

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Mason at 3:30 p.m. on January 17, 1996 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department  
Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes  
Dale Dennis, Department of Education  
Beverly Renner, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Ferman Marsh, Assistant Commissioner of Education  
Senator Lana Oleen, Chairman-Legislative Educational Planning Committee  
Dr. Bill Reeves, Director-No Central KS Area Vocational Technical School  
Greg Haas, Training Manager-Martin Tractor Co.  
Jarold Boettcher, President-Boettcher Supply & Chemical  
Bill Berry, Director-Manhattan Area Technical Center  
Michelle Stewart, Student-Business & Computer Technology-Manhattan Area Technical Center  
Jon Miles, Director of Governmental Relations-Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.  
Randy Martin, President-Manhattan Chamber of Commerce (by letter)

Others attending: See attached list

Hearings opened on **HB 2605 concerning the authorization of North Central Kansas area vo-tech school in Beloit/Hays to be converted to and established as the North Central Kansas technical college.**

Ferman Marsh, Assistant Commissioner of Education presented a brief background of the attempt to upgrade vocational education in Kansas. (Attachment 1) The legislative draft directs area technical schools to present 75% of training and purchase the general education requirements from a community college or university so there is no duplication of effort. The Associate of Applied Science degree is then issued by the technical college. No change from present procedures except in who delivers the degree. In 1995, Flint Hills and Wichita went through this process and have become technical colleges.

Senator Lana Oleen appeared as a proponent of **HB 2605** in her capacity as chairman of the Legislative Educational Planning Committee (LEPC) (Attachment 2). She explained the activities these institutions went through to receive approval for degree-granting authority from local boards, the State Board of Education, Board of Regents and the LEPC, with the result of the introduction of these two bills.

Dr. Bill Reeves, Director of North Central Kansas Area Vocational-Technical School (NCK AVTS) appeared as a proponent of **HB 2605** and described the curriculum offered by the campuses at Beloit and Hays (Attachment 3). This bill will allow NCK AVTS to cooperate with Cloud County Community College to issue degrees, to remain accredited with North Central Association Commission on Higher Education they must become a degree granting institution and it will help to influence more secondary students to consider alternatives to a four-year education.

Greg Haas, Training Manager for Martin Tractor Co. spoke as a proponent for **HB 2605** and representative for the Kansas Council on Vocational Education, Martin Tractor Company and other industries hiring students from technology based schools and NCK VO-TECH (Attachment 4). He explained the perception problems

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, Room 519-S Statehouse, at 3:30 p.m. on January 17, 1996.

Vo-Techs have had to battle for high quality graduates and the needs of the business community for quality technologists.

Jarold Boettcher, President Boettcher Enterprises, Inc. spoke as a proponent for **HB 2605** and an employer of 15 graduates of vocational technical schools in Kansas (27% of the total employment). (Attachment 5)

Chairman Mason called for other proponents or opponents. There were none. The hearing on **HB 2605** was closed.

Hearings opened on **HB 2606 concerning the authorization of Manhattan Area Technical Center to be converted to and established as the Manhattan area technical college.**

Bill Berry, Director of the Manhattan Area Technical Center (MATC) testified as a proponent of **HB 2606** that various educational bodies had deliberated with resulting support for the conversion to an area technical college (Attachment 6). Manhattan Area Technical College will provide the technical instruction and KSU, through a memorandum of understanding, will provide the general education/elective courses. MATC will award the Associate of Applied Science degree with current governance structure and funding provisions remaining the same.

Michelle Stewart, an MATC student and Secretary of the student government organization spoke as a proponent of **HB 2606** (Attachment 7). She related from a student perspective the advantages of the associate degree when applying for a job in offering more opportunity for advancement, higher pay and resume potential. As well as, having the option of choosing classes and having credits that will transfer to other post-secondary institutions.

Jon Miles, Director of Governmental Relations for Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. appeared as a proponent of **HB 2606** whose organization has relied on MATC to provide graduate students in the electrical power and distribution field for the workforce throughout the state (Attachment 8). He related that authorization for converting to a technical college would provide added incentive for students to enroll and earn credit hours toward their associate degree. In addition, the proposed bill would allow potential employers an opportunity to assist graduate students in completing their degrees in a much shorter period of time and without being overwhelmed by the required number of hours spent in the classroom while being employed full-time.

Randy Martin, President of Manhattan Chamber of Commerce was unable to attend but presented written testimony as a proponent of **HB 2606** (Attachment 9).

Chairman Mason called for other proponents or opponents. There were none. The hearing on **HB 2606** was closed.

Representative Ballard moved and Representative Morrison seconded a motion to pass **HB 2605** out favorably and ask that it be carried on the consent calendar. Motion carried.

Representative Hayzlett moved and Representative Morrison seconded a motion to Pass **HB 2606** out favorable and ask that it be carried on the consent calendar. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 18, 1996.

# HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: January 17, 1996

NAME	REPRESENTING
Mussen Griggs	Kerny & Assoc.
Craig Grant	KNEA
Jerry Boettcher	Boettcher Enterprises
BILL REEVES	ALCK AUTS
GREGG HAAS	MARTIN TRACTOR CO.
John & Miles	K. E. C.
Bill Berry	Manhattan Area Tech. Center
Michelle Stuenkel	Manhattan Area Tech. Center
Mark Zuehl	Manhattan Area Tech Center
Sue Reeves	Manhattan Area Technical Center
STEVE KEARNEY	KAAUTS
Dave DePug	Ks Council on VocED
Jim Capparella	Intern
Kathie Sparks	DOB
Rebecca Whitman	Intern
Eva Cathey	Intern
Jason Oblander	Intern
Marsha Helm	CWA of Ks.
<del>Lara Olean</del>	<del>St. Joseph</del>

Janice Hardenburger      "      "

# Kansas State Board of Education

120 S.E. 10th Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612-1182

January 17, 1996

TO: House Education Committee Members

FROM: Ferman Marsh, Assistant Commissioner  
Lifelong Learning Division

SUBJECT: Report on the Status of the Technical College Applications of North Central  
Kansas Area Vocational-Technical School and Manhattan Area Technical  
Center

The State Board of Education, during its November 15, 1995 regular meeting, received applicants from the North Central Kansas Area Vocational-Technical School and the Manhattan Area Technical Center Schools requesting designation as technical colleges. The Board took action to receive the applications and forward them to the Board of Regents for consultation and advice.

K.S.A. 72-4412 provides for the establishment of technical colleges. New Section 2(d) of the statute requires that, "In evaluating whether the educational interests of the state would be better served by a merger between the area vocational school or area vocational-technical and a state educational institution, the state board of education shall consult with and consider the advice of the state board of regents." Kansas Board of Regents reviewed the applications during their December 14, 1995 Regents meeting and determined that mergers of the North Central Kansas Area Vocational-Technical School and the Manhattan Area Technical Center with Regents universities are not viable.

I have attached the application form developed by the Board of Education in response to K.S.A. 72-4412 which North Central Kansas Area Vocational-Technical School and the Manhattan Area Technical Center have completed.

The Kansas State Board of Education during its regular meeting on January 10, 1996 voted to recommend to the legislature that North Central Kansas Area Vocational Technical School and the Manhattan Area Technical Center be designated technical colleges.

I will be available to answer questions or concerns you may have in regard to this matter.

Ferman P. Marsh  
Assistant Commissioner  
Lifelong Learning Division  
(913) 296-3047

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Attachment 1

# TECHNICAL COLLEGE APPLICATION

## Directions

1. Submit an original and two copies of this form to the Kansas State Board of Education. Include two copies of all supporting documentation.
2. Attach documentation that the AVTS/AVS governing body has passed a resolution proposing the establishment of a technical college.
3. Return to: Commissioner of Education  
Kansas State Board of Education  
120 S.E. Tenth Avenue  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1182

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## DEFINITION

Senate Bill 586, passed during the 1994 session of the Kansas State Legislature, amended K.S.A. 72-4412 to provide for the establishment of technical colleges. A "technical college" is defined as an educational institution that formerly was an area vocational or area vocational-technical school, and that, in accord with the provisions of this bill, has been designated a technical college.

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## AVTS/AVS VERIFICATION

I verify that the information provided in the Technical College Application is correct. My Signature further signifies the intent of the applicant to pursue designation as a technical college under K.S.A. 72-4412 as amended.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of AVTS/AVS Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of AVTS/AVS Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number

### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION USE ONLY

#### APPLICATION APPROVAL STATUS

\_\_\_\_\_ Recommended for establishment as a technical college

\_\_\_\_\_ Not recommended for establishment as a technical college

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Commissioner of Education

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of State Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### CRITERIA I

What is the present and projected need in the area of the proposed technical college for expansion or alterations of the existing postsecondary educational services? Address the following in your application:

- A. The specific delineation of the proposed geographic area to be served.
- B. Population surveys of the proposed service area, labor market surveys, surveys of secondary students.
- C. A mission statement for the proposed technical college which addresses the identified needs of the service area and targeted populations.

### CRITERIA II

What types of postsecondary institutions presently operate in the geographic area defined in CRITERIA I? What are the capacities of these institutions to provide technical and academic services? Address the following in your response:

- A. The present and future potential for interaction with the above identified institutions. Include any and all articulation agreements with existing institutions.
- B. The present and potential capacity for providing the services of a technical college through collaboration, cooperation or merger with existing postsecondary institutions.
- C. The capacity of each of the above identified institutions to provide the service your institution proposes to offer as a technical college.
- D. Provide responses of the above identified institutions to your application to become a technical college. NOTE: A copy of each institution's response to this application must be attached.

### CRITERIA III

What is the potential enrollment in the programs to be offered and maintained by the proposed technical college? Address the following in your response:

- A. Planned curriculum for the technical college, including infusion of applied courses and a general education core. Attach an approved VE-2 Program Application for each proposed technical college program.
- B. Explain, in detail, how the needs of secondary students would be addressed by the technical college.
- C. Provide evidence of present and proposed requirements for credentialing of faculty and staff.

**CRITERIA IV**

What higher education accreditation is your institution pursuing?  
Address the following in your response:

- A. Provide documentation that your proposed institution will be eligible for accreditation as a degree granting institution of higher education by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Include accreditation standards required by NCA, and evidence that the proposed college will be able to meet the standards.
- B. Provide documentation that your institution is pursuing articulation agreements to provide baccalaureate degree opportunities for graduates.

**CRITERIA V**

What is the operational and financial structure of the proposed technical college? Address the following in your response:

- A. The organization of the board of control for the proposed technical college?
- B. The administrative structure for the proposed technical college?
- C. The facilities to be operated by the technical college (provide legal descriptions). This includes all capital inventory.
- D. Ownership of personal and real property.
- E. The financial resources available for maintenance and upgrade of the facilities. This includes all capital inventory.
- F. The revenue sources available for operational expenses.

NOTE: The Kansas State Board of Education may require additional information and documentation as a part of the application approval process.

LANA OLEEN  
SENATOR, 22ND DISTRICT  
RILEY AND GEARY COUNTIES



TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
CHAIR: FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS  
CHAIR: LEGISLATIVE EDUCATIONAL PLANNING  
VICE-CHAIR: LEGISLATIVE POST AUDIT  
COMMITTEE MEMBER: EDUCATION  
JUDICIARY  
CONTRACT AUDIT  
COMMISSIONER: MIDWESTERN HIGHER  
EDUCATION COMMISSION

LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE  
1-800-432-3924

January 17, 1996

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILLS 2605 & 2606

January 17, 1996

Chairman Mason and Members of the House Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear in support of these two bills which would authorize the conversion of the North Central Kansas Area Vocational-Technical School to the North Central Kansas Technical College and the Manhattan Area Technical Center to the Manhattan Area Technical College.

Both of these institutions have been working towards the degree-granting authority for several years. The approval of their peers at several levels, including locally, the State Board of Education, Board of Regents' level and unanimous approval by the Legislative Educational Planning Committee (LEPC), through introduction of the bills before you today.

The LEPC has monitored activities relating to technical colleges, and similar legislation for the Wichita Area Technical College and Flint Hills Technical College recently passed the legislature by healthy margins.

The implementation of these two bills enhances degree-granting technical colleges while recognizing their vital role in preparing a well-trained workforce. Other conferees are present today who can address specifics of their peers. I urge your favorable consideration of House Bills 2605 and 2606. Thanks.

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Attachment 2



## HOUSE BILL 2605

*The Conversion of*  
**NCK AVTS TO NCK TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

*Testimony by*  
Dr. Bill Reeves, Director

Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Bill Reeves and I am the Director of North Central Kansas Area Vocational-Technical School. Before discussing the virtues of House Bill 2605, I would like to, briefly acquaint you with our school. We have campuses in Beloit and Hays with a total current enrollment of four hundred twelve students. We offer one-year programs in the following areas: Allied Health, Applied Data Processing, Auto Mechanics, Bricklaying (the only program of its kind in the state), Business Management, Carpentry-Cabinetmaking, Executive Secretarial, Heavy Equipment Operation (the only program of its kind in three states), Marketing, Plumbing, Nursing, Production Agriculture and Welding. As you can see, the major strength of our school is in our short-term, trade programs. We also offer five, two-year programs: Agricultural Equipment Technology, Automotive Technology, Diesel Technology, Electrical Technology and Electronics Technology. A student in our Electrical Technology program won First Place in the national VICA contest last year. Ninety-eight percent of the students enrolled in these two-year programs are pursuing the Associate of Applied Science degree through Cloud County Community College. It is for two-year students such as these that House Bill 2605 was written.

This bill, as with the two similar ones passed by the legislature last year, will change the name of an area vocational-technical school and provide that institution the authority to grant the Associate of Applied Science degree. This authority is quite important to us at NCK because:

- \*we currently teach over 75% of the clock hours in these programs, yet our students must enroll in Cloud County Community College in order to receive their degree
- \*we must become a degree-granting institution in order to remain accredited through North Central Association, Commission on Higher Education
- \*it will improve the image of vocational-technical education and, hopefully influence more secondary students to consider alternatives to a four-year education.

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Attachment 3

(2)

The bill also has the attention of business and industry not only in Beloit and Hays but throughout the state. We have with us today, two gentlemen who employ our students and have special insight as to the advantages of the conversion of NCK AVTS to a technical college.

Mr. Greg Haas, Statewide Training Manager, Martin Tractor Company with headquarters here in Topeka. Mr. Haas also serves on the Kansas Council of Vocational Education.

Mr. Jarold Boettcher, President, Boettcher Supply and Chemical of Beloit. Mr. Boettcher is also the Chairman of KPERS Board of Trustees.

# Technical Colleges

My name is Gregg Haas, I am the Training Manager for Martin Tractor Co.

We are the Caterpillar dealer in northern and eastern Kansas. We also are a Regional Training Center for Caterpillar, training technicians from all over the world.

I have the unique opportunity to represent three groups today: Kansas Council On Vocational Education, Martin Tractor Co. and other industries hiring students from technology based schools and NCK VO- TECH.

## I am very much in favor of the name change to a Tech College

Martin Tractor has identified the hiring and training of technicians as the number one critical issue to the continued growth and success of the company.

Of our 215 current employees, over 90 have been through a Vo-Tech School. 23 managers, sales people or other office staff have advanced from a technician to their current position.

Currently we are not seeing enough HIGH QUALITY graduates coming from those schools.

**Why?** There are not enough high quality students entering those programs

1. Stigmatism: Vo-Techs are for those that can't make it in college.  
If student can't make it in college they are probably not the high caliber person we are looking for  
But there are many that don't graduate from college because they are in the wrong place.
2. Perception Vo-Tech education is not as good as Community College Education:  
The quality of the education should be judged on the employability of the student upon graduation.
3. Parents want their children to go to college: Parent peer pressure discourages parents from sending their children to Vo-Techs.

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Attachment 4

TECHNICAL COLLEGES can help in this regard.

4. Perception Only low paying jobs can be gotten with a Vo-Tech Certificate, no opportunity to advance  
Our technicians' starting salary is \$16000 to \$20000, top technicians are over \$40000 annually

**What do we need?** Top quality students; Students that qualify in the top 30% of their class...

Who works on your automobile? The anti lock brake system is a computer controlled system Do you want someone that was in the top third OR bottom third of their high school class to diagnose and repair it? What about those making repairs on the large trucks you meet on the highway everyday?

Some Caterpillar machines have ten computers on each machine. Almost every machine has at least one that has more computing power than the APOLLO 11 mission that landed on the moon.

Every 17 seconds a new technology hits the market; for every one entering the market 3 more are introduced.

**What are we doing?** Martin Tractor, Foley Tractor and Caterpillar have donated over \$100,000 in the last 4 years to the Diesel programs at Salina and NCK Vo-Techs in order to upgrade the programs and attract more students.

Martin Tractor has implemented a scholarship program of \$10,000 per year for students entering Diesel Technology Programs. We currently have 3 students on scholarship: one at University of Oklahoma-Okmulgee  
*His parents wanted him to go to college.*

We will visit 37 High Schools this year to talk with students and parents about the benefits of a career in Diesel Technology

I have been involved closely with the school for 12 years. They provide the students a high quality opportunity .

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?** Recommend the name change to NCK Technical College be approved.

STATEHOUSE  
JANUARY 16, 1996  
3:30 P.M.

STATEMENT OF JAROLD W. BOETTCHER  
PRESIDENT, BOETTCHER ENTERPRISES, INC.  
BELOIT, KANSAS

REGARDING H.B. 2605  
BEFORE THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, BILL MASON, CHM.

GOOD AFTERNOON. MY NAME IS JAROLD BOETTCHER. I AM PRESIDENT OF BOETTCHER ENTERPRISES, INC. AND AN AFFILIATED COMPANY, BOETTCHER SUPPLY, LOCATED IN BELOIT, KANSAS. WE ARE ONE OF THE LARGER EMPLOYERS IN THIS RURAL AREA OF KANSAS AND HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT STAKE IN THE PRESENCE AND FUTURE OF THE NORTH CENTRAL AREA VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL LOCATED IN BELOIT.

I AM ACQUAINTED WITH MANY OF THE FUNDING AND STRUCTURAL ISSUES FACING HIGHER EDUCATION. I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE EXISTENCE OF THE VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOLS. WE HAVE BENEFITED GREATLY FROM THEIR EXISTENCE. I RECENTLY COMPLETED A SURVEY OF OUR EMPLOYEES - WE HAVE A TOTAL OF 55 BETWEEN THE TWO COMPANIES. FIFTEEN (15) ARE GRADUATES OF VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOLS IN KANSAS, NEARLY ALL FROM THE ONE IN BELOIT. IN FACT, WE ARE GLAD TO HAVE ONE OF THEIR FORMER INSTRUCTORS ON OUR STAFF. THERE IS A REAL PLACE FOR A GROWING ROLE FOR NCKAVTS WHICH WOULD, IN LARGE MEASURE, BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH THE PASSAGE OF H.B. 2605, WHICH WOULD GIVE NCKAVTS THE AUTHORITY TO GRANT THE A.A.S. DEGREE. TO BE ABLE TO DO THIS WOULD ONLY EXPAND JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE AVERAGE STUDENT AND OPEN NEW OPTIONS FOR OTHERS. FOR THOSE STUDENTS WHO MIGHT CHOOSE TO GO ON TO A FOUR YEAR INSTITUTION, THEY COULD GET THEIR DEGREE DIRECTLY FROM NCKAVTS. MAKING THIS PROCESS EASIER AND MORE EFFICIENT CAN ONLY LEAD TO MORE STUDENTS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY, WHICH ONLY LEADS TO US BETTER FULFILLING OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO SUPPORT AND EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL - RECOGNIZING THE WIDE RANGE OF PERSONAL, FAMILY, AND FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH LEAD TO CHOICES BEING MADE FOR SOME KIND OF HIGHER EDUCATION. INDEED, H.B.2605 APPEARS TO BE ONE OF THOSE ISSUES WHERE ALL CAN SEE SOME ADVANTAGES TO ITS PASSAGE - THAT'S CERTAINLY NOT THE CASE WITH MANY PIECES OF LEGISLATION WHERE COMPROMISE IS FREQUENTLY THE ONLY MECHANISM OF DEALING WITH MANY IMPORTANT ISSUES, PARTICULARLY THOSE INVOLVING FUNDING.

AS A BUSINESS PERSON, AS AN EMPLOYER WHO HAS ALREADY BENEFITED SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THE VOCATIONAL - TECHNICAL SYSTEM ALREADY IN PLACE, I STRONGLY URGE YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE PASSAGE OF H.B. 2605. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

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Attachment 5

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2606

Conversion of Manhattan Area Technical Center  
to a  
Technical College

Presented to the House Education Committee  
Representative William Mason, Chairman

Wednesday, January 17, 1996

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to appear before this committee today in support of House Bills 2605 and 2606. My name is Bill Berry and I am the Director of the Manhattan Area Technical Center.

The Technical Center is moving forward in the process of attaining authorization for converting to a technical college as provided in Senate Bill 586, which became law in 1994. On October 4, 1995 the Manhattan USD 383 Board of Education voted full support for the conversion. The Kansas State Board of Education, on November 15, voted unanimously in favor of the proposal. On November 20, the Legislative Educational Planning Committee (LEPC) voted unanimous support for the conversion and made the decision to sponsor the necessary legislation (House Bills No. 2605 and 2606).

The Kansas Board of Regents, on December 14, agreed that it was not in the best interest of either Kansas State University or Manhattan Area Technical Center to merge, but to work together. I have attached a copy of a letter of support from KSU Provost Dr. James Coffman.

Manhattan Area Technical College will provide the technical instruction and KSU, through a memorandum of understanding, will provide the general education/elective courses. MATC will award the Associate of Applied Science degree. The current MATC governance structure will remain the same, as will the funding provisions.

The primary advantages of the conversion will be for students and employers. College credit and the associate degree will provide increased credibility for the technical knowledge and skills gained and will compliment the opportunities for advancement.

I have three people in the audience that would appreciate an opportunity to speak in favor of HB 2606. Michelle Stewart is an MATC student enrolled in the Business & Computer Technology program and is Secretary of the MATC Student Government Organization. Jon Miles is a 1973 MATC graduate in Electric Power and Distribution and is now the Director of Governmental Relations for the Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Incorporated. Randy Martin is President and CEO, Manhattan Chamber of Commerce.

I will be happy to answer questions as necessary.

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Attachment 6



**Office of the Provost**

106 Anderson Hall  
Manhattan, Kansas 66506-0113  
913-532-6224  
FAX: 913-532-6507

September 28, 1995

Mr. Bill Berry  
Director  
Manhattan Area Technical Center  
3136 Dickens  
Manhattan, KS 66502

Dear Mr. Berry:

This is to confirm that Kansas State University is supportive of Manhattan Area Technical Center's intentions to apply for status as a technical college. Accordingly, I am forwarding the proposed memorandum of understanding to the faculty leadership for their assessment as there are a number of academic issues which will require their input and, perhaps, approval in certain instances.

Vice Presidents Krause and Rawson and I have reviewed the logistical aspects and believe them to be workable.

Best personal regards.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James R. Coffman".

James R. Coffman  
Provost

lc

cc: President Wefald  
Vice President Krause  
Vice President Rawson

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2606

Conversion of Manhattan Area Technical Center  
to a  
Technical College

Wednesday, January 17, 1996

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to speak before this committee today in support of House Bill 2606. As introduced by Mr. Berry, my name is Michelle Stewart. I am currently enrolled in the Business & Computer Technology program and I am also the Secretary of the MATC Student Government Organization. Speaking for the Student Government, I am here to represent the student body and their feelings on MATC converting to a technical college.

What is a technical college and what can it offer? It is an institution offering instruction in a specific field of interest. It not only deals with academic skills, but technical skills as well. It gives one hands-on training in preparation for immediate entry into the work force. Specific career oriented courses are offered both during the day and at night to allow people to further or complete their education at their own convenience.

Becoming a technical college will allow the school to grow in many ways. It will provide the opportunity for students to pursue an Associate in Applied Science degree while attending The Technical College. An AAS degree is a valuable asset in many ways. For example, it gives you an advantage when you apply for a job, offers you more opportunity to advance, offers higher pay advantage, and looks impressive on a resume. Also, students will exit the Technical college not only with a degree, but with technical skills as well. This will help them advance with technology in today's world. Finally, students are going to enjoy having the option of choosing classes and having credits that will transfer to other post-secondary institutions.

Not only will the students benefit from the Manhattan Area Technical Center becoming a Technical College, the community will benefit as well. It will increase the economic standings for both current and future industries. Also, it will increase the potential for residents to receive technical training or retraining. This will reinforce the image of Manhattan as a strong educational community.

I sincerely feel that this change will broaden both the educational environment and educational options of the community. People will no longer have to worry about when they can or can't take a class. The variety of hours will help the students in many ways accomplish their educational goals. All in all, The Technical College will be an indisputable plus for the Manhattan area.

Again, thank you for your time, and for allowing me to speak as a student representative.

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Attachment 7



# TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2606

PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
REPRESENTATIVE BILL MASON, CHAIRMAN

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1996

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me this opportunity to offer testimony in support of House Bill 2606. My name is Jon Miles and I am Director of Governmental Relations for Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Kansas Electric Cooperatives is the statewide association for thirty-four rural electric cooperatives in Kansas.

The rural electric cooperatives and the Manhattan Area Technical School have worked closely together since 1971. Over the years, rural electric cooperatives have relied on the Manhattan Area Technical School to provide graduate students in the electrical power and distribution field for the work force throughout the state. This working relationship has been very rewarding for the graduate students and the rural electric cooperatives.

As Mr. Bill Berry indicated, I am a 1973 graduate of the Manhattan Area Technical School and a strong supporter of the technical school. Over the past twenty-two years, I have been involved in all phases of the rural electrification program, and from September 1, 1986, to November 30, 1995, was the general manager of the C&W Rural Electric Cooperative in Clay Center, Kansas. I feel that authorization for converting to a technical college would provide added incentive for students to enroll and earn credit hours toward their associate degree.

As an employer of graduate students of the Manhattan Area Technical School, I feel that significant benefits can be afforded to both the student and employers if students are allowed to receive credit hours for their classroom and related studies.

The transfer of credits also would seem very attractive to a graduate student to continue pursuit of a two- or four-year degree.

Clearly, from a business perspective, the possible transfer of the Manhattan Area Technical School to a technical college would strengthen the Technical School's ability to offer educational training and professional opportunities in the field they have chosen. In addition, the proposed bill would allow potential employers, such as the rural electric cooperatives, an

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Attachment 8

opportunity to assist graduate students in completing their degrees in a much shorter period of time and without being overwhelmed by the required number of hours spent in the classroom while being employed full-time.

I hope that the Committee will seriously consider the benefits of House Bill 2606, as it would certainly assist a large number of Technical School students in achieving their academic goals.

I would be happy to respond to any questions at this time.



# MANHATTAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

*Remarks by Randy Martin, President, Manhattan Chamber of Commerce, to the Kansas House of Representatives Education Committee, William Mason Chair.*

*January 17, 1996*

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, fellow presenters, and guests, it is a true honor for me to address this group on the change requested by the Manhattan Area Technical Center as reflected in House Bill 2606.

My name is Randy Martin. I am the President/CEO of the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce. In my professional capacity and as a fifth generation Kansan, raised, educated and employed in this state, I am proud to address an important topic before such an important group.

To the tremendous credit of people like yourselves, and those that came before you, a defining characteristic of this state and its lawmakers is its commitment to education. From the earliest days of the prairie schoolhouse, to the creation of the public school systems, to the founding and funding of world class universities, this state has always visioned and supported quality, progressive education.

Such is the opportunity you review today.

As we have experienced in Manhattan, and as they have learned in places around the country, there is no question that the quality of a community's workforce is an increasingly critical component of economic development. The ability of a community to respond to private sector workforce needs, the ability to support and reward adult education through higher education credits and the flexibility to offer affordable retraining are concepts that can set our Kansas communities apart in the competition for jobs.

House Education  
1/17/96  
Attachment 9

Manhattan views the role of the Manhattan Area Technical Center as essential to its economic development efforts and our experience may demonstrate the appropriateness of the suggested change.

In 1989, Manhattan started a blank page task force, made up of over 70 community citizens to define what our community could expect for the future. Time and time again, in topic after topic, the importance of education, training, retraining and lifelong learning was reasserted.

Subsequent to that, a Mayoral appointed task force reviewed economic development strategies for our future. Again, a commitment to education and training was prioritized. In 1994, a half cent sales tax was passed by the citizens for the specific purpose of creating jobs and economic opportunity. New initiatives in venture capital, job incentives, research support, commercialization of ideas and products have all occurred.

As all of these various activities come onstream, the ability of the Manhattan Area Technical Center to support and enhance our workforce has been paramount. The Technical Center's responsiveness to community demand, their ability to develop and offer exceptional training opportunities, their willingness to work face to face with job creators and job expanders have brought a tremendous strength and advantage to our community.

A reality of the day is that many people want retraining, adult learning and transitional education. In our case, the Manhattan Area Technical Center has been exemplary in this pursuit. However, as we look into the future, it is important to break down the functional lines between public school education, university education and technical training. These lines can be further eroded by the progressive step of supporting a proposal such as that before you today, to assist local communities in providing answers to the requests of potential employers.

What are those requests? Allow adults to take advantage of retraining and skill attainment while simultaneously receiving meaningful and usable college credit. Allow employers to train their people and encourage personal goals of adult education and degree attainment. Reward training and retraining with the self esteem and knowledge that comes from lifelong learning.

In the last two years I have been part of the face to face discussions with companies like Cessna, Swift Eckrich, and Troy Design and Manufacturing, all of which have chosen Kansas for a major location of the businesses future.

In every case, they wanted to talk about lifelong learning, training, retraining, and the ability of their employees to pursue personal goals through higher education. In each case, the Manhattan Area Technical Center was front and center in discussions. In each case they more than exceeded expectations, but I can also tell you that the improvements you are looking at today would have further strengthened their ability to assist those companies.

Learning, whether it be the alphabet, the teachings of Decartes or the application of computers to an everchanging workplace is too important to get bogged down in the traditional definitions between elementary, secondary, university, technical or recreational learning.

Your support of today's proposal is an important step in bridging those gaps. Thank you for all that you do for Kansas, and thank you for your attention to this issue.