

**KANSAS POSTSECONDARY
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES
May 30, 2024**

The Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority (TEA) meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Ray Frederick in the Board Office located in the Curtis State Office Building, 1000 S.W. Jackson, Suite 520, Topeka at 10:00 am. Proper notice was given according to law.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ray Frederick, Vice Chair
Mark Hess
Dr. Tiffany Anderson
Deb Mikulka
Cindy Hoover (Virtual)
David Reist
Mike Beene
Natalie Clark
Angela White

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Clark moved to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2024, meeting and, following a second by Member Hess, the motion carried.

INTRODUCTIONS

Hector Martinez, Director of Adult Education, introduced the new Associate Director for High School Equivalency, Julie Clark. He provided a brief overview of her background highlighting Julie's extensive experience in adult education programs across the United States, including her roles as Program Manager in Workplace Literacy at Tyson Foods and Project Manager for the California Adult Education Program Practice. He emphasized that Julie's experience would be a significant asset to their division.

REPORTS

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Vice Chair Ray Frederick shared that he attended the graduation ceremony at North Central Kansas Technical College in Hayes, describing the event as a great experience filled with celebration and noted the significant role faculty played in the lives of the students. He emphasized the importance of the faculty's contributions and expressed how much he enjoyed the occasion.

MEMBER LIASON REPORTS

Member David Reist shared his recent experience as a commencement speaker at the Highland Community College's Western Center in Baileyville, Kansas. He noted the significance of the event, pointing out that the center had been in operation for ten years supporting 11 high schools, and had achieved considerable success primarily serving high school students taking advantage of Excel in CTE. He highlighted those 28 to 30 students graduated from the technical program just a few days before their high school graduation, along with an additional 12 postsecondary students.

Member Clark reported on the SkillsUSA State competition, expressing her gratitude to State Advisor Becky Warren and Hutchinson Community College for their support of SkillsUSA. Natalie mentioned that attending various events at Hutchinson CTE Academy and the State Fairgrounds, where many business and industry representatives from across the state were present. She mentioned that the Future Farmers of America (FFA) events were currently taking place on the campus of Kansas State University, and extended thanks to Kansas State for hosting the students.

Member Anderson provided an update on the beginning of summer school and mentioned a new marketing initiative aimed at promoting career and technical education opportunities, especially for credit recovery students. She highlighted a successful signing day event hosted by Dean Smathers, (Washburn Institute of Technology), where many students committed to pursuing career tech and obtaining industry credentials. She also expressed her gratitude to Stormont Vail for expanding their program to include phlebotomy, resulting in 40 newly trained nurses and phlebotomists, all of whom were guaranteed jobs upon graduation. Member Anderson concluded by sharing that Topeka had been featured on CBS Morning News and Evening News, highlighting the city's efforts in providing opportunities and opening doors for students and parents. She expressed her appreciation to Chair Frederick and Rita Johnson, noting that students had made cards for them in gratitude for their support during a critical time.

REPORT FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

April White, Vice President of Workforce Development shared updates from her department. She began by thanking Chair Frederick and noting that besides hiring Julie Clark, additional restructuring has been done within the department. Charmine Chambers is now the Director for Workforce Development, and she will manage new program approvals, program changes, program alignment, data, and reporting. Vera Brown is now the Director for Career Technical Education, and she will manage all Perkins related responsibilities as well as statewide grants. Laura Leite is now an Associate Director for Career Technical Education and will assume the Perkins responsibilities for half on the colleges, a position she previously held at the board.

Vice President White shared information from the recent meeting of the Policy Academy on Behavioral Health Workforce, highlighting the upcoming state hospital opening in Wichita in 2027 and that the Workforce Development unit will be working in collaboration with the Department of Aging and the Behavioral Science Regulatory Board to identify multiple areas of staffing needs and develop programs to meet the needs of the new hospital. This will be a two-year project and more information will be forth coming.

She also shared that Director Karla Wiscombe and Associate Director Tobias Wood recently met with retired Kansas Supreme Court Chief Justice Lawton Nuss to discuss and share information regarding the various initiatives for military-connected individuals, as well as resources available for those connected to the military, which have been compiled into one document to be shared with military partners. Members were provided a copy of the document.

Vice President White then reminded attendees of upcoming events, including a webinar on June 6th by Advanced CTE regarding the modernization of and changes in the career cluster framework; the Data Conference on June 25th and the annual Perkins Coordinator training on July 30th and August 1st at North Central Kansas Technical College's Hayes campus. The Adult Education Conference will be held on June 17th and 18th in Wichita, and CTE recruitment camps for junior high and high school students will be hosted by several community and technical colleges over the summer. A list of these camps will be compiled and shared with the TEA.

REPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Garden City Community College President Ryan Ruda provided a detailed overview of collaborative initiatives and educational advancements across various Kansas community colleges. Activities at Johnson County Community College, Coffeyville Community College, Pratt Community College, Labette Community College, Hutchinson Community College, Kansas City Kansas Community, and Independence Community College were highlighted.

REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COLLEGES

Manhattan Area Technical College President Genandt provided members with a brief report on the activities of the technical colleges. President Genandt then shared some thoughts underscoring the necessity for ongoing innovation and transformation within higher education; calling for increased collaboration among two-year

colleges, particularly in crucial sectors such as healthcare, cybersecurity, construction, and transportation; and stressing the importance of preparing students for emerging job markets to meet the changing demands of the workforce.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Budget and Finance Committee

- FY25 Kansas Nursing Initiative Grant Awards
- FY25 Kansas Nursing Initiative Allocations

Technical Program and Curriculum Committee

New Program

- North Central Kansas Technical College: Building Construction Site Management (46.0412) Associate of Applied Science degree/60 credit hours
- Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technologies: Mobile Equipment Technology (47.0302) Technical Certificate C/49 credit hours & Associate of Applied Science degree/61 credit hours

Promise Act

- Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technologies: Mobile Equipment Technology (47.0302)

Member Beene moved to approve the consent agenda. Member Reist seconded the motion. The motion passed.

CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDA

Budget and Finance Committee

RECEIVE INFORMATION ON DISTRIBUTION OF FY 2025 STATE APPROPRIATIONS TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES, TECHNICAL COLLEGES, AND WASHBURN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Vice President Elaine Frisbee provided an overview concerning the fiscal year 2025 budget, detailing various provisions attached to the appropriations enacted by the Legislature delineating the process by which funds would be distributed among eligible institutions. She explained the shift in the distribution of Technical Education State Aid, which utilizes a three-year average based upon cost model data for FY25. This change resulted in a \$3.5 million reduction due to decreased student credit hours for tiered courses, and the Non-Tier Credit Hour Grant experienced a similar reduction in funding for non-technical courses, amounting to a decrease of \$6.2 million. Vice President Frisbee explained the allocation of \$6.5 million for two-year colleges to bolster their cybersecurity defenses, with each institution receiving \$250,000. The appropriation of \$14.3 million for Business and Industry and Apprenticeship Partnerships was distributed based on each college's share of FY 2023 FTE students. She also highlighted the allocation of \$17.5 million for Student Success Initiatives, aimed at enhancing student success based on recommendations from the Georgia State University National Institute of Student Success. Additionally, \$5 million was appropriated for capital outlay for community colleges not eligible for Career Technical Education Capital Outlay, distributed according to their share of technical education students.

ACT ON DISTRIBUTION OF FY 2025 STATE APPROPRIATIONS TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES, TECHNICAL COLLEGES, AND WASHBURN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Vice President Elaine Frisbee provided an update on appropriations without specific provisos regarding distribution among eligible institutions. As done the previous year, the legislature allocated \$10.5 million from the State General Fund for Technical College operating grants. As it was the second year of this allocation method, the colleges expressed their preference to evenly divide the amount, resulting in \$1.5 million allocated to each institution. Concerning technology grants allocated to community colleges and Washburn University and utilized for instructional technology classroom upgrades, the funding appropriation was for \$398,475 and

distribution is recommended at the same levels as in previous years to ensure continuity in funding for these purposes.

The appropriation for Career Technical Education (CTE) capital outlay aid, previously known as vocational educational capital aid, has historically been set at \$4 million for decades, and recently increased to approximately \$7.4 million. Background information was provided on how the amounts were appropriated in the two most recent years, and three scenarios for distributing the funds among eligible institutions for fiscal year 2025 were provided:

1. Traditional Allocation: Distributing funds based on tiered credit hour production, with a \$100,000 base for each institution.
2. Equal Distribution: Dividing the State General Fund appropriation equally among eligible institutions, with the remainder distributed according to tiered credit hour production.
3. Hybrid Approach: Combining aspects of both scenarios 1 and 2, with each institution receiving a base of \$304,475 and the remainder distributed based on tiered credit hour production.

Vice President Frisbie facilitated discussions and helped in navigating the scenarios for determining the distribution method. Discussion focused on the historical context of a specific law, clarification on scenario 3, aiming to understand its implications, the differences from the endorsement by community and technical colleges. Vice President Frisbie clarified that scenario 3 provided flexibility in fund allocation, eliminating the constraint of isolating the equal division to only the State General Fund portion. Ultimately, the discussion centered on ensuring a fair and practical approach to distributing the funds among institutions.

Motion

Upon reviewing all three scenarios, Member Mike Beene moved to approve scenario 3. Member Mikulka seconded the motion. The motion passed.

UPDATE TO PROGRAM REVIEW PROCESS

Director Charmine Chambers provided a brief overview of information included in the issue paper. She explained that as a result of the previous program review process, specific program areas having zero graduates exited & employed (statewide) over a three-year period (2015, 2016, 2017) were not retained for technical funding and programs having 10 or fewer graduates (statewide) were placed on hold meaning no new programs would be approved in those program areas. Director Chambers further explained that a new program request had been received for a program area that was previously identified as low performing during the last review process and as a result was removed from tiered state aid eligibility and that there was a need to establish review criteria to potentially restore eligibility for tiered state aid for programs in this situation.

Director Chambers shared a list of potential review parameters discussed by the Program and Curriculum Committee during their meeting and a request from the technical and community colleges representatives for an opportunity to provide feedback. The feedback responses from the colleges were also included in the TEA packet and presented for the discussion. Discussion then focused on the potential review parameters which included: current and future high demand, education level required, industry-recognized credential, wages, specific supports and need directly from business and industry, employer participation in program development, relationship to most recent Perkins CLNA, & changes or modifications to the program if previously offered at the same institution.

Director Chambers explained that the suggested review parameters were not being suggested for the new program application process but were being suggested as a starting point for the discussion of review criteria for reinstating programs previously removed from technical education funding. Members discussed the need for specific data regarding demand for the associated occupation, including the need for information from business and industry, and that while multiple factors should be reviewed, the process should not be over-complicated.

To address these points, members suggested a pilot program be reviewed utilizing the potential parameters as noted as a basis for consideration for reinstatement for a program area previously removed from technical funding. Members agreed that bringing this program forward in the fall with review of the suggested parameters would provide additional information needed to further establish criteria.

OTHER MATTERS

Vice President Elaine Frisbee addressed the Authority regarding the ongoing budget cycle, emphasizing the need for forward-thinking despite still grappling with current budgetary figures. With the legislative process in motion for the 2025 budget, she urged members to look ahead to 2026, and outlined the upcoming schedule, highlighting the Board's retreat and off-site budget workshop slated for the final three days of July. Institutions should provide input for the 2026 budget consideration prior to those meetings. She explained that most of the previous proposals had been incorporated into the 2025 budget, including the micro-internship expansion effort, and introduced the Postsecondary Education Performance-based Incentives Fund, commonly known as the Ged Accelerator, for consideration this year. The GED Accelerator incentive program provides funds directly to the colleges for adult students pursuing technical credentials while attaining their high school equivalency. The financial allocations for institutions were outlined, and she further explained the history of budget fluctuations and the need for a more stable annual appropriation for this program. After considerable discussion, the Authority recommended the addition of \$100,000 to the budget appropriation for this program. In addition, an increase in the allocation to \$9.1 million in total was recommended for cybersecurity enhancement and training with actual distribution methodology to be determined later. Members reached a consensus recommendation to carry the other budget items included in the previous request forward with further discussions regarding exact amounts, justifications, and distributions.

ADULT EDUCATION UPDATE

Director Martinez presented an update on the Kansas Adult Education program, highlighting the program's 20 locations and 50 service sites across the state. The team is focused on changing the culture of adult education across the state from a second chance program to a next step opportunity to bring additional support to our communities through integrating educational and technical training, life skills training, increasing partnerships and by developing strategies to enhance a sustainable funding model to expand services since less than 3% of the population in need in Kansas is currently served. Kansas currently ranks fifth in the nation for employment outcomes and sixth for measured skills gains. Director Martinez emphasized the multifaceted approach needed to address adult education needs, including increased funding, targeted outreach, collaboration, and innovation, and highlighted the program's role in empowering individuals, strengthening communities, and contributing to long-term economic prosperity.

ACT ON UPDATES TO SB123 CREDENTIAL LIST

Director Charmine Chambers discussed the 2024-25 list of industry sought credentials required by SB123. This legislation pertains to the Career Technical Education (CTE) Credential and Transition Incentive for Employment Act. The law directs school districts to cover assessment fees for specific CTE credentials if students request them. Annually, a new list is created, approved by the State Board of Education and the Board of Regents, with input from the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Commerce. Technical and community colleges, school districts, and businesses were surveyed. Recommendations were collected by April 17th, but no changes were made to the existing list based on this review. The list includes Excel in CTE Qualifying Credentials, which must be part of a CTE program and occupationally specific. It excludes general certifications like OSHA or CPR, mirroring WIOA-eligible industry-recognized certifications that contribute to measurable skill gains.

Motion

Member Mikulka moved to approve. With a second from Member Hoover, the motion passed.

AY 2025 POSTSECONDARY TECHNICAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY GOALS

Consultant Johnson shared the recommendations from the committee discussions as shown below. She also shared that the Advocacy and Marketing Committee spoke at length, ultimately recommending the disbandment as a standing committee, and the reassignment of current committee members to other committees as advocacy and marketing activities primarily occur at the campus level, especially for career and technical education. Member Beene recommended that a goal regarding enhancing the military articulation and support efforts be added, as well as a goal exploring opportunities to enhance corrections programs and communicate the progress on both.

1. Explore opportunities to diversify the funding base for Adult Education services to ensure expansion and sustainability of those services. Activities could include identification and active pursuit of potential funding sources such as grants, private partnerships, and government funding programs.
2. Identify and share best practices in reducing and/or eliminating the actual fees high school students participating in the Excel in CTE programs are assessed and ensure actual costs and potential subsidies are adequately communicated.
3. Explore methods to ensure data used to calculate the components of the instructional cost model represent actual costs.
4. Resume program performance reviews using previously established criteria to validate and communicate the value of technical education in developing a skilled workforce and meeting the needs of business and industry.
5. Improve collaboration and integration of programs between Community Colleges and Technical Colleges and Adult Education centers to streamline joint programs, educational pathways, and communication channels ensuring seamless transitions for learners and between institutions.
6. Explore a methodology to share best practices and communicate student participation rates in work-based learning opportunities.
7. Work with Commerce in expanding the apprenticeship model and include a method for identifying and reporting the number of apprenticeships established and the number of apprentices participating.
8. Explore a method to report participation, promote awareness, and emphasize business & industry partnerships and the value of customized training occurring at the institutions using input from community colleges, technical colleges, and universities.
9. Enhance military articulation and support efforts.
10. Explore opportunities to enhance corrections programs and methods to communicate progress to meet workforce needs.

Motion

Member Anderson moved to approve the goals. Following a second by Member Beene, the motion passed.

ELECTION OF TEA OFFICERS

Member Hess made a motion for Ray Frederick to serve as chair due to his excellent performance, and that Curtis Sneden serve as vice chair for AY 2025. Member Beene seconded the motion. The motion passed.

NEXT MEETING REMINDER

Vice Chair Frederick reminded members that the next regularly scheduled meeting is August 29th and that will be a face-to-face meeting in Topeka.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Frederick adjourned the meeting at 12:36 p.m.