

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMERCE, LABOR AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mark Hutton at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, February 04, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Erin Davis – Excused

Representative Gene Suellentrop – Excused

Committee staff present:

Reed Holwegner, Legislative Research Department

Linda Herrick, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Chuck Reimer, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dr. John Bardo, President, Wichita State University

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Presentation on:

Wichita State Innovation Campus: Being an Economic Driver and Providing a Globally Competitive Workforce through Applied Learning

Dr. John Bardo, President of Wichita State University (WSU), gave a presentation ([Attachment 1](#)) on Wichita State Innovation Campus: Being an Economic Driver and Providing A Globally Competitive Workforce through Applied Learning. Dr. Bardo noted that nationally and statewide trends indicate digitization is driving the economy. The focus is around the metropolitan areas. Twenty-six percent of products made are in the metro areas.

Aviation is facing increased competition and changes in production technology. Manufacturing is increasingly centered on robot-based technologies and new material requiring less labor. The current economy in Wichita is based on the industries of aviation, oil and gas, and heavy machinery other than aviation.

It was found that 100% of all net new jobs in the U.S. come from new jobs in the technology sector with under a 5-year history. Dr. Bardo continued noting education is best if it is about things people care about. The school re-aligned its education programs, and last fall, there were 40% more visits by perspective college students.

WSU is creating an innovation campus to promote start-ups based upon new ideas, to support existing business growth in the region, and to grow a workforce for the future. Dr. Bardo added that the new campus will have the most advanced manufacturing capacity in the United States. Six robots will do edit manufacturing with no labor other than people to fill material bins. He noted the equipment was invented by Lockheed.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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If young people have ideas for building, WSU's experimental engineering center will help with building and the patent, and to connect with finance people to get the business going and create new jobs. This business model is higher education working partnering with private industry to create jobs and boost the economy in South Central Kansas.

Possible bill introductions

Chairperson Hutton asked for any bills to be introduced.

Representative Claeys moved, seconded by Representative Corbet, a bill be introduced concerning tax increment financing (TIF) districts, buildings 65 years old or older, and vacant lots. The motion passed.

Representative Frownfelter moved, seconded by Representative Whipple, a bill be introduced concerning privately contracted school buses. The motion passed.

Representative Couture-Lovelady moved, seconded by Representative Patton, a bill be introduced, as requested by Representative Steve Johnson, concerning blind bidding laws for film distributors. The motion passed.

John Peterson, Capitol Strategies, asked that a bill be introduced concerning elevator industry safety, construction, and maintenance.

Representative Mason moved, seconded by Representative Frownfelter, the bill as requested be introduced. The motion passed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m. The next meeting will be Thursday, February 5.