



**House Committee on Commerce Labor and Economic Development
Testimony in Support of House Bill 2515
January 30, 2020**

Jerry B. Farley, President

Dear Chairman Tarwater and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of House Bill 2515, the Kansas Promise Scholarship Act. Washburn University, as you likely know, includes Washburn Institute of Technology (Washburn Tech), where we offer technical education to secondary and post-secondary students in Topeka. One of the primary goals of Washburn Tech is to be responsive to industry and workforce needs in Shawnee County and the State of Kansas. We recognize the importance of technical education and the benefits it provides to those who earn a certificate in a technical field as well as to the workforce and the economy. The Legislature's support of technical education, especially in the last few years, is appreciated.

In the proposed bill, the proposed definition of an "eligible postsecondary educational institution" is "a technical college established under the laws of this state." (Section 1(b)(1)(B)). As used in the act, that definition would not include Washburn Institute of Technology. We support the amendment requested by the Kansas Association of Technical Colleges to add Washburn Institute of Technology to that definition.

In Section 2 (b)(3), we request that Washburn University be added along with "state educational institution" as a university where the Kansas Promise Scholarship graduates may enroll. We welcome the transfer of students under this Act who have earned a certificate or an associate degree to enroll at Washburn University. Particularly, students who may be graduates under this Act that attend Washburn Tech would be encouraged to enroll at Washburn University to earn a baccalaureate degree. Adding Washburn University to this section would aid those graduates.

Thank you for your continued support of technical education.