

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 Thursday, February 05, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Annie Tietze – Excused

Representative J. Basil-Dannebohm – 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. Joseph Sopcich, President, Johnson County Community College

Blake Flanders, Vice President, Workforce Development, Kansas Board of Regents

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Presentation on:

Today's Community College in Workforce Development

Dr. Joseph Sopcich, President, Johnson County Community College (JCCC), gave a presentation on Today's Community College in Workforce Development ([Attachment 1](#)). He added he is representing all nineteen community colleges across Kansas. He noted the mission of the community college is to serve the needs of its respective community. Higher education for community colleges is about working with business and doing workforce development.

Community colleges last year served 131,868 students in credit courses and 8,208 participated in technical education. JCCC works closely with the business community to ensure that its traditional (credit) and continuing education program meet the needs of the workplace.

Forty-two advisory committees review curriculum and goals for traditional and career programs. Dr. Sopcich also noted JCCC works with universities to develop affordable, efficient, and seamless degree programs.

After the presentation, Dr. Sopcich gave the following responses to questions asked by the Committee members:

-- JCCC works with high school students to get them involved in certain careers and to find some field that excites them and demonstrate a path to getting a job.

-- Dr. Sopcich added JCCC works with other community colleges to exchange information and expertise, but competition creates a higher level of performance.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development at 1:30 pm on Thursday, February 05, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

-- The average age of persons attending community colleges is 27 years. JCCC supports both in-school classes and online classes.

-- JCCC has a labor initiative on its web site, and a system is in place to help with credit transfer between colleges.

Presentation on:

Update on University Engineering Initiative Act

Blake Flanders, PhD., Vice President of Workforce Development for the Kansas Board of Regents presented an update on the University Engineering Initiative ([Attachment 2](#)). In 2011, the Kansas Legislature approved multi-year matching grants to Kansas State University, Kansas University, and Wichita State University.

The purpose of the funds was to provide for more engineering graduates. The goal for 2021 is to have 1,367 graduates. The number has increased from 875 to 1,134, which is ahead of the progress toward the 2021 goal.

-- It was asked what percentage of the graduates stayed in Kansas or in the Kansas metropolitan areas. Mr. Flanders replied that it is difficult to determine when some students live in Kansas and get work in Missouri. He added that he will look at the data and furnish the Committee with a response.

-- Mr. Flanders will furnish a report on the types of engineering fields that are being pursued.

-- Mr. Flanders stated it is a competitive advantage for Kansas to have this engineering initiative, and this will be more apparent in the 2017 when the first report on the program will be submitted by the Secretary of Commerce to the Kansas Legislature.

Possible bill introductions

Chairperson Hutton asked if there were any bills to be introduced. There were none.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting will be Monday, February 9.