KANSAS POSTSECONDARY
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY
Technical Program and Curriculum Committee
MINUTES
October 17, 2024

The Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority's Technical Program and Curriculum Committee met virtually on October 17, 2024 via Zoom. Proper notice was given according to law.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Mike Beene, Chair
Cindy Hoover, Vice Chair
Mark Hess
Debra Mikulka
Dr. Tiffany Anderson
Natalie Clark
Ray Frederick

The meeting was called to order by Chair Beene at 3:00 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Beene requested a motion and a second for the approval of the minutes from the meetings held on August 5th and September 12th. Member Ray Frederick made the motion to approve, and Member Cindy Hoover seconded it. The motion passed.

CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDA

ACT ON PROGRAM ALIGNMENTS:

AUTOMATION ENGINEER TECHNOLOGY

Crystal Roberts, Associate Director for Workforce Development, presented updates on the realignment of the Automation Engineer Technology program, which was last revised in 2014. The program initially offered two exit points: a Technical Certificate C and an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree, featuring five common courses. The realignment process began after faculty, prompted by local businesses' demand for quicker workforce entry points, reached out to the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR).

A Business & Industry (B&I) survey was conducted, receiving eight responses with four representatives agreeing to be on the B&I Committee in February. In April, the Faculty Committee convened, with feedback from both committees to retain the existing exit points while adding Technical Certificates A and B.

Certificate A now includes two common courses—AC/DC Circuits and Industrial Fluid Power—along with support courses of OSHA 10/30, Math, and Employability Skills/Interpersonal Communication, and the industry certification for OSHA 10/30. Certificate B adds a common course of Programmable Logic Controllers and another support course, Fundamentals of Motor Control/Electrical Control Systems I. Certificate C further includes the Industrial Robotics common course and the Actuator and Sensor Systems/Industrial Process Control support course. The AAS degree remains unchanged but prepares graduates for the Control Systems Technician exam.

To ensure consistency across programs, course standardization was implemented, aligning course categories in both the Automation Engineer Technology and Industrial Machine/Maintenance Technology programs. Feedback from colleges and businesses was considered throughout, leading to adjustments and clarifications in course titles and credit requirements.

One faculty comment was received during the 10-Day Comment Period but was not agreed upon by the full committee. The proposed realignment, having been reviewed by board staff and presented for discussion.

Following discussion, Member Frederick moved to approve the program realignment as presented and that the item be placed on the consent agenda for the next TEA meeting. The motion was seconded by Member Hoover. The motion passed.

INDUSTRIAL MACHINE/MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY

Crystal Roberts, Associate Director for Workforce Development, presented the realignment of the Industrial Machine/Maintenance Technology program. She noted the similarities between this program and the previously discussed Automation Engineer Technology alignment, while emphasizing that the two programs meet distinct occupational codes and industry demands.

The Industrial Machine Maintenance Technology program, last aligned in 2014, initially offered two exit points: a Technical Certificate C and an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree with four common courses. The realignment was prompted by faculty requests based on local business needs for quicker workforce entry. A B&I survey was conducted, receiving 20 responses with ten representatives agreeing to be on the B&I Committee. B&I recommendations were followed up with a Faculty Committee meeting in May.

Key changes included renaming the program from "Industrial Machine Mechanic" to "Industrial Machine/ Maintenance Technology" to reflect broader career opportunities and allowing some institutional flexibility in program title. The committee recommended retaining the two existing award levels while adding Technical Certificates A and B

The revised exit point structure included:

- Technical Certificate A: Required three common courses (ACDC circuits, mechanical systems, and mechanical systems reliability), three support courses (OSHA 10, Math, and Employability Skills/Interpersonal Communication), and an OSHA 10 industry certification.
- Technical Certificate B: Added one common course (Programmable Logic Controllers) and two support courses (Industrial Fluid Power/Fluid Power I & II and Fundamentals of Motor Control/electrical control systems I).
  Technical Certificate C: Included an additional common course (Industrial Process Control) and a support course (Variable Speed Motor Controls/Electrical Control Systems II).
- AAS degree requirements remained unchanged.
- Graduates would be prepared to pursue certification as Certified Maintenance and Reliability Technician when needed.

The realignment also reclassified courses as common or support across the program to standardize course titles with the Automation Engineer Technology program, resulting in common courses like AC/DC Circuits and Programmable Logic Controllers.

The proposed alignment map, released for presidential review, received no requests for changes. The program's revisions were endorsed by board staff and recommended for approval by the Program and Curriculum Committee.

Member Cindy Hoover moved to approve the recommended realignment and to place the item on the consent agenda for the next TEA meeting. Member Anderson then seconded the motion. The motion passed.

ACT OF NEW TECHNICAL PROGRAMS:
WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY:
ACCOUNTING (52.0302)

Charmine Chambers, Director for Workforce Development, presented a request from WSU Tech for approval for a new program that includes a Technical Certificate B at 42 credit hours and an Associate of Applied Science 60 credit hour degree in accounting. The initiative stemmed from an on-going collaboration with Koch Industries,

which included the development of a specialized accounting certificate and integrated applied learning opportunities at Koch as part of WSU Tech's Business Administration degree.

The program's success led Koch to request additional coursework in 2024, prompting the development of the proposed accounting program. The new program aims to prepare students for the American Institute of Professional Bookkeepers' Certified Bookkeeper exam, with initial enrollment targets set at 20 students for the first year and increasing to 40 students in the second and third years.

The Kansas Department of Labor's long-term occupational projections show a slight decline in the accounting field; However, accounting is still classified as a high-demand occupation, with 2,171 annual job openings in Kansas. Additionally, between September 2023 and September 2024, there were 3,733 total job postings for related positions, with a median advertised salary of $44,700. Most job postings (55%) required a high school diploma or equivalent. WSU Tech consulted with its Perkins CLNA committee and noted the high demand for accountants based on job postings.

The proposed program received industry support through three letters of commitment, which include offering internships, interviewing graduates, and participating in the advisory committee. Currently, nine other institutions in the state offer similar programs, and relevant data was provided to the board for review.

For collaboration, WSU Tech engaged with Butler Community College, Pratt Community College, and Wichita State University (WSU) to ensure the program's curriculum aligned well across institutions. Additionally, Wichita USD 259 provided a letter of support. The program is scheduled to begin in January 2025, with an estimated initial cost of $88,553. This budget includes funding for a full-time faculty member, adjunct faculty, and instructional supplies. Dean Doug Mowry of General Education and Professional Studies will oversee the program, and no comments were submitted during the public comment period.

Jennifer Seymour, Vice President for General Education and Applied Technologies at WSU Tech, introduced herself and noted that Doug Mowry, the Dean of General Education and Professional Studies, was also present. She offered to provide more details about the partnership with Koch Industries or to answer any questions from the committee.

Member Hoover inquired whether the two-year associate degree in accounting would fully transfer into a four-year accounting degree, allowing students to complete the remaining coursework to earn their bachelor's degree. Jennifer confirmed that WSU Tech has a "2 plus 2" agreement with the Barton School of Business at Wichita State University, ensuring a seamless transfer of credits into their accounting program.

Member Natalie Clark shared that the finance pathway at the high school level closely aligns with the SOC code being referenced, specifically SOC 52.0801. She mentioned that during a finance cluster review meeting, they had discussed the high skill, high wage, and high demand nature of that SOC code and considered the potential for an alliance program. She noted that while the CIP (Classification of Instructional Programs) code was not an exact match, it was close.

Jennifer Seymour expressed enthusiasm about collaborating with high schools to support students interested in the accounting pathway, emphasizing the importance of such partnerships.

Chair Beene called for a motion to approve Wichita WSU Tech's request for a 60-credit hour Associate of Applied Science degree in accounting, along with a 42-credit hour Technical Certificate B, and to place the approval on the consent agenda. Member Natalie Clark made the motion, which was then seconded by Member Cindy Hoover. The motion passed.

WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY: QUALITY ASSURANCE INSPECTION (15.0702)

Charmine Chambers, Director for Workforce Development, presented a request from WSU Tech for a new program to include a 24-credit hour Technical Certificate A and a 61-credit hour Associate of Applied Science degree in Quality Assurance and Inspection. The initiative for the new program originated following discussions in 2022 with Textron Aviation, which identified a need for skilled workers in quality assurance. This need was further emphasized during a Quality Assurance Summit held in August 2023, where industry partners collectively called for a formal training program.

The program will equip students with an OSHA 10 certification, and the college anticipates enrolling 10 students annually in the first two years, increasing to 15 students by the third year. Kansas Department of Labor data indicates a slight annual employment growth rate of 0.1% for this field, with a median wage of $50,200. While the entry requirement is typically a high school diploma, there are about 884 job openings each year, and the occupation is classified as high-demand and high-wage.

From September 2023 to September 2024, there were over 3,200 job postings in Kansas for roles related to quality assurance, with nearly 1,300 unique positions advertised. The median advertised salary was $47,700, and 74% of these postings required a high school diploma or equivalent. The 2025-2026 Perkins CLNA report also identified the occupation as one in need of a formal training pathway, which does not currently exist in the state.

Five industry letters of support accompanied the proposal, with commitments to interview graduates, offer internships, assist in curriculum development, and participate on the advisory board. While Barton Community College offers a program under the same SIP code, it focuses on training for scale technicians, a different area of specialization.

WSU Tech's program will be driven by industry input, utilizing the Business and Industry Leadership Team (BILT) model for the advisory committee. Renwick USD 267 also supported the initiative. The program, set to launch in fall 2025, has an estimated initial cost of $63,000, covering a new full-time faculty member and instructional supplies. Mark Scott, Dean of Manufacturing, will oversee the program, and no objections were received during the public comment period.

Member Mikulka made the motion to approve the new program request and that the item be placed on the consent agenda for the next full TEA meeting. The motion was then seconded by Member Hess. The motion passed.

ACT ON NEW PROMISE ACT PROGRAM(S):

WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY: QUALITY ASSURANCE INSPECTION (15.0702)

Director Chambers then presented the request from WSU Tech that the proposed Quality Assurance and Inspection program be Promise Act scholarship eligible. She explained that the program qualifies under the advanced manufacturing and building trades category specified by legislation. Furthermore, the occupation is recognized as both high-demand and high-wage, meeting the criteria for support under the Promise Act.

Member Frederick made the motion to approve the proposed Quality Assurance and Inspection program as Promise Act eligible and to have the item placed on the consent agenda for the next full TEA meeting. The motion was then seconded by Member Anderson. The motion passed.

NEXT MEETING REMINDER

Chair Beene concluded the meeting by reminding the committee of the upcoming meeting scheduled for November 7th and mentioned that Director Chambers had recently sent out new program alerts via email, which would likely be on the agenda.

Additionally, Chair Beene noted that the next Technical Education Authority (TEA) meeting would take place in person in Topeka on October 31st.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Beene called for a motion to adjourn, which was promptly moved by Member Frederick and seconded by Member Anderson. The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.