

## HOUSE BILL No. 2509

By Committee on Higher Education

1-13

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AN ACT relating to the Kansas board of regents; concerning recognition of certain educational programs in Kansas that are unique or exemplary.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

Section 1. (a) The state board of regents periodically shall survey educational programs at Kansas community colleges and technical colleges. As a part of such review, the board shall identify educational programs that provide Kansas students unique or exemplary educational program opportunities.

(b) In selecting unique or exemplary programs for recognition, the board of regents shall consider, but not be limited to, the following criteria:

(1) Programs that are unique to the state or region and serve a specific need;

(2) programs that serve a particular need in a geographic area within the state in an exemplary manner;

(3) programs that address an emerging or developing technical or occupational area;

(4) programs that in a unique or exemplary manner address a demand for a trained workforce in a specific vocation or occupation with statewide impact; and

(5) programs that reach beyond the host institution to other institutions or parts of the state.

(c) Programs selected by the board of regents pursuant to this section shall be designated "focus on excellence centers". Designation of programs as focus on excellence centers shall be reviewed at least every three years and the designation renewed or revoked.

(d) There is hereby established in the state treasury, the "focus of excellence fund" which shall be administered by the board of regents. Except as restricted by law, the board of regents may transfer any portion of any item of appropriation to the board of regents to the focus of excellence fund for expenditures to expand or increase the program's effectiveness, student access, and statewide benefit of focus on excellence centers. Such fund also may be used to receive gifts and grants of monies.

1       Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
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