

NORTHEAST

KANSAS AREA TECHNICAL SCHOOL

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Our Technologies Launch Careers

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Testimony in Support of House Bill No. 2622

Good Morning. My name is Kenneth Clouse and I am the Director of the Northeast Kansas Area Technical School. With me today is Linda Henry, Coordinator of Special Programs. We are here today to testify in support of House Bill 2622, an Act authorizing establishment of the Northeast Kansas Technical College.

As more and more students want a college degree to qualify for our highly technological workforce, the Northeast Kansas Area Technical School (NEKATS) is adapting to ensure that our students are equipped for success and will continue to be competent in today's more sophisticated society. Our plans to obtain technical college status and offer the Associate of Applied Science degree will elevate our ability to offer a curriculum that meets the needs of our current and future students.

In June, 1999 the USD # 409 Board of Education endorsed the goal of seeking Technical College status for the Northeast Kansas Area Technical School. An application was written this fall and presented to the Kansas Board of Regents during their November meeting. At this meeting, Northeast Kansas Area Technical School was granted approval by a unanimous vote by the Kansas Board of Regents. This endorsement allowed the Kansas Legislature to develop House Bill No. 2622 to officially change the name of the technical school to technical college. The Bill passed in the House of Representatives by a vote of 123 to 0 on February 2, 2000.

The driving force behind our plans for conversion to technical college status is our certainty that students who have earned an Associate of Applied Science degree are better prepared for the workplace. Because skills in both technical and general education will be developed, students may better exemplify the mission of Northeast Kansas Area Technical School. This mission is to provide all students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes which are relevant to the employment needs of the region; and to meet the demand of current technology, which will enable them to obtain employment or advance in their chosen career fields.

The following were the advantages stated in our technical college application:

- Students benefit from AAS degree by increased upward mobility and life-long learning opportunities.
- Business and Industry benefit by a more qualified, skilled workforce.
- The Community benefits by increased labor force and an improved standard of living for citizens.
- Area Colleges and Universities benefit by creating alliances that promote healthy resource utilization.

Senate Education
3-9-2000

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Attachment 1

The elevation of Northeast Kansas Area Technical School to technical college status also will contribute substantially to the critical need to prepare our students to become qualified, contributing members of the Kansas workforce.

As we enter the 21st century, Northeast Kansas Area Technical School is looking forward to obtaining technical college status and moving toward an educational institution that better reflects the society we live and work in – today and tomorrow.

In conclusion, we are asking for a favorable recommendation from the Senate Education Committee for passage of House Bill 2622, which will authorize the Northeast Kansas Area Technical School to be converted to and established as a technical college and officially be designated as the Northeast Kansas Technical College.

At this time, we welcome your questions or comments. Thank you for your time and consideration.