

Approved: March 21, 1996  
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Barbara Lawrence at 1:30 p.m. on March 4, 1996 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department  
Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes  
Jennifer Bishop, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Ferman Marsh, Assistant Commissioner Lifelong Division  
Bill Berry, Director Manhattan Area Technical Center  
Michelle Stewart, Manhattan Area Technical Center Student  
Randy Martin, CEO Manhattan Chamber of Commerce  
Bill Reeves, Director North Central KS Area Vo-Tech School  
Dr. Dale Montgomery, V.P. Support Services, Hays Medical  
Jon Miles, Director Governmental Relations for Kansas Electric

Others attending: See attached list

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by the Vice-Chair, Senator Tim Emert.

**HB 2605: Authorizing establishment of the North Central Kansas technical college**

**HB 2606: Authorizing establishment of the Manhattan area technical college**

Senator Emert introduced Ferman Marsh as our first conferee.

Ferman Marsh stated that approximately eight years ago the State Board of Education asked that a procedure be established to whereby students completing a vocational program could continue their education for an associate degree. To accomplish that, every area vo-tech school was asked to align themselves with at least one community college so that the credits could be transferred. After that was in place the legislature reviewed what was being done and put that action into statute. The state board came up with "Bone directions" which is a strategic study done by all area vo-tech schools in the state in cooperation with the state board. One of the major points of "bone directions" was to make sure students were able to progress in higher education. At the completion of "bone directions, legislation was put it in place through the legislature to allow for technical colleges. A year ago, for the first-time, the state board came before the legislature and asked that two schools be named as a technical college. There is now Wichita Technical College and Clint Hills Technical College out of Emporia. Beloit Hays and Manhattan are now working on becoming technical colleges. The unique thing about these schools is that they are all located in a regents town. Two years ago the legislature prohibited community colleges from coming into the county where there is a regents institution without an expressed consent of the CEO of that university. Students in these particular institutions could not have access as readily as other institutions do for their academic side. In combining the area schools with the regent institutions, the regents institutions now have agreed to offer the academic honors to the students (Attachment 1).

Senator Kerr asked if the forthcoming existing law had in anyway altered the recommendations regarding the two bills being proposed. Ferman Marsh answered no, because they are both located in a county with a regents institution.

Bill Berry addressed the committee as a proponent of **HB 2605** and **2606**. Mr. Berry stated that Manhattan Area Technical College would provide the technical instruction and KSU, through a memorandum of understanding, would provide the general education and elective courses. MATC would award the Associate of Applied Science degree. The current MATC governance structure would remain the same, as would the

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, Room 123-S Statehouse, at 1:30 p.m. on March 4, 1996.

funding provisions. Mr. Berry also stated that the primary advantages of the conversion would be for students and employers. College credit and the associate degree would provide increased credibility for the technical knowledge and skills gained and would compliment the opportunities for advancement (Attachment 2).

Michelle Stewart addressed the committee as a proponent of HB 2606. Ms. Stewart stated if MATC becomes a technical college, it would allow the school to grow in many ways. It would provide the opportunity for students to pursue an Associate in Applied Science degree while attending the technical college. She sincerely feels that this change would broaden both the educational environment and educational options of the community (Attachment 3).

Senator Emert asked what the approximate enrollment is at the Manhattan Area Technical Center. Bill Berry answered that there are 350 students during the day and approximately 1500 at night.

Randy Martin addressed the committee as a proponent of HB 2606. Mr. Martin stated that the quality of a community's workforce is an increasingly critical component of economic development. He also stated that Manhattan views the role of the Manhattan Area Technical Center as essential to its economic development efforts and their experience may demonstrate the appropriateness of the suggested change addressed in HB 2606. The proposal is an important step in achieving a seamless education delivery system that the Manhattan area seeks. Mr. Martin strongly urged the committee to vote in favor of HB 2606 (Attachment 4).

Jon Miles addressed the committee as a proponent of HB 2606. Jon is a 1973 graduate of the Manhattan Area Technical School and is now the Director of Governmental Relations for Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. He stated that he feels the authorization for converting to a technical college would provide added incentives for students to enroll and earn credit hours toward their associate degree. The transfer of credits would seem very attractive to a student desiring an Associate of Applied Science Degree to continue toward completing their degree at a four-year college. The transfer of the technical center to a technical college would lend considerable credibility to the technical program, making it more attractive for students who might be hesitant about attending a technical school. It would also enhance the educational image for a potential student considering attendance. From Mr. Miles business point of view, 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 to students in a profession they have chosen. He strongly urged the committee to vote in support of HB 2606 (Attachment 5).

Bill Reeves addressed the committee as a proponent of HB 2605. Mr. Reeves stated that North Central Kansas Area Vocational Technical School has two campuses located in Beloit and Hays. The passage of HB 2605 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 important to them at NCK because they currently teach over 75% of the clock hours in these programs, yet students must enroll in Cloud County Community College in order to receive their degree. They must also become a degree-granting institution in order to remain accredited with North Central Association, Commission on Higher Education. This will improve the image of vocational-technical education and influence more secondary students to consider alternatives to four-year education (Attachment 6).

Dale Montgomery addressed the committee as a proponent of HB 2605. Mr. Montgomery stated that he supports this legislation because it would provide N.C.K.A.V.T. the opportunity to grow and award the degree that 75% of their courses now prepare their students for, without having to enroll in a Junior College. That degree being Associate of Applied Science. He also stated that a technical education provides more clock hours of hands on instruction in technology than institutions whose mission is to transfer students to four year institutions (Attachment 7).

Senator Kerr asked Mr. Montgomery if he felt that they should go ahead and grant technical college status or provide more incentives toward a merger. Mr. Montgomery answered that each case should be looked at individually and then decide where the strengths and weaknesses would be in each proposal. However, he could not fully answer that question.

Senator Oleen provided for the committee a handout regarding Proposal No. 54 established by LEPC regarding the technical colleges. She also stated that the interim committee evaluated the two technical colleges, here in Kansas, and found that they are doing very well.

The meeting adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 1996.

# SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: March 4, 1996

NAME	REPRESENTING
Andy Math	Manhattan Chamber
Mark Mreeta	Manhattan Area Tech Center
Sue Reeves	" " " "
Bill Berry	" " " "
Michelle Stewart	" " " "
Kim Kichhafer	" " " "
Robin Kichhafer	" " " "
Glenn Newdiger	Leadership Barber Co.
Kristi Ricker	" "
Barbara Perwinger	" "
Patricia Barnard	" "
Rebecca Helfrich	" " "
Charlotte Hogland	" "
Lina Hamilton	" " "
Ernst H. Richardson	" " "
Mike Mayberry	" " "
Kim Blevins	" " "
Will Barrett	" " "
Eric Johnson	" " "
Luis Salsbery	" " "
Susan White	" " "
Cornie Hoch	" " "

Dick Newkorter  
 Bill Reeves  
 Dale A. Montgomery  
 Gerald Henderson

Raw TECH Schooc / Topex  
 WCK Area VO-TECH School  
 WCK Area VO-Tech School  
 USA of KS

# *Kansas State Board of Education*

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

March 4, 1996

TO: Senate 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

SENATE EDUCATION  
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Attachment 1

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2606

Conversion of Manhattan Area Technical Center  
to a  
Technical College

Presented to the Senate Education Committee  
Senator Barbara Lawrence, Chairperson

Monday, March 4, 1996

Thank you, Senator Lawrence, 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.

The Kansas House of Representatives voted 118 - 3 in favor of both bills.

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 two 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. Michelle is Secretary of the MATC Student Government Organization. Randy Martin is President and CEO, Manhattan Chamber of Commerce.

Jon Miles, a 1973 MATC graduate in Electric Power and Distribution, is now the Director of Governmental Relations for the Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Incorporated. Mr. Miles is not able to be here today, but his written testimony has been provided.

I will be happy to answer questions as necessary.

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**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', written over the typed name and title.

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

Monday, March 4, 1996

Thank you, Madame 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 Manhattan Area 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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# MANHATTAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

*Remarks by Randy Martin, President, Manhattan Chamber of Commerce, to the Kansas Senate Education Committee, Barbara Lawrence, Chair. March 4, 1996*

Madam Chair, members of the committee, fellow presenters, and guests, it is a honor for me to address this group on the change requested by the Manhattan Area Technical Center as reflected in the bill before you today.

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 this 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. Finding the ideas that take us into the future can be a challenge.

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.

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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 become in the future. Time and time again, in topic after topic, the importance of education, training, retraining and lifelong learning was asserted. The blending of all technical, university, secondary and employer retraining became a definable goal.

After that blank page task force, a new Mayoral appointed task force reviewed specific 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.

One such goal is fairly straightforward: Develop a work force that meets the needs of private employers and our citizens through a seamless system of primary, secondary, technical, and employer retraining. You at this hearing know better than anyone, that while "seamless" educational opportunities sounds fairly easy, it can be in fact quite difficult to achieve due to the various funding and regulatory groups involved in education in Kansas.

As our local efforts and activities come onstream, the ability of the Manhattan Area Technical Center to support and enhance our workforce has been critical. 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. This proposal is an important step in achieving that "seamless" education delivery system that we seek.

What can happen here? 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 considerations. In each case MATC 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 personal fulfillment.

Your support of today's proposal is an important step in bringing more seamless education to Kansans. Thank you for all that you do for Kansas, and thank you for your attention to this issue.

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# TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2606

PRESENTED TO THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
SENATOR BARBARA LAWRENCE, CHAIRMAN

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 1996

Thank you, Madam 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 would seem very attractive to a student desiring an Associate of Applied Science Degree to continue toward completing their degree at a four-year college.

For years, vocational technical schools have struggled for acceptance in the academic arena. For those students who wish to focus on a chosen technical profession, technical schools provide excellent education and career opportunities.

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The transfer of the technical center to a technical college would lend considerable credibility to the technical program, making it more attractive for students who might be hesitant about attending a technical school. It would also enhance the educational image for a potential student considering attendance.

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 to students in a profession they have chosen. In addition, the proposed bill would allow potential employers, such as the rural electric cooperatives, an opportunity to assist graduate students in completing their degrees while benefitting from students who are better prepared and motivated to enter today's technical work environment.

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.

## 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, Business Management, Carpentry-Cabinetmaking, Executive Secretarial, Heavy Equipment Operation, 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, technical programs: Agricultural Equipment Technology, Automotive Technology, Diesel Technology, Electrical Technology and Electronics Technology. Ninety-eight percent of the students enrolled in these two-year programs are pursuing an associate of applied science degree through Cloud County Community College. It is for the two-year, technical students that prompted the writing of House Bill 2605.

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 with 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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(2)

The bill has the attention of business and industry throughout the state. We have with us today, a gentleman who employs our students and has special insight as to the advantages of the conversion of NCK AVTS to a technical college.

Mr. Dale Montgomery, Vice-president of Support Services, Hays Medical Center, Hays, Kansas.

**STATEMENT OF DALE MONTGOMERY**

**VICE-PRESIDENT SUPPORT SERVICES, HAYS MEDICAL CENTER  
HAYS, KANSAS**

REGARDING HOUSE BILL 2605

Presented before the Senate Education Committee

March 4, 1996

1:30 PM Room 123 South

GOOD AFTERNOON AND THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME A FEW MINUTES TO SPEAK IN FAVOR OF HOUSE BILL 2605, WHICH WOULD ALLOW NORTH CENTRAL KANSAS AREA VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL TO BE DESIGNATED AS A TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

My name is DALE MONTGOMERY, I am VICE-PRESIDENT OF SUPPORT SERVICES AT HAYS MEDICAL CENTER IN HAYS, KANSAS.

I support this legislation not because a Technical College name carries more prestige than a Vocational Technical School, although I do believe the added prestige would aid recruitment. I support this legislation because it provides N.C.K.A.V.T. the opportunity to grow and award the degree that 75% of our courses now prepare our students for, without having to enroll in a Junior College. That degree is "Associate of Applied Science".

I am proud of the fact that N.C.K.A.T.V.S. is the only Vocational Technical school in Kansas that is accredited by the NORTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION. This accreditation recognizes attainment of a set of education standards that measures quality of educational systems and standards. I am concerned because if NCKATVS does not offer the AAS degree by next year they face that possibility of loosing accreditation.

As an employer in Hays, Kansas I have personally hired graduates of NCK Vo-Tec and can attest to the quality of students they prepare especially in the areas of computer science and advanced electrical. In advanced electrical we continue to train the graduates we hire in bio-medical electronics and they have proven to be exceptional learners. I have often asked these kids about their educational goals and many would like to obtain a 4 year degree sometime in

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the future. **THE TECHNICAL DESIGNATION WOULD PROVIDE A SEAMLESS TRANSITION TO A FOUR YEAR SCHOOL.**

As a community member that has been involved in education for nine years as a member of USD 489 BOARD OF EDUCATION, AND A MEMBER OF NCKAVTS BOARD OF CONTROL, I feel I understand the value of a technical education. A technical education provides more clock hours of hands on instruction in technology than institutions whose mission is to transfer students to four year institutions. In my opinion the Technical College designation allows us to provide the best of both, high technical skill that allow for immediate employment and a seamless transition for those students who desire the four year degree.

I believe a editorial in the March 17, 1994 edition of the Wichita Eagle states it best, I quote:

"If members of the House Education Committee really want to do something for young Kansans who want to compete in the global economy, they'll endorse a bill to allow the state's vocational-technical schools to grant two year college degrees. This is a privilege that the vo-techs deserve.

They are terrific at training young people--and other workers in need of retraining for high paying, high skilled manufacturing jobs. But because they lack the power to grant two-year technological degrees, the vo-techs lack the prestige and visibility enjoyed by the other two legs of the state's higher-ed triad, the six state universities and 19 community colleges".

As a business person, and employer that has benefited significantly for Vocational-Technical education I want to thank the Kansas Legislature for allowing the Technical College designation and to ask you to support the advancement and passage of HB 2605.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION AND YOUR SERVICE TO THE STUDENTS OF KANSAS.**