

**KANSAS POSTSECONDARY  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY**  
Budget and Finance Committee  
MINUTES  
October 17, 2024

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Curtis Sneden, Chair  
David Reist, Vice Chair  
Keith Humphrey  
Amber Schultz  
Ray Frederick  
Todd Zimmer

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sneden at 8:30 A.M.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Member Frederick moved to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2024, meeting and following a second by Member Reist, the motion carried.

**CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDA**

**ACT ON INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY GRANT AWARDS**

Vera Brown, Director for Career Technical Education, outlined the proposed Innovative Technology grant awards for fiscal year 2025. She explained that these grants are made possible through the Kansas Technology Innovation and Internship Program, funded by the legislature. The program requires grant recipients to partner with local industry, ensuring a 100% matching contribution, which may come in the form of cash or in-kind donations. Furthermore, the initiative must be linked to emerging technologies, manufacturing, or areas where there is a documented skills shortage.

Grant proposals submitted were reviewed and the following three proposals were presented for discussion and recommended for potential funding:

1. Fort Hays Technical College, Northwest: The college requested \$10,800 for their electrical technology program. The funds will be used to purchase industry-standard computers that will work with their programmable logic controller equipment. The institution partnered with Interstates, which will provide donations of consulting, training services, equipment, and supplies totaling over \$12,274.
2. Seward County Community College: The college's allied health program requested \$28,800 to buy virtual reality headsets and software to facilitate virtual reality simulations. This project was supported by several local industry partners, contributing through various forms of donations, including cash, clinical time, hospital beds, and a patient cart with donations amounting to \$28,982.
3. Washburn Institute of Technology: The institute requested \$100,500 for its welding program to purchase a beveling machine, welders, a spooling gun, and a tungsten grinder. Their partner, Ernest Spencer, is contributing \$143,360 worth of steel as a donation.

Chair Sneden sought clarification on the next steps for the grant proposals, asking if the action being taken by the committee was to approve the grants outright or merely to approve them for consideration by the larger Technical

Education Authority (TEA). In response, Director Brown explained that the committee could choose to recommend approval and place this item on the TEA's consent agenda or to place this item on the TEA's discussion agenda for further consideration. Ultimately, the decision to expend these grant funds would need to be approved by the full TEA. Following the explanation, Chair Sneden invited a motion to proceed.

Member Reist made the motion to recommend approval and to place the Innovative Technology grants on the Technical Education Authority consent agenda for the October 31, 2024, meeting, followed by a second from Member Frederick. Motion carried.

#### ACT ON COURSE BUCKET REVIEW

Charmine Chambers, Director for Workforce Development, provided an update on the ongoing course bucket review process, which began last year. She reminded the committee of the earlier review of pharmacology courses within the Kansas Higher Educational Data System (KHEDS), and that those course bucket changes were approved by the TEA in October of 2023.

Director Chambers noted that the second year of the project focused on several additional buckets that were identified as non-program specific. These included current buckets such as practicum, internship, clinical courses, field experience, project management, measurement, etc., which included courses attached to a number of different specific programs. How the courses within these buckets were used by individual institutions was evaluated and potential program specific buckets identified for recommended course/bucket reassignments.

Director Chambers provided members with a color-coded, detailed listing of all courses assigned to each of current buckets being reviewed and the recommended bucket reassignments to program specific buckets when necessary. Director Chambers noted that there are no recommendations to change any courses from tiered to non-tiered status at this time. Courses currently classified as non-tiered typically remain so based on the nature of the associated program. However, there were two courses (in blue) currently in the non-tiered bucket that are recommended to be moved to a technical program specific bucket. The courses appropriately placed in their current program-specific buckets based on their use in the respective programs are recommended to remain in their current assignments, and a number of courses are recommended for reassignment to a different tiered program-specific bucket.

Director Chambers outlined the plan to complete the review of all courses, which currently number over 15,000 in the system, by next year. Once all courses are reviewed, those within each bucket will receive funding rates based on the program to which the course is attached. The ultimate objective is to ensure all courses are properly categorized into program-specific buckets based on institutional assignments within KHEDS.

Chair Sneden suggested that it would be best to initiate the discussion process by addressing any questions regarding the explanation of the proposal and its implications. He recommended that the proposal would benefit from deliberation and discussion by the larger body of the TEA. Following this, he invited a motion to proceed.

Member Frederick made the motion to include the Course Bucket Review on the discussion agenda at the October 31, 2024, TEA meeting, followed by a second from Member Reist.

Chair Sneden led a discussion inviting feedback on the proposal. Director Chambers confirmed that relevant information had been shared with institutional leaders, with some inquiries about potential rate changes but general support for the review. Member Frederick highlighted the importance of documenting the community college and technical college support and, upon inquiring about feedback, heard agreement from President Carter of Colby Community College on behalf of the community colleges, and President Genandt of Manhattan Area Technical College on behalf of the technical colleges; both emphasizing the need for fair funding, even if some institutions faced changes, and support for the review process.

Chair Sneden concluded that the goal was to establish consensus on the proposal's direction, not delve into specifics, and there was broad agreement to proceed. President Carter stated that the inclusive approach was appreciated and viewed the review as a positive step forward, despite concerns about funding outcomes.

Following discussion, the motion to include the Course Bucket Review on the discussion agenda at the October 31, 2024, Technical Education Authority meeting was approved.

**NEXT MEETING REMINDER**

Chair Sneden reminded the committee of their next meeting on November 7, 2024, via Zoom, following the in-person TEA meeting on October 31, 2024. April White, Vice President for Workforce Development, confirmed that all committee meetings would continue to be held virtually.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Sneden called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 A.M. Member Frederick followed with a second, the motion carried.