

**KANSAS POSTSECONDARY
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES
September 26, 2024**

The Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority (TEA) meeting was called to order by Chair Ray Frederick via Zoom at 10:02 am. Proper notice was given according to law.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ray Frederick, Jr. (TEA Chair)
 Curtis Sneden (TEA Vice Chair)
 Dr. Tiffany Anderson
 Mark Hess
 Cindy Hoover
 Debra Mikulka
 David Reist
 Mike Beene
 Amber Shultz (Angela White proxy)
 Natalie Clark

MEMBERS ABSENT: Todd Zimmer
 Keith Humphrey

INTRODUCTIONS

There were no introductions at this time.

REPORTS

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Frederick began by highlighting the Manhattan Tech ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new Advanced Technology Center held on August 29th. He extended congratulations to President Genandt and his team, as well as members of the community, for their strong business and industry partner support. Chair Frederick praised the event, noting it was a great success and expressed his admiration for the enthusiasm in the room.

TEA MEMBER REPORTS

Dr. Tiffany Anderson updated members regarding the CTE career exploration course she is teaching this semester, a planned visit to Washburn Tech with her students, the opportunity for her students to meet with legislators on October 30. Dr. Anderson also thanked those who responded regarding having students' representatives from her class and the Topeka Center for Advanced Learning & Careers (TCALC) speak to the TEA in November or December to discuss their career pathways and challenges. Dr. Anderson also suggested the curriculum committee may want to think about potential options for a teacher training pathway in the future. She looks forward to introducing these students in November or December.

REPORT FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Vice President White expressed her gratitude to Chair Frederick, her team at KBOR, Vice President Frisbie, and others who supported her after the recent death in her family. She acknowledged it had been a challenging month but proceeded to provide updates from the workforce development team.

She highlighted that the Perkins team is currently reviewing reserve grant applications, with \$500,000 in federal funds allocated for special population support projects. So far, they have received eight applications. Associate Director Wood will later provide an update on the projects funded last year, and VP White encouraged colleges to take advantage of this opportunity.

Additionally, the State Innovative Technology Grant is available, requiring a 1-to-1 match with business and industry partners. The deadline to apply is October 3rd. She also reminded everyone that the adult education provider RFP is open, with applications due by January 31, 2025. After that deadline, no new adult education providers will be accepted until 2030, making it crucial for interested parties to apply on time.

Lastly, she mentioned that the workforce development team would be attending the Kansas Workforce Innovation Conference on October 1 and 2, with an Accelerating Opportunity Training event scheduled the day before.

REPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY COLLEGES

President Amber Knoettgen of Cloud County Community College stepped in to provide a report on behalf of President Carter of Colby Community College. She highlighted that she shared the significance of these colleges at a recent Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) meeting and emphasized the critical role these institutions play in the state's higher education landscape and workforce development.

President Knoettgen also mentioned the recent data certification process for academic year 2024, which was completed by September 6 and expressed gratitude to KBOR staff for their support in this labor-intensive process, noting the improvements in data accuracy and reporting tools over the past five years.

President Knoettgen expressed optimism about fall 2024 enrollment trends, noting an overall increase across community colleges, and stressed the strong relationships between colleges and local industries, which have led to updated facilities and programs tailored to workforce needs.

President Knoettgen concluded by highlighting several programs at full capacity, including nursing, allied health, welding, criminal justice, automotive technology, and cybersecurity. She expressed hope that this growth would lead to an increase in the college-going rate and more credentials earned, aligning with KBOR's strategic plan. Overall, she was proud of the progress and the contributions of community and technical colleges to Kansas' talent pipeline.

REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COLLEGES

President Genandt discussed a document included in the packet, which he had shared with the Regents. He emphasized that it reflected only a portion of the group's efforts but highlighted that their institutions have the same accreditation as the state universities and community colleges. He referenced a report called *The Rising Storm*, detailing an impending workforce shortage, especially in blue-collar jobs, as the Baby Boomer generation rapidly retires. He stressed the critical need for workers in areas like plumbing, electrical work, and automotive repair.

President Genandt praised the efforts of various institutions. For example, Washburn Tech has experienced strong enrollment growth, necessitating more classroom space and collaboration with school districts. Fort Hays State University and its affiliated two-year colleges in Goodland and Beloit have also seen great community support, with a local Walmart featuring Fort Hays and affiliated colleges' merchandise. He also shared a student testimonial from one of Ben Schears, President - Fort Hays Tech Northwest students, highlighting how the cloud and crypto computing program has provided a fulfilling educational path. President Genandt mentioned the strong collaboration between two-year colleges and universities, noting how students sometimes transition from larger universities to technical schools when they find themselves unprepared.

President Genandt then highlighted the success of Wichita Tech, which was recognized as a Hispanic-serving institution, with 25% Hispanic enrollment, and celebrated its recent automotive center renovation, a project completed with private industry partners like Walser Automotive Group and WKI Kenworth.

Manhattan Technical College, where President Genandt serves, also had a recent ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new facility, which attracted an unexpectedly large crowd of 400 people. He proudly shared that they are now

purchasing a mobile VR lab to enhance both recruitment and instruction, aiming to have it operational by the end of the spring semester.

Overall, President Genandt expressed gratitude for the strong support from KBOR and the Regents over the past couple of years, which has led to significant growth and program development at their institutions.

CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDA

Program and Curriculum Committee

ACT ON PROGRAM ALIGNMENT(S): INSTITUTION PROGRAM ALIGNMENT VERIFICATION PROJECT

Associate Director Roberts introduced the Program Alignment Verification Project, aimed at ensuring the TEA is meeting original legislative requirements and aligning technical education programs to the needs of business and industry. Program Alignment has four primary objectives: obtaining industry input on required skills, identifying industry-recognized certifications, ensuring consistency in program structures, and reducing variability in program length.

Associate Director Roberts noted that some institutions were not currently fully compliant with the program alignment standards, prompting the need for a system-wide review. Noncompliance issues included inconsistent naming conventions, misaligned course structures, and unclear certification requirements.

To address these issues, staff recommended a multi-step strategy:

1. Institution Program Alignment Verification: Colleges will review their programs for compliance starting October 1, 2024, with the review closing on March 1, 2025. This will involve checking program structures across KHEDS Program Inventory, college catalog and degree maps, institution website, and other public program materials as well as completing a Verification spreadsheet.
2. Staff Review: Workforce development staff will assess each program's alignment and update the KHEDS system accordingly.
3. Annual Program Realignment Submission: Institutions will be required to complete alignment for each academic year by July 1.
4. Presidential Acknowledgement Letter: By August 1, institutions must submit a letter indicating which programs do not meet alignment requirements.
5. Verification Results: The outcomes of this verification process will be reported to the Technical Education Authority (TEA) in September 2025.

This comprehensive approach is designed to ensure that Kansas technical programs remain aligned with industry needs and comply with state standards.

Member David Reist posed a question regarding the Program Alignment Verification Project, inquiring whether it was a new initiative or part of an existing process, and how it differed from what had been in place.

In response, Associate Director Roberts explained that there is indeed a normal procedure for program alignment that involves updating the KHEDS system whenever a realignment or new program is introduced. Typically, she and Director Charmine Chambers review and approve these updates, which are conducted on a smaller scale. However, this new initiative represents a more comprehensive, systemwide effort to ensure all institutions are aligned, as previous checks have been limited in scope and intensive for staff.

Associate Director Roberts emphasized that this project serves as a "reboot," aimed at retraining institutions to ensure consistency across programs, particularly given the changes in staff at both the Kansas Board of Regents

(KBOR) and within the field over the years. The goal is to create a unified approach to program alignment that had been lacking previously.

During the meeting, Director Chambers provided additional context regarding the Program Alignment Verification Project. She noted that currently, there are only 25 aligned programs across the system, which represents a small fraction of the total programs offered. Due to the need to realign existing programs and work on articulation with K-12 partners, it is unlikely that new alignments will be added in the coming year.

Director Chambers emphasized that institutions offering aligned programs are always invited to participate in the alignment process, and institutional flexibility is evident in the credit hour requirements for certifications, which can vary significantly depending on the program to allow institutions to meet local business and industry needs.

Chair Frederick inquired if institutions objected to the concept of alignment. Associate Director Roberts clarified that while there generally are not outright objections, some institutions may need more flexibility to accommodate local industry requirements. She explained that sometimes institutions struggle to keep their KHEDS updates consistent with their public-facing materials, leading to discrepancies in program alignment.

Further discussion revealed that institutions might choose not to align a program if local industry demands require a quicker turnaround of graduates or if they wish to differentiate their program titles from the standardized names used in alignment. Associate Director Roberts stressed the importance of maintaining consistent program titles to facilitate credit transfers across institutions, ensuring students can move smoothly within the system.

Member Mikulka raised a question about the consequences of programs that are not aligned with state standards, particularly regarding state funding. Associate Director Roberts responded by noting that, according to current policy, programs must be aligned to receive Perkins funding if such alignment exists. She suggested that Director Charmine Chambers might provide further insights into the specifics of funding eligibility.

Director Chambers confirmed that the Perkins funding indeed requires alignment but clarified that there are no other funding sources currently tied to program alignment.

Member Mikulka then inquired about the nature of the aligned programs, asking if they were primarily in high-demand and high-wage fields. Director Chambers responded affirmatively, explaining that the 25 aligned programs represent a significant portion of high-demand, high-wage occupations in the state, including fields such as healthcare, registered nursing, practical nursing, automotive technology, electrical technology, HVAC, and welding. She emphasized that these programs have consistently been in high demand and are widely offered across the state, indicating a strategic focus on aligning programs that have a broad reach rather than those available at only a few institutions.

Member Mike Beene moved to approve the Program Alignment Verification Project. Member Hoover seconded. The motion carried.

Other Matters

BOARD OF REGENTS GOALS AY 25 (2024-2025)

In a recent meeting, Vice President Frisbie addressed the attendees, expressing gratitude for the support from Cloud Community College President Knoettgen and acknowledging the invaluable contributions of the data team. She emphasized the importance of data in decision-making processes at the campus level and highlighted the collaborative effort involved.

Vice President Frisbie took the opportunity to discuss the Board's strategic goals for the upcoming year, which revolve around three main pillars: enhancing student affordability, access, and success. She noted that while the

board has specific goals, each committee—such as the Curriculum and Program Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee—focuses on its unique objectives.

The Board's seven key goals include:

1. **Expanding Access:** Building on the success of initiatives like Excel and CTE to allow high school students to earn college credit.
2. **Improving Transfer Processes:** Facilitating smooth transitions for students transferring from two-year colleges to four-year universities.
3. **Implementing Student Success Playbooks:** Following recommendations from the National Institute of Student Success to enhance student progress toward their degrees.
4. **Expanding Open Educational Resources:** Increasing access to free educational materials to alleviate financial burdens on students.
5. **Increasing FAFSA Completion Rates:** Addressing challenges with the new FAFSA form to improve application rates among high school and other students.
6. **Launching the Blueprint for Literacy:** Collaborating with K-12 partners to ensure effective literacy training for teachers and students.
7. **Documenting Alternative Credentials:** Improving tracking and reporting of micro-credentials and other innovative educational offerings.

Additionally, Vice President Frisbie outlined the Board's focus on securing state investment in university research functions to stay competitive, as well as enhancing cybersecurity measures across the six state universities. The new governance policy for managing cybersecurity risks was approved during the September board meeting, aiming to protect sensitive data and improve collaboration among public universities, including Washburn University.

In summary, the Board of Regents is prioritizing initiatives that enhance student access and success while fostering innovation and safeguarding information across the state's higher education system.

2025 VIRTUAL HEALTH CARE DAY

Jaron Caffrey, from the Kansas Hospital Association (KHA), shared updates on the planning of the 2025 Virtual Healthcare Career Day, which will be held on January 30, 2025. This event, co-hosted by the KHA, the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR), and the Kansas Department of Education (KSDE), aims to showcase various healthcare careers through pre-recorded 20-minute "day in the life" videos, followed by live Q&A sessions. The event targets a wide audience, including middle school, high school, post-secondary students, and adult learners interested in career changes.

The 2025 event will feature eight healthcare careers, highlighting roles beyond traditional doctor and nurse positions. This year's profiles will include critical care nursing, family practice medicine, pharmacy (with both pharmacy technician and pharmacist pathways), occupational therapy (featuring both therapists and assistants), facilities management, health IT and cybersecurity, behavioral health, and respiratory therapy. Hospitals from across Kansas will participate, including AdventHealth in Kansas City, Rice County Community Healthcare, Rooks County Health Center, and the University of Kansas Health System.

Mr. Caffrey emphasized that healthcare institutions are like "miniature cities," requiring a wide range of professionals, both clinical and non-clinical. The inclusion of non-clinical roles like facilities management and cybersecurity reflects the evolving needs of healthcare facilities.

The event aims to attract even more participation than the previous year, which saw over 3,000 students from various educational institutions. Sponsorship opportunities are available, and schools like Barton Community College and Kansas City Kansas Community College have previously used the event to promote their healthcare

programs. Caffrey encouraged more colleges to get involved, noting the value in reaching students interested in healthcare careers and providing them with insight into educational programs available in Kansas.

He concluded by thanking KBOR and the community and technical colleges for their ongoing partnership in helping students explore the wide range of healthcare professions.

Chair Frederick asked about next steps for students after participating in the Virtual Healthcare Career Day. Jaron Caffrey explained that the event includes a dedicated "Next Steps" segment designed to provide guidance for participants. In previous years, representatives from the Board of Regents, the Department of Education, and organizations like HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) provided general advice. However, for the upcoming 2025 event, the segment will be more focused and practical.

Mr. Caffrey outlined that this year's session will feature career advising personnel from colleges, faculty members, and high school representatives who will offer concrete suggestions for students. They will discuss relevant courses, extracurricular activities, and opportunities such as apprenticeships or direct job training in healthcare. The goal is to give students clear, actionable steps they can take after the event, such as courses to pursue, potential job opportunities, and pathways into healthcare careers.

Additionally, Caffrey mentioned the new "happyinhealthcare.org" website, which serves as a resource hub for scholarships, financial aid, and healthcare programs across Kansas. The site also includes a career quiz to help students explore fields that may interest them.

Chair Frederick expressed approval of this more structured approach, emphasizing the importance of helping students turn their excitement into tangible career paths. He also praised Caffrey's approach to encouraging sponsorships for the event.

METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

Associate Director Tobias Wood began by explaining the "Methods of Administration" (MOA), a crucial but often misunderstood aspect of career and technical education (CTE) oversight. The MOA ensures that institutions receiving federal financial aid for CTE comply with civil rights laws. Wood emphasized that although his role at the Kansas Board of Regents involves conducting reviews on behalf of the U.S. Office for Civil Rights (OCR), the Kansas Board of Regents is not part of the OCR.

Associate Director Wood explained that MOA activities are focused on ensuring both administrative and physical accessibility for students. This includes conducting desk audits to identify disproportionate enrollment of protected groups and ensuring that campuses meet physical accessibility standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Kansas MOA plan, which was filed with OCR in 2020, outlines procedures for performing audits and reviews, all of which are available on the Kansas Board of Regents website.

Associate Director Wood detailed how the audits look for both underrepresentation and overrepresentation of protected groups in programs, as well as discrimination in areas like recruitment, admissions, and financial aid. Physical accessibility reviews are also conducted to ensure that campuses comply with ADA standards.

Additionally, he emphasized the importance of the continuous nondiscrimination notice that institutions are required to display. These notices should include key phrases like "the college does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability," and must identify a Title IX coordinator with contact information.

Associate Director Wood concluded by offering technical assistance to institutions and invited those attending the upcoming Workforce Conference in Salina to join his pre-conference session on what compliance looks like. He expressed that this work is personally rewarding as it helps institutions become more accessible for students and staff.

FY24 PERKINS RESERVE GRANT OUTCOMES

Tobias Wood, Associate Director, discussed a specific grant opportunity, noting that Vice President White had already mentioned it, with additional references in the background and summary materials. He explained that a portion of the Perkins Reserve grant is set aside to address larger issues, especially core indicators of concern for the state, such as 3P1. This indicator measures the percentage of students pursuing nontraditional gender occupations, like female welders or male nurses, where the state is close to falling behind. Although still performing well overall, attention is being focused on improving in this area.

Associate Director Wood emphasized that special populations, identified in the issue paper, are at risk of not completing their education. To combat this, funds have been allocated for several years to projects aimed at reducing or eliminating these barriers. This grant was used to purchase classroom sets of tools, equipment, and resources. Various institutions stepped up, identifying these needs in their local assessments, and incorporating them into their four-year funding plans.

In FY24, several institutions received funding through the Perkins Reserve Grant. The institutions used the grant to acquire industry-standard equipment without raising student fees or, in some cases, directly reducing out-of-pocket costs. For example, Barton College was able to reduce costs by an estimated \$83 per student for ten years, while Johnson County reduced costs by \$75 to \$350 per student for their Allied Health programs. Fort Hays Tech provided toolkits for automotive students, ensuring that those without financial means could still participate fully. Other examples include Washburn University's purchase of stethoscopes for respiratory care students and WSU Tech's upgrade of a hybrid-flexible learning space, allowing students who could not attend in person to participate remotely.

Overall, these projects aim to support high-demand career programs and remove financial and logistical barriers for students, ensuring access to essential tools and education while maintaining affordability.

AY26 EXCEL IN CTE FEE COLLECTION

Director Charmine Chambers provided an update on the Excel in CTE fees data collection process. She noted that the data collection is open from September 16 to October 31. Webinar invitations were sent to business officers of technical and community colleges on September 5 and again on September 23, for the September 24 webinar. Additionally, invitations were sent to chief academic officers, business officers, presidents, and Kansas Higher Education Data System (KHEDS) users on September 24.

The webinar had 88 participants, with only two institutions absent. Director Chambers personally followed up with the absent institutions, providing them with the PowerPoint and recording from the session. The PowerPoint, recording, and FAQ are also posted on KHEDS.

One institution has already made updates, and Associate Director Roberts has addressed those changes, ensuring the process is progressing smoothly.

NEXT MEETING REMINDER

Chair Frederick reminded members that the next regularly scheduled meeting is October 31, 2024, and that will be an in-person meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Frederick adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.