect on these perspectives:

- *The proposal shall discuss and compare similar programs in other institutions in the Regents system and related programs in the same institution.* While the proposal reflects on the alignment of the requested program to its existing parent program, a bachelor's degree, it does not discuss and compare similar programs in other institutions in the Regents system.
- *The proposal shall discuss and compare similar programs in the region and compare their quality with the program under consideration.* The program being proposed duplicates current programs being offered by other colleges, yet those programs have no mention or acknowledgement within the proposal that was presented. Both Cloud County Community College and WSU-Tech offer programs in UAS. In an era of tightened budgets, we are all encouraged to pursue, support, and navigate partnerships and collaborations between 2-year colleges and the university system. This proposal lacks evidence of such conversations.

Other evidence acknowledging KBOR policy requirements for new programs has been submitted through a statement as submitted by the Kansas Technical Colleges representative. In support of that statement and to encourage collaboration and conversation, I support the KTC request that K-State

collaborate with Kansas two-year colleges with existing UAS technical programs and UAS AAS degrees to develop appropriate 2+2 programs. Alternatively, it is incumbent on K-State to provide rationale why such partnerships and collaborations are not feasible or reasonable.

To their credit, the K-State proposal offers support of a public-school district partnership and indicates such conversations have transpired with that stakeholder. However, I find it disheartening that the proposal delivers such a glaring omission of engaging the local technical college in the discussion. Such collaboration would support the KBOR policy that the roles of the universities and community colleges and technical colleges are clearly differentiated, which preserves the two-year mission of associate degrees while strengthening partnerships and collaboration essential to higher education attainment.

In my role as a new president of one of the Kansas Technical Colleges, I am reviewing the processes and operations that distinguish KBOR and the TEA. I am observing the contribution of TEA to this technical program process. For instance, the purpose of the TEA is to make “recommendations to the Regents regarding the coordination, statewide planning and improvements/enhancements to the postsecondary technical education system.” The Vision, Mission, and Strategic Priorities of the TEA suggest the TEA serves in the capacity to “review and recommend approval of new and existing technical programs.” As I look to review the programs with FHTC and research opportunities for programs to support the economic development of the FHTC service area, these actions shall set precedent and expectations for those of us new to the Kansas state higher education system.

I appreciate the opportunity to voice process inquiry and program opposition during the public comment period. I look forward to learning the outcome of this decision by KBOR.

With respect,



Caron Daugherty

September 10, 2021

Dr. Caron L. Daugherty
President, Flint Hills Technical College
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612-1368

RE: Response to concerns about Kansas State University's proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program.

Dear President Daugherty,

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of opposition contained in your note, including claims of program duplication, the need to identify similar programs, and lack of collaboration. Since you reference and support the recent letter from the Kansas Technical Colleges, I address additional points from that letter as well.

1. The proposal represents program duplication. Cloud & WSU Tech have been approved to offer UAS programs. Per KBOR policy (Ch. II. A.7.d.i.(a): *When the Board considers the establishment of a new degree program or major, information regarding its need, quality, cost and means of assessment become paramount. The minimization of unnecessary program duplication is a high priority of the Kansas Board of Regents.*

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC or WSU Tech and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development and maintenance.

2. The proposal did not identify similar programs as required by KBOR policy (Ch. II. A.7.e.iii.(1)(a)(iii)): *The proposal shall discuss and compare similar programs in the region and compare their quality with the program under consideration.*

The focus of our program is on developing professional aviators. As such, our AAS creates a well-rounded UAS professional pilot capable of using their degree to apply to many use cases involving UAS. With foundation courses in UAS flight operations, maintenance, design and construction, and processing remotely sensed data, they will have a strong foundation on all aspects of UAS operations. Additionally, we leverage some of our other aviation courses to help develop aviation professionals, not just drone operators, such as Introduction to Aviation and Human Factors in Aviation.

Cloud County Community College (CCCC) offers an AAS in small UAS and does require FAA certification. Their degree offering is focused on developing graduates with a master of using UAS for wind turbine inspections. It is a solid program for UAS applications in renewable and wind energy. The KSU UAS program is broader in scope.

WSU Tech also offers a strong program and will be a good source of industry talent once fully established. WSU Tech provides students various levels of flight training experience, but again, our graduates will be qualified for different career segments upon graduation. Again, based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. Ours is the only program that emphasizes flight instructor development and maintenance.

While Northwest Technical College does not have a formal degree program in UAS, they do have a recognized skillset in UAS applications in precision agriculture. Our program does not specifically address this industry segment, which is a beneficial specialized application to the Kansas workforce.

The variation in UAS degrees is a good thing for this growing industry in Kansas. No one educational provider will be able to offer a comprehensive program in this area. Having institutions that support industry application needs in wind technology, precision agriculture, general UAS safety, and professional aviation talent development strengthens Kansas higher education's ability to support the workforce development needs within the state.

3. The proposal includes no mention of ability/inability of the institution to offer the program collaboratively as required by KBOR policy (Ch. II. A.7.e.iii.(1)(a)(v): *The proposal shall consider and demonstrate the advantages and disadvantages of the program being a freestanding, cooperative or joint program including collaborative degree options.*

Multiple conversations have occurred with various institutions about the possibility of developing joint programs in this area. While formal collaborations have not surfaced from these conversations, it is KSU's sincere hope that as an educational community we can work together to leverage the strengths of the individual institutions and create a network that enhances Kansas' assets in UAS rather than diverting resources. Our UAS expertise is not in applications related to wind energy or precision agriculture. But by blending the application strengths that Cloud Community College, WSU Tech, NW Tech, and KSU bring, we could support educational and industry workforce needs across the state.

4. State universities are discouraged from offering associate degrees per KBOR policy (Ch. II. A.7.i.):

Associate Degree Programs: The roles of the state universities and the State's community colleges and technical colleges should be clearly differentiated. Therefore, the Board of Regents discourages the state universities from offering associate degrees in academic or technical programs where the baccalaureate is available; provided, however, that the Board acknowledges that student demand and community needs may engender requests for associate degree programs, particularly in areas of technology education.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college with no

clear delineation in either segment. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our niche industry focus.

We appreciate the Board's acknowledgement that "*student demand and community needs may engender requests for associate degree programs.*" This need is a key element in this proposal. KSU Salina's work with local school districts to offer a pathway for secondary students to earn associate degrees while in high school addresses many of the goals for families and businesses as outlined in KBOR's *Build the Future* strategic plan.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns to Kansas State University. We expect this response addresses the issues raised and we look forward to our continued collaborations to make Kansas an aviation education center.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice
President Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President of Workforce Development, Kansas Board of Regents



August 24, 2021

Dr. Blake Flanders, President & CEO
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson St., #520
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Blake:

Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology (WSU Tech) opposes the Associate of Applied Science degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) from Kansas State University Technology and Aviation (K-State Polytechnic).

The mission of WSU Tech and other two-year colleges in the realm of technical education is to provide workforce opportunities to support our students, community, and business and industry. The application indicates that the AAS program would "feed" into the BATN degree, this does not meet the intended purpose of an AAS. Creating workforce ready students is the intended purpose of AAS degrees and linking those to local industry. No linkage to local industry is provided and the only employment information provided quotes international figures.

There is no doubt that in UAS research, K-State Polytechnic is a great choice to consider for education. AAS degrees are meant to provide access to employment for local students. With that being stated, no courses or curriculum on fixed-wing aircraft is included. Fixed-wing aircraft make up a large amount of the industry especially in Kansas when a large portion of the UAS industry is in agriculture and land surveying. By not providing students with this knowledge, students will graduate without vital tools to help them succeed in the Kansas workforce and surrounding areas. Moreover, there is a strong indication that if colleges do not sign-up and utilize K-state's "licensed" curriculum, this would limit other two-year college students' opportunities to transfer to earn a BATN.

Finally, K-State Polytechnic touts a partnership with USD 305-Salina Public Schools. The essence of career and technical education and this work focusing on dual-credit partnerships is governed by the Technical Education Authority (TEA) and there has been an immense amount of work that has been done to create pathways and opportunities for students via the Excel in CTE program. By allowing universities options into this arena, it is unfair for institutions following TEA guidelines and the subsequent usage and application of state funds specific to two-year college education.

Allowing universities to offer AAS degrees is not at the heart of this argument, we feel the opportunities that could be provided for students to complete degrees is beneficial, but only if the mission of those degrees and the rules that need to be followed and remain consistent across all state institutions.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheree Utash".

Dr. Sheree Utash
President



September 27, 2021

Dr. Sheree Utash,
President of Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology
VP of Workforce Development for Wichita State University
1845 Fairmount St.
Wichita, KS 67260

Dear President Utash,

Thank you for your August 24, 2021 letter sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. We agree that students benefit from excellent AAS degrees offered throughout the state of KS and, as the below list indicates, we have addressed any rules required to remain consistent with our state requirements.

1. Per KBOR policy (Ch. II. A.7.d.i.(a): *When the Board considers the establishment of a new degree program or major, information regarding its need, quality, cost and means of assessment become paramount. The minimization of unnecessary program duplication is a high priority of the Kansas Board of Regents.*

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC or WSU Tech and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development and maintenance.

2. Per KBOR policy (Ch. II. A.7.e.iii.(1)(a)(iii)): *The proposal shall discuss and compare similar programs in the region and compare their quality with the program under consideration.*

The focus of our program is on developing professional aviators. As such, our AAS creates a well-rounded UAS professional pilot capable of using their degree to apply to many use cases involving UAS. With foundation courses in UAS flight operations, maintenance, design and construction, and processing remotely sensed data, they will have a strong foundation on all aspects of UAS operations. Additionally, we leverage some of our other aviation courses to help develop aviation professionals, not just drone operators, such as Introduction to Aviation and Human Factors in Aviation.

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Your program at WSU Tech also offers a strong program and will be a good source of industry talent. WSU Tech provides students various levels of flight training experience, but again, our graduates will be qualified for different career segments upon graduation. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an

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The variation in UAS degrees is a good thing for this growing industry in Kansas. No one educational provider will be able to offer a comprehensive program in this area. Having institutions that support industry application needs in wind technology, precision agriculture, general UAS safety, and professional aviation talent development strengthens Kansas higher education's ability to support the workforce development needs within the state.

3. **KBOR policy** (Ch. II. A.7.e.iii.(1)(a)(v): *The proposal shall consider and demonstrate the advantages and disadvantages of the program being a freestanding, cooperative or joint program including collaborative degree options.*

Multiple conversations have occurred with various institutions about the possibility of developing joint programs in this area. It is KSU's sincere hope that as an educational community we can work together to leverage the strengths of the individual institutions and create a network that enhances Kansas' assets in UAS rather than diverting resources. Our UAS expertise is not in applications related to wind energy or precision agriculture. But by blending the application strengths that Cloud Community College, WSU Tech, NW Tech, and KSU bring, we could support educational and industry workforce needs across the state.

We appreciate the Board's acknowledgement that "*student demand and community needs may engender requests for associate degree programs.*" This need is a key element in this proposal. KSU Salina's work with local school districts to offer a pathway for secondary students to earn associate degrees while in high school addresses many of the goals for families and businesses as outlined in KBOR's *Build the Future* strategic plan.

Again, we thank you for communicating these concerns. We expect this response addresses the issues raised and we look forward to our continued collaborations to make Kansas an aviation education center.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President of Workforce Development, Kansas Board of Regents
Ray Frederick, Chair, Kansas Technical Education Authority