

Approved April 10, 1992  
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The meeting was called to order by Representative Diane Gjerstad at  
Chairperson

3:35 ~~am~~/p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, 1992 in room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representatives Baker, Bishop, Brown, Wagnon and Wisdom. Excused.

Committee staff present:

Lynne Holt, Legislative Research  
Jim Wilson, Legislative Revisor  
Betty Manning, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Ed Berger, President, Hutchinson Community College  
Charles Scott, Director, Central Kansas AVTS, Newton

Chairperson Gjerstad opened the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

The Chair reminded committee members of the joint meeting with House Taxation Committee tomorrow noon in Old Supreme Court Room to discuss property tax abatements by cities and counties, looking toward statewide levy.

Hearings were opened on **SB 485**, consolidation of AVTS and community colleges. The Chair called on Lynne Holt, Legislative Research, to give an overview of the bill.

First proponent, Dr. Ed Berger, President, Hutchinson Community College, stated the merger of vocational technical schools and community colleges would address some of the barriers that have prevented mergers in the past. He further stated the bill is permissive in nature and would have application only to institutions that choose to incorporate its provisions in the local setting. Attachment 1.

Next proponent, Charles Scott, Director of Central Kansas Area Vocational-Technical School, Newton, listed the accomplishments consolidation would produce. His view is that this legislation provides the legal mechanism to accomplish such a union. He supported this legislation. Attachment 2.

Other proponents, unable to attend the hearing, submitted written testimony. Those are David L. DePue, Executive Director, Kansas Council on Vocational Education; Attachment 3; Merle Hill, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Community Colleges, Attachment 4; and Kevin Robertson, Director of Governmental Affairs, Kansas Association of Area Vocational-Technical Schools. Attachment 5.

Dr. Berger and Charles Scott responded to questions from committee members.

Hearings were closed on **SB 485**.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.



Testimony to House Committee regarding Senate Bill 485

March 24, 1992

Edward E. Berger

I am Ed Berger, President of Hutchinson Community College. I am speaking in support of Senate Bill 485. There is a need to pass permissive legislation to provide for the merger of vocational technical schools and community colleges in the State of Kansas. Such a merger would consolidate the training function, improve communication to business and industry about training services, improve articulation between secondary and post-secondary education, enhance the possibility of academic and vocational education being more closely tied together, and improve the size and scope of vocational programs as is mandated in recent Carl Perkins Vocational Education legislation.

Additionally, such a merger would remove some disadvantages which have constrained area vocational schools affiliated with unified school districts. The most immediately visible of these constraints are: (1) the restrictive certification requirements for instructors which reduces the instructional pool, (2) the traditional nine-month calendar of the unified school districts which disallows a more flexible 12 month calendar offering multiple entry opportunities, and (3) the discomfort of older students who are placed in classes that have a predominance of secondary students.

This bill addresses some of the barriers that have prevented mergers in the past. It enables community colleges that merge with vocational schools to receive:

1. funding at a two for one basis for all vocational programs as is presently in place at two community colleges that are also vocational schools,

2. categorical aid for secondary vocational education (community colleges could contract with Unified School Districts to provide secondary vocational education), and

3. post secondary vocational education funding for students not pursuing credit hour programs.

Additionally, courses added to a community college curriculum, as a result of a merger, would not be eligible for the county portion of out district tuition. From the community college perspective, this bill could be strengthened with county out district tuition being phased in over a three year period.

The area vocational education board will have input to the community college board of trustees, on vocational education issues, through an advisory capacity, allowing for continued broad based representation of vocational and economic development concerns. Industry would continue to have representation through a variety of craft and program advisory committees.

The bill would also underline and extend the implementation of Tech-Prep programs.

This bill is permissive in nature and would have application only to institutions that choose to incorporate its provisions in the local setting.



**CKAVTS**

*Central Kansas Area Vocational-Technical School*

*Administration Center*

*1500 Boyd Avenue • P.O. Box 545 • Newton, Kansas 67114 • 316 / 283-0930*

March 24, 1992

My name is Chuck Scott. I am Director of Central Kansas Area Vocational-Technical School.

Chairman Gjerstad and members of the House Economic Development Committee, I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address you today regarding Senate Bill 485.

In an era of fiscal austerity, Kansas' area vocational-technical schools are struggling to respond to the growing demand for competent, highly-trained technicians to meet the needs of employers who expect and are entitled to employees equipped with the skills to work productively in an increasingly competitive occupational marketplace.

Insufficient funding, a limited ability to upgrade equipment, a shortage of support services in the areas of curriculum development and basic skills remediation, competition for students from a limited population base and, in some cases, deteriorating facilities, have all created impediments to the ability of area vo-tech schools to optimally respond to the training needs of a technologically sophisticated work force in modern-day Kansas.

Central Kansas Area Vocational-Technical School, in its fragmented configuration, is handicapped in its ability to be responsive to State Board of Education initiatives and mandates. A climate of funding instability poses a constant threat to the weak organizational underpinnings of the school.

If CKAVTS is to solidify its role as an educational institution and more effectively carry out its State Board of Education-mandated role to "provide individuals, both secondary and postsecondary students, with an opportunity to attain occupational competence," and establish recognized legitimacy in a more conventional operational mode, substantial restructuring must occur.

Restructuring options, in my opinion, include a close examination and consideration of a transfer of the authority for the operation of CKAVTS from the CKAVTS Area Board of Control to the Hutchinson Community College Board of Trustees.

What would consolidation accomplish?

1. It would establish a stable and long-term funding platform for vocational-technical training programs.
2. It would reduce or eliminate duplication of efforts by two educational institutions whose service areas virtually overlap.
3. It would facilitate the development of opportunities for secondary and postsecondary students to be granted college credit for vocational education training upon entry into academic programs of study at Hutchinson Community College.
4. It would consolidate resources and services, resulting in a more coherent and meaningful organization.
5. It would create a coordinated, integrated delivery system.

Consolidation of area vo-tech schools on a wholesale basis is probably not necessary or advisable. But because of the unorthodox and fragile organizational structure of Central Kansas Area Vo-Tech School, I advocate unification of the school with Hutchinson Community College for the reasons previously cited.

Senate Bill 485, in my view, provides the legal mechanism to accomplish such a union.

The major tenets of the bill provide the means and impetus for mergers to occur.

The bill:

1. Is permissive, not compulsory.
2. Ensures continued eligibility for earmarked vocational education funds to vo-tech programs.
3. Protects counties with vo-tech programs from paying out-district aid to the home county of the consolidated school.
4. Provides for the disposition of all properties, personnel and financial obligations of the assimilated school.
5. Permits the consolidated school to enter into participating agreements with school districts previously affiliated with the area vo-tech school for the continuation of vocational programs.

Is consolidation the best alternative? I believe that question must be asked by the administration, advisory groups and governing board of each school. Decisions should rest with those schools which wish to consider merger as an option. The advantages must be carefully weighed against the disadvantages. Conditions which prevail now that make consolidation infeasible may change in the indeterminate future to make the prospect of consolidation more desirable--and, indeed, perhaps necessary for survival.

Without enabling legislation, schools which wish to explore and seek consolidation would be thwarted; a condition of inertia may prevail. Legislation which expands possibilities and offers choices is good for schools and good for Kansas.

Thank you.




Dr. David L. DePue  
Executive Director

J.C. "Cash" Bruner, Chair  
Business Representative  
International Assn. of Machinists  
and Aerospace Workers  
Wichita

Eddie Estes, Ph.D., Vice Chair  
President, Western Kansas  
Manufacturers Association  
Dodge City

Robert Thiry  
Executive Committee Member  
Coordinator, KS Carpentry  
Apprenticeship  
Perry

TO: The Honorable Representative  
Diane Gjerstad, Chair, and Members of  
the House Committee on Economic Development

FROM: David L. DePue  
Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Support For S 485  
Authorizing Consolidation of Community  
Colleges with AVTSS.

DATE: March 24, 1992

Karen Conklin  
Market & Survey Research Analyst  
Johnson Co. Community College  
Overland Park

Fran Graham  
Vocational Counselor  
Johnson County AVTS  
Olathe Center  
Olathe

Allene Knedlik  
Coordinator of Tech Prep  
Southeast Kansas Tech Prep Consortia  
Southeast Kansas AVTS  
Coffeyville

Jule E. Kuhn  
Counselor/Placement Coordinator  
Manhattan AVTS  
Manhattan

Janis Lee  
State Senator  
Farmer/Rancher  
Kensington

D. Joe Mildrexler  
Dean of Community Services  
Colby Community College  
Colby

Carol Nigus, Director  
Brown County Kansas Special  
Education Cooperative  
Hiawatha

Dennis K. Shurtz  
Agribusiness/Commodities  
Arkansas City

Mitch Sexton  
Manager of Training & Quality Programs  
Jostens School Products Group  
Topeka

Gary Withrow  
Employee Relations Manager  
Morton International  
Hutchinson

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into your decision on this legislation. The State Council on Vocational Education is established by the U.S. Congress to provide oversight and policy advice on vocational education and training programs in Kansas. Each of our 13 members represents one of the constituent groups served by programs.

Members of the House Committee on Economic Development have been among the vanguard in support of human resource development as perhaps the most critical component of an economic development strategy for our State and Nation. This strategy is working. The vocational-technical training and upgrading that is essential to high performance work organizations is available in most Kansas communities. However, there are some barriers to offering the indepth learning activities that develop the reading, writing, calculating, speaking, and listening skills needed by some students. Our AVTS schools do a fine job in applied academics but lack the flexibility of community colleges in meeting the continuing education and upgrading needs of part of their clientele.

Recent employer forums have shown us the need for job applicants and current front-line employees to have increasingly higher competencies in communication and mathematic skills. Feedback on two successful partnerships have made this clear. Burlington Northern workers doing company training at Johnson County Community College and Monfort Company trainees at Garden City Community College are examples. Many began to take advantage of the opportunity to take related academic courses and some set their goal on an academic degree. Some occupational fields require an associate degree for



optimum placement and promotion. Examples are electronics, drafting, health care occupations, secretarial/office management, and engineering technology related occupations.

Numerous articulation and cooperative agreements exist between Kansas Community Colleges and AVTSS. This legislation provides for even closer relations. We appreciate that the proposed legislation encourages but does not mandate consolidation. The decision on the level of coordination and its relative success is in the hands of the community.

Another group of clients who could be assisted by this legislation are secondary students. High schools tend to be rewarded monetarily for keeping students in their traditional programs or offering their own vocational classes rather than letting students go to an AVTS for occupational training. The secondary school keeps their headcount higher, but the student has less opportunity. Recent legislation focused on dual credit allows 11th and 12th grade secondary students to take community college courses concurrently. Both administrations can count the student while he or she is preparing for a high skill occupation.

Your support on this legislation is appreciated.

DLD:vdc



# KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Jayhawk Tower, Suite 901 • 700 S.W. Jackson • Topeka, KS 66603

W. Merle Hill  
Executive Director

Phone 913/357-5156  
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To: House Committee on Economic Development  
From: Merle Hill, Executive Director  
Kansas Association of Community Colleges  
Date: March 24, 1992  
Subj: Senate Bill No. 485, an act authorizing the consolidation of area vocational schools or area vocational-technical schools with community colleges

Madame Chairman, members of the Committee, I regret that I shall be unable to appear before you in person to give testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 485. At the same time as your committee meeting, I am to present testimony before the House Committee on Education on House Bill No. 2922, a bill relating to out-district tuition paid by non-community college counties to community colleges.

The Kansas Association of Community Colleges is strongly in support of the provisions of Senate Bill No. 485. Although this particular bill addresses, mainly, the concerns of Central Kansas Area Vocational-technical School and Hutchinson Community College, it is broad enough to address some other potential mergers, a possibility the Association also supports.

The Kansas Association of Community Colleges encourages your Committee to report Senate Bill No. 484 favorable for passage.

Thank you.

*Eco-Devo  
Attach #  
03-24-92*





KANSAS

**ASSOCIATION OF AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS**

Date: March 24, 1992

To: House Committee on Economic Development

From: Kevin Robertson  
Director of Governmental Affairs

Re: SB 485 - Enabling legislation to consolidate  
AVTSS and community colleges

Keith Stover  
President

Rosemary Kirby  
President Elect

Robert Stinson  
Secretary

Richard McWhorter  
Treasurer

Madame Chairperson and members of the committee I apologize for not being able to attend today's hearing. I do, however, appreciate the opportunity to present my written comments to you on SB 485 - the enabling legislation to merge AVTSS and community colleges.

The 16 Kansas area vocational-technical schools are fulfilling their mission, as assigned to the state Board of Education, "to promote economic development opportunities throughout the state." The actualization of this mission is increasing the economic welfare of our state, and, in turn, our very quality of life. The state's AVTSS are accomplishing this mission by delivering quality vocational-education, not only to secondary and post-secondary students, but also specialized training to business and industry and adults retraining for new technical skills which will allow them to re-enter or continue in the workforce.

In recent years the AVTSS have put added emphasis on the outcomes and upward mobility of its students. Last year a bill was supported by the AVTSS and eventually became law which requires the Board's of Education and Regents to establish guidelines for the transfer of credits among AVTSS, community colleges and regents institutions. Many of you may remember that bill originated as a recommendation of the Joint Committee on Economic Development. That bill was a step in assuring that Kansas students, at any level, would not have deadend educational opportunities.

All of Kansas' AVTSS currently have agreements with community colleges which allow students in certain programs to acquire a two year applied sciences degree. These programs, as well as other cooperative agreements are enhancing the working relationship AVTSS and community colleges now enjoy.

*Eco-Devo  
Attach 5  
03-24-92*



The Commissioner of Education has proposed the evolvement of AVTSS into Technical Colleges. The AVTS Directors support this concept, however, the processes by which this can be accomplished are numerous. Consolidation is certainly one possibility, but so is the formation of agreements with both community colleges and universities to provide college credit courses on AVTS campuses. Students in Kansas could enjoy the best of both worlds, utilization of AVTSS existing facilities and expertise while providing the college credit and degrees many students and find essential in pursuing and education. The point being, the specific plan of consolidation as outlined by SB 485 may not be the best for all schools, communities or students.

The Kansas Association of AVTSS does not have a concise position on this bill. As you have heard, Central Kansas AVTS and Hutchinson Community College are working diligently to painlessly consolidate their two institutions. SB 485 ensures CKAVTS and Hutchinson CC that no funding will be lost as a result of a merger of their institutions. This bill is perfect for their consolidation scenario, in fact, it was tailored specifically to them.

With this in mind, we ask that the provisions of SB 485 be amended to make it **institution specific**. Therefore, it would only affect the consolidation of CKAVTS and Hutchinson CC and have no affect on other schools. Given the unique nature of Kansas' AVTSS, other schools who may wish to seek consolidation in the future will likely find different impediments to the process than the ones uncovered by CKAVTS and Hutchinson.

The AVTS Directors would also ask you to remove the Senate Committee amended language which allows gives the President of Regent School "veto" authority over such consolidations. This provision of the bill is quite distasteful to the AVTSS as it puts regents school on a "pedestal" and allows them to have jurisdiction over the affairs of the merging AVTS and community college for no apparent reason.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the thoughts of Kansas' AVTSS on SB 485.