

**APPROVED MINUTES
KANSAS POSTSECONDARY
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY
MEETING**

A virtual meeting of the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority (TEA) was held via ZOOM on January 28, 2021.

Members Present

Ray Frederick Jr., Chair
Rita Johnson
Mike Johnson
Debra Mikulka
Mike Beene
Stacy Smith

Tiffany Anderson
Mark Hess
Eddie Estes
Jason Cox

Others Present

Jim Genandt, Manhattan Area Technical College
Dennis Rittle, Cowley County Community College
Heather Morgan, KACCT
Dean Hollenbeck, Flint Hills Technical College
Ryan Ruda, Garden City Community College
Cloud County Community College
North Central Kansas Technical College
Barton Community College
Neosho Community College
Tim Murrell, TCALC

Butler Community College
Northwest Kansas Technical College
Allen County Community College
Seward County Community College
Hutchinson Community College
Salina Area Technical College
Independence Community College
Labette Community College
Colby Community College

Kansas Board of Regents Staff Present

Scott Smathers
Connie Beene
Chris Lemon
Sue Grosdidier
Vera Brown
Erin Guardiola
Charmine Chambers
Kelly Oliver
Natalie Yoza
Susan Henry

Blake Flanders
April Henry
Lisa Beck
Tim Peterson
Tobias Wood
Elaine Frisbie
Matt Casey
Cindy Farrier
Steve Funk

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Frederick at 10:00 A.M. Chair Frederick provided members with virtual meeting guidelines for this meeting. He then asked members if there were any changes or additions to the Agenda. Chair Frederick informed members that he was going to defer item "E. Carl Perkins Update" under "III. Other Matters" to the February 25, 2021 TEA meeting. He also informed members that he was moving item "B. Funding Distributions" under "III. Other Matters" to be heard prior to item "A. Excel in CTE Fees."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:04 A.M. Member Hess moved to recess into executive session via a Zoom breakout room for 20 minutes to discuss matters deemed confidential in the attorney-client relationship. The subject of this

executive session was a request to recertify data. The purpose was for consultation with an attorney for the TEA that would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship. Participating in the executive session were members of the Technical Education Authority, Vice President for Workforce Development Scott Smathers, Vice President for Finance & Administration Elaine Frisbie, and Associate General Counsel Natalie Yoza. Following a second by Member Beene, the motion carried by roll call vote. At 10:28 A.M., the meeting returned to open session. At 10:29 A.M., Member Hess moved to extend 20 minutes. Following a second by Member Estes, the motion carried by roll call vote. At 10:49 A.M., the meeting returned to open session.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Motion: Member Beene moved to approve the minutes of December 20, 2020. Following a second by Member Mikulka, the motion carried.

REPORTS

Introductions

None.

Chair's Report

Chair Frederick reported that due to the pandemic, he has not had an opportunity to travel, but he has been in communication with institutions. He thanked the institutions and Board staff for their flexibility and commitment to education during the challenging times of the pandemic.

Member Liaison Reports

Chair Frederick invited TEA member activity reports.

Member Estes reported that the Dodge City Nursing Center was officially dedicated as the Floris Jean Hampton Nurse Education Center, named after local legend Floris Jean (Snyder) Hampton, who spent nearly 30 years representing the college on its board of trustees; Seward County Community College utilized over \$19,000 in COVID relief funds to update existing space into a dedicated "smart" conference room equipped with remote technology for virtual activities; and Garden City Community College is investing an additional \$10,000 in a second on-site Upward Academy training with Tyson. Member Estes requested that TEA members keep other members informed of their communications with the Legislature.

Member Mikulka reported that she has communicated with the Presidents of Labette County Community College and Neosho County Community College, and she is impressed with their initiatives to keep students in school and maintain program success during the pandemic, noting the importance of CRRSAA federal relief funds to ensure learning continues for students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Member Anderson reported that Washburn Tech, partnering with Topeka Public Schools TCALC and Stormont Vail Health Care, is offering a grant-supported CNA program at no cost to students, with Stormont Vail offering \$15/hour internships and guaranteed CNA jobs to students upon completion. She commended the vision of this partnership.

Member Beene reported good news on a personal level, regarding his experience in enrolling his daughter at Labette Community College, commending the ease of their online enrollment, payment portal, and their exceptional customer service.

Member Smith reported good news on a personal level that his daughter is completing the radiology program at Washburn University to become a frontline defender in the pandemic. He commended community colleges, workforce centers, and secondary schools for doing a great job navigating change in a time of great disruption due to the pandemic, facing the fact that the workforce expertise is advancing in

years and considering retiring. He reported that KSDE is working on “Navigating Next,” addressing what community colleges and workforce centers can do to provide graduating seniors with immediate training to join the workforce or continue postsecondary pursuits. He commended the leadership of community college presidents in partnering with KSDE working on these solutions.

Vice President for Workforce Development Report

Chair Frederick called on Vice President Smathers to provide members with a Workforce Development report. Vice President Smathers reported on the success of the Adult Education program at Garden City Community College, being selected by Tyson Foods for their Career Connections Academy and Upwards Pathway pilot for integrated education and training programs focusing on industrial maintenance skills attainment and professional advancement for participants. Vice President Smathers informed members that Hutchinson Community College and Kansas City Kansas Community College were both selected as finalists for the Rethink Adult Ed Challenge, which focuses on pre-apprenticeships and advanced manufacturing, and added that Kansas City Kansas Community College is working specifically with offenders at Lansing Correctional Facility.

Chair Frederick informed TEA members that some members may have to exit the meeting soon, so he chose to move the Funding Distribution Agenda item under “Other Matters” to be heard at this time.

OTHER MATTERS

Funding Distribution

Chair Frederick called on Vice President Elaine Frisbie to present the funding distributions. Vice President Frisbie referred members to the institution submissions provided in the meeting packet. The funding distributions based on the data submitted and certified by the presidents for Excel in CTE, AO-K Proviso, and GED Accelerator are presented to members for approval.

Excel in CTE

Institution	FY 2021 Distribution for Fall 2020 Enrollment	FY 2020 (Prior Year) Reconciliation	FY 2021 Proposed Net January Distribution
Allen Community College	\$323,224	(\$486,014)	(\$162,790)
Barton Community College	\$112,085	(\$44,839)	\$67,246
Butler Community College	\$338,556	(\$47,406)	\$291,150
Cloud County Community College	\$102,796	\$75,573	\$178,369
Coffeyville Community College	\$489,258	(\$80,934)	\$408,324
Colby Community College	\$88,331	(\$72,063)	\$16,268
Cowley Community College	\$389,137	\$38,260	\$427,397
Dodge City Community College	\$244,665	(\$79,678)	\$164,987
Flint Hills Technical College	\$855,260	\$435,777	\$1,291,037
Fort Scott Community College	\$440,123	\$110,453	\$550,576
Garden City Community College	\$206,427	\$103,750	\$310,177
Highland Community College	\$628,722	(\$277,944)	\$350,778
Hutchinson Community College	\$1,154,731	(\$506,304)	\$648,427
Independence Community College	\$79,038	(\$9,282)	\$69,756

Johnson County Community College	\$805,023	(\$82,942)	\$722,081
Kansas City Kansas Community College	\$1,203,258	(\$58,959)	\$1,144,299
Labette Community College	\$256,021	(\$4,835)	\$251,186
Manhattan Area Technical College	\$247,906	\$168,749	\$416,655
Neosho County Community College	\$691,101	\$188,334	\$879,435
North Central Kansas Technical College	\$235,268	\$26,986	\$262,254
Northwest Kansas Technical College	\$495,697	(\$105,023)	\$390,674
Pratt Community College	\$170,657	(\$90,063)	\$80,594
Salina Area Technical College	\$527,200	\$10,343	\$537,543
Seward County Community College	\$386,644	\$234,855	\$621,499
Washburn Institute of Technology	\$2,186,369	\$339,885	\$2,526,254
WSU Campus of Applied Sciences & Technology	\$2,795,504	\$213,321	\$3,008,825
Total	\$15,453,001	\$ --	\$15,453,001

Accelerating Opportunity: Kansas

Of the appropriation for Excel in CTE, at least \$500,000 must be spent for the Accelerating Opportunity: Kansas (AO-K) program which serves adults without a high school diploma or GED and who are enrolled in tiered technical courses in approved pathways. Amounts shown below are recommended for distribution for colleges to recover costs for instruction.

Accelerating Opportunity: Kansas

Institution	FY 2021 Distribution for Fall 2020 Enrollment	FY 2020 (Prior Year) Reconciliation	FY 2021 Proposed Net January Distribution
Allen Community College	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --
Barton Community College	\$32,256	\$16,667	\$48,923
Butler Community College	\$916	(\$5,017)	(\$4,101)
Cloud County Community College	--	--	--
Coffeyville Community College	--	--	--
Colby Community College	\$38,536	\$0	\$38,536
Cowley Community College	\$43,110	\$3,606	\$46,716
Dodge City Community College	--	(\$964)	(\$964)
Flint Hills Technical College	--	--	--
Fort Scott Community College	\$3,456	(\$12,874)	(\$9,418)
Garden City Community College	--	\$1,655	\$1,655
Highland Community College	\$15,881	\$43,686	\$59,567
Hutchinson Community College	--	(\$7,072)	(\$7,072)
Independence Community College	--	--	--
Johnson County Community College	\$2,830	(\$7,566)	(\$4,736)

Kansas City Kansas Community College	--	\$12,352	\$12,352
Labette Community College	--	--	--
Manhattan Area Technical College	--	--	--
Neosho County Community College	--	(\$4,409)	(\$4,409)
North Central Kansas Technical College	--	--	--
Northwest Kansas Technical College	--	--	--
Pratt Community College	--	--	--
Salina Area Technical College	--	(\$9,366)	(\$9,366)
Seward County Community College	--	(\$29,673)	(\$29,673)
Washburn Institute of Technology	\$64,160	(\$48,860)	\$15,300
WSU Campus of Applied Sciences & Technology	\$45,738	(\$73,869)	(\$28,131)
Total		(\$121,704)	\$125,179

GED Accelerator

The Postsecondary Education Performance-Based Incentives Fund (known as the GED Accelerator initiative) provides incentives to eligible institutions—community colleges, technical colleges and Washburn University Institute of Technology—for adults seeking and earning a GED/high school equivalency diploma and/or an identified industry credential while enrolled in an eligible postsecondary technical education program. Eligible institutions can receive \$170 for each adult enrolled in a postsecondary technical program while pursuing a GED/high school equivalency diploma (\$150 of which must be used for the GED/high school equivalency tests), \$500 for each adult earning a GED/high school equivalency diploma, and \$1,000 for each adult earning an identified industry credential while enrolled in an eligible postsecondary technical education program. Amounts shown in the prior year reconciliation column are recommended to be distributed at this time.

GED Accelerator

Institution	(For Reference) FY 2020 Distributions	Prior Year Reconciliation
Allen Community College	\$ --	\$ --
Barton Community College	\$3,700	\$12,850
Butler Community College	--	\$3,782
Cloud County Community College	--	--
Coffeyville Community College	--	--
Colby Community College	--	\$13,360
Cowley Community College	\$670	\$3,340
Dodge City Community College	--	--
Flint Hills Technical College	--	--
Fort Scott Community College	--	\$1,282
Garden City Community College	\$2,840	\$840
Highland Community College	--	--

Hutchinson Community College	--	--
Independence Community College	--	--
Johnson County Community College	--	\$5,180
Kansas City Kansas Community College	--	--
Labette Community College	--	--
Manhattan Area Technical College	--	--
Neosho County Community College	--	(\$143)
North Central Kansas Technical College	--	--
Northwest Kansas Technical College	--	--
Pratt Community College	--	--
Salina Area Technical College	\$3,000	\$7,340
Seward County Community College	\$840	\$4,510
Washburn Institute of Technology	\$15,530	\$10,380
WSU Campus of Applied Sciences & Technology	--	\$6,180
Total	\$26,580	\$68,901

Vice President Frisbie explained that the amounts identified in the tables reflect Fall 2020 (FY 2021) enrollments and reconciliation of FY 2020 actual enrollments, as reported and certified by the presidents for the Excel in CTE and Accelerating Opportunity: Kansas programs. In some cases, as institutions reported their Academic Year data for FY 2020, the amounts funded last year now require adjustment, and in one case, reconciliation results in an amount identified to be repaid to the Board Office, shown as a net negative amount. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting disruption of on-campus activities, colleges voiced concern about the Spring 2020 enrollment data collection and the Office of the Board of Regents agreed to make the spring enrollment data collection non-mandatory but available to colleges to upload data. The Board of Regents based its Spring 2020 distributions on a trend line analysis from prior years.

Once the data were certified and reconciled to distributions made in Fiscal Year 2020, an issue paper for making January distributions was published for review and approval by the TEA Budget and Finance Committee. Allen County Community College (ACCC) then realized that their data contained errors, resulting in their Excel in CTE FY 2020 distribution calculations reflecting an overfunding by \$486,014. Vice President Frisbie directed members to the net effect of the distributions. Vice President Frisbie explained that the Board of Regents would not ask for refund at this time but will wait on data for Spring 2021 enrollments and then net out the difference. ACCC President Masterson submitted a request to the Board of Regents to grant ACCC an exception to the process and be allowed to correct their data errors. Vice President Frisbie explained that logistically, reopening the certified data is difficult to accomplish four months later, and it would impact the distributions for other institutions. Chair Frederick invited comments from ACCC President Masterson, who provided a brief explanation of the errors in their data that was submitted and certified. Vice President Frisbie added that this event has caused KBOR staff to take the time to rethink KBOR systems and processes, including assembling a guide for funding flags for this program and developing reports from a president's point of view that might flag data items for a president's attention during review for certification.

Motion: Member R. Johnson moved to approve the Excel in CTE, AO-K Proviso, and GED Accelerator funding distributions as presented in the KBOR issue paper, noting the unfortunate incident of the errors in ACCC submitted certified data but with the rationale that it must be recognized that there is a process for submitting the AY data, the AY data is used for multiple reporting purposes, that ACCC was notified of

concerns about the data prior to their certification, and that ACCC still elected to certify and submit the data. Following a second by Member Hess, the motion carried by roll call vote. Member Estes and Member M. Johnson were dissenting votes.

Vice President Frisbie asked to be recognized by Chair Frederick to make a statement. Vice President Frisbie then read the following statement to the TEA members and requested that it be reflected in the meeting's minutes in its entirety:

"I have a statement to read this morning for the members of the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority.

The community colleges sent a letter to the Governor last week and sent copies of this letter to the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, the chairs of the budget committees, the state budget director, and our budget analyst. As this letter has now been shared with our agency, there are parts of the letter that demand a response with you here today. The letter is up on the screen so you can see what I am discussing.

The letter refers to several requests that the Board of Regents made to change several appropriation provisos. Those proviso changes were requested so that we can make the best use of the state funds on behalf of our system and the state universities to administer their payroll systems. Some of the requests are quite technical, but two of them drew the attention of the colleges and they were cited in the letter to the Governor and to legislative leaders.

The community college's letter confuses and conflates the two proviso changes which are completely unrelated.

The first proviso change was requested to address allocation of the tiered funding to the colleges if we have a budget cut, such as the Governor is recommending, and the tiered funding for FY 2022 is lower than what was received for FY 2021. This proviso change would have allowed us to consult with the colleges and the TEA on what to recommend to the Board of Regents for application of those reductions, for the June 2021 meeting. As it is, without that proviso change, we will have to relate colleges' tiered funding back to what they received in FY 2016. If that is what the Governor and Legislature prefer, that is what we will do, in accordance with the proviso.

The second proviso change was requested for those instances when the Board is appropriated an operating grant for the state universities so that the Board can transfer the grant to all of the campuses, such as to Kansas State Polytechnic in Salina, or to any of the other campus line-items or to make mid-year corrections because we have had a few times when the appropriations for the state universities get out of sync, like when there has been a pay plan, and the university needs the appropriation adjusted between two line items for their payroll systems.

To give you a specific example for how we use the State General Fund transfer authority granted to us, I would point out when Colby Community College did not meet its performance agreement targets for FY 2019. As a result of that process, they lost \$5,423 from their "new" tiered and non-tiered funding. Rather than let that money lapse back to the State General Fund, it was transferred, with the Budget Director's approval (as they are all approved in accordance with the proviso) to the Board of Regents' CTE Workforce grant so that more students have opportunities to attend a two-year college.

We take our job administering these tax dollars seriously and I think you do too. If there is ever a concern or any question over how something works related to our budget, the State of Kansas budget or anything public finance related, call me or email me. I will be happy to assist you.

Our agency is full of capable and devoted staff. We work hard to help the colleges with their data – in fact just recently our DRP staff helped a community college with their federal IPEDS data submission so they avoided financial penalties. Our finance staff push out millions of dollars to institutions and to students, our IT staff make it possible for us to work from home without a hitch or for these virtual meetings to run, our data and IT teams have programmed numerous reports and flags to help the campuses see where they may have errors, as well as staffing the help desk to take their calls and emails. All are spending their time, financed by the state’s taxpayers, in service to the campuses and the students attending those institutions.

This KACCT letter calls into question to our state’s elected leaders that we are not doing our job or that we are trying to subvert the statutory responsibilities assigned to the Tech Ed Authority and to the Board of Regents. For that reason, I felt compelled to speak out to make it absolutely clear that in fact we are doing our job and we are doing it well, and in accordance with relevant laws.

Thank you for the opportunity to clear the air on that letter. It will be important for our advocacy efforts to succeed that we all stay on the same page.

Mr. Chairman that’s all I have to say about that letter, and I ask that this statement be included in the minutes of the meeting.”

REPORTS

Report from the Community Colleges

Chair Frederick called upon Cowley County Community College President Dennis Rittle to provide members with a report from the community colleges.

Report from the Technical Colleges

Chair Frederick called upon Manhattan Area Technical College President Jim Genandt to provide members with a report from the technical colleges.

OTHER MATTERS

Excel in CTE Fees

Chair Frederick called on Director Henry to present the Excel in CTE fees. Director Henry first referred to member concerns at the 12/10/2020 TEA meeting regarding the disparity in the charges for OSHA 10 certification depending on the location in which a program is offered, specifically by Washburn Institute of Technology main campus and east campus. Director Henry explained that Board staff was informed that the disparity in OSHA 10 fees by campus has been remedied by Washburn Institute of Technology and the fees are now \$8 for both the main campus and the east campus. Director Henry then directed members to the 350 pages of data provided on the remaining 12 institutions for review of the Excel in CTE fees. Director Henry explained that institutions were tasked with going into each course and program and reporting the fees that are charged to high school students. Staff then approved or disapproved fees according to the criteria for allowable fees that was set by a special TEA subcommittee in 2019. Excel in CTE fees were submitted for review and approval by the TEA from the following 12 institutions:

Butler Community College
Cloud County Community College
Flint Hills Technical College
Hutchinson Community College
Independence Community College
Kansas City Kansas Community College
Labette Community College
Neosho Community College

North Central Kansas Technical College
Northwest Kansas Technical College
Salina Area Technical College
Seward County Community College

Director Henry explained there were no significant changes in the fees from those approved last year, and the criteria for approval has not changed. Board staff worked with each institution individually.

Motion: Member R. Johnson moved to approve the Excel in CTE fees as presented. Following a second by Member Mikulka, the motion carried by roll call vote.

Legislative Update

Chair Frederick called on Director Casey to provide members with a legislative update. Director Casey gave a brief report to members on the recent and upcoming activities of the Legislature, including discussing non-budgetary items such as the Promise Scholarship Act for the two-year sector and exploring the removal of legislative barriers to affiliations and mergers of institutions. He informed members that the Governor's budget resulted in approximately 5.5% in cuts to the universities' funding and approximately 2% in cuts to the two-year sector funding. He expressed the importance of advocating for funding to the Legislature on behalf of all institutions.

Micro-Internships Program

Chair Frederick called on Senior Project Director Peterson to present members with information on the Micro-Internships program. Senior Project Director Peterson explained that the goal of the Kansas Micro-Internships Program is to support the Kansas Board of Regents' "Building a Future" strategic plan and the Kansas Department of Commerce's aim to "connect businesses, job seekers, educational institutions and training providers to ensure the state's workforce is equipped to meet industry needs and to help create economic success for Kansas residents and businesses." More than 165,000 students attend the Kansas public colleges and universities that provide hundreds of training and education programs. The Kansas Micro-Internships Program will enable eligible students from these institutions to demonstrate their skills, explore career paths, and build their networks while helping large and small employers build a better future across the state. Micro-internships are short-term, paid, professional assignments in sales, marketing, finance, human resources, technology, and many other areas. These projects can be completed remotely year-round and typically range from 5 to 40 hours of work. Parker Dewey provides its micro-internships online platform to 400 colleges and universities, 3,400 employers, and thousands of students across the country at no cost to the participating institutions. Although the Kansas Micro-Internships Program does not require any funding to be established, Parker Dewey recommends that some small incentives be provided to increase employer participation. Hence, the DeBruce Foundation in Kansas City has awarded the Board a grant of \$17,855 to provide 50% matching micro-grants up to \$250 per project with a maximum of \$500 per employer. Senior Project Director Peterson invited TEA members to attend the informational webinar next week.

COLLEGE PRESENTATIONS

Flint Hills Technical College

Chair Frederick recognized President Dean Hollenbeck to provide members with an update on activities at Flint Hills Technical College.

Garden City Community College

Chair Frederick recognized President Ryan Ruda to provide members with an update on activities at Garden City Community College.

NEXT MEETING REMINDER

Chair Frederick reminded members that the next TEA meeting will be held virtually on February 25, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Frederick adjourned the meeting at 12:46 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan Henry, Executive Assistant



January 19th, 2021

Governor Laura Kelly
 Kansas Statehouse
 Topeka KS, 66612

Dear Governor Kelly,

On behalf of all 19 Kansas community colleges, thank you for your support of Kansas Community Colleges. We appreciate the difficult fiscal circumstances facing the state and nation given the pandemic. To recover after this unprecedented time in our history, a high-quality skilled workforce is going to be critical. We appreciate the work you did to limit the cut to both tiered and non-tiered community and technical college funding to two percent. However, the cut to SB 155/Excel in CTE in Governor’s budget was not two percent. Unfortunately, the true cut to SB 155/Excel in CTE funds equals an approximately 16.8% cut from FY 2020 actual expenditures. It appears the FY 2020 actual appropriation was \$29,050,000 additionally there was a \$1,526,841 reappropriation and a \$4,500,000 supplemental appropriation which provided \$35,972,496. There is a balance forward shown below. However, after actual expenses were reconciled that amount forward would have been 0 and actual expenditures exceeded revenue in FY 2020. Therefore, when the \$8.5 million allotment occurred and then a two percent reduction was taken on top of that the cut from the actual amount needed to fund the program is approximately 16.8%.

404 Report

Agency: 00561 Board of Regents
 Version: 2022-A-02-00561

Fund Number: Name:	FY 2020 Actuals	FY 2021 Adjusted Budget Request	FY 2022 Adjusted Budget Request	FY 2023 Adjusted Budget Request
1000 0120 Tech Ed Tuition				
40001 APPROPRIATION	29,050,000	37,550,000	29,050,000	0
40002 REAPPROPRIATION	1,526,841	104,345	0	0
40011 Supplemental Appropriation	4,500,000	0	0	0
40013 ALLOTMENT	0	(8,500,000)	0	0
Total Available	35,076,841	29,154,345	29,050,000	0
Total Reportable Expenditures	34,972,496	29,154,345	29,050,000	0
Total Expenditures	34,972,496	29,154,345	29,050,000	0
Balance Forward				
KANSAS	104,345	0	0	0

404 Report

koliver / 2022-A-02-00561

The allotment of \$8.5 million in the current year, in addition to the cut, will cripple the ability of Kansas Community Colleges to meet the workforce needs of Kansas businesses. SB 155/Excel in CTE classes have already been delivered to K-12 students; therefore, the cost of these courses is essentially a bill that is due to be paid from the state of Kansas. We respectfully request full funding of the SB 155 program because unlike other cuts which were included in the budget, Kansas Community Colleges have already delivered the services for this program. It is not as if we can deliver fewer services or generate revenue to cover the expense, the law is clear, these classes are to be free as we are prohibited from charging tuition.

We often hear about a persistent skills gap being experienced by Kansas companies and are collaborating with K-12 partners to encourage students to enroll in SB 155 classes to address this need. Without full funding not only are colleges not being paid, but we would be losing class seats for other students for whom we are paid for services delivered. We understand the importance of high school students entering these pathways and have consistently ensured that faculty were dedicated to ensuring they had access to these classes. The results are clear, as last year thousands of additional students took advantage of this program. We know that completion of these courses, while in high school, significantly lowers the cost of post-secondary education for families, provides students a jump-start on their careers, and correlates to more successful completion of degrees and certificates. We appreciate your willingness to reconsider your budget recommendation and request that you eliminate the SB 155 cut proposed.

Additionally, Community Colleges thank you for NOT recommending the alteration of a long-standing proviso or recommending a new proviso which was requested by the Kansas Board of Regents in their budget submission. The first proviso would have altered the language around the postsecondary tiered technical education state aid fund and how it is distributed to the two-year sector colleges. We also urge the legislature to also oppose this proviso language change which could lead to distribution changes and break long-standing agreements between institutions in the two-year sector. KBOR also requested a proviso to allow the movement of money in any SGF account at KBOR or at any of the Regents Institutions between accounts. No action will need to be taken by the legislative budget committees to alter the introduced budget bill, because as introduced the bill will not include either the proviso changes or new proviso requested.

Community Colleges believe that when the legislature approves the budget, and the Governor signs it that there should be assurances that what has been legislatively approved and enacted into law is what is implemented. KBOR does have the current authority to move money within the SGF accounts at KBOR to other SGF accounts. Community Colleges suggest a proviso be considered which would prohibit any transfer of state general funds from the Postsecondary tiered technical education state aid (561-00-1000-0760), Non-tiered course credit hour grant (561-00-1000-0550), and Tuition for technical education (561-00-1000-0120) to any other fund within the KBOR budget. If for some reason funding needed to be transferred within these three funds this could be requested during the next legislative session after the funds are reappropriated. This would ensure that the funding for Tiered, Non-Tiered, and SB 155/Excel in CTE funds are essentially locked in and will be transferred to community and technical colleges as intended by the legislature when they approve the budget bill which is subsequently enacted by the Governor. Thank you for your time and attention to these issues.

Sincerely,



Heather Morgan

Executive Director, Kansas Association of Community College Trustees

785-221-2828

hmorgan@kacct.org

CC: Adam Proffitt, Budget Director
Sheena Ward, Principal Budget Analyst
Ty Masterson, Senate President
Rick Billinger, Senate Ways and Means Chairman
Ron Ryckman, House Speaker
Troy Waymaster, Appropriations Chairman
Susan Humphries, House Higher Education Budget Chairperson