



Office of the President

**Testimony to the
Senate Committee on Education
Jerry B. Farley, President
March 23, 2021**

Chairperson Baumgardner, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity offer written testimony in support of House Bill 2287 the Kansas Promise Scholarship Act. Washburn University 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 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 economy. The Legislature's support of technical education, especially in the last several years is appreciated.

Enacting the Kansas Promise Scholarship Act will help attract and retain students to enter and remain on path for high growth, high demand occupations. The curriculum at Washburn Institute of Technology offers programs in building trades including construction, electrical, advance system technology, diesel technology, welding, mechanical trades and advanced manufacturing. We also offer needed health care programs including advanced health care technology, certified medication aide, certified nurse aide, practical nursing, surgical technology, phlebotomy, emergency medical technician, medical office assistant and medical office specialist. Washburn Tech also has certificate programs in information system technology and graphic technology.

Kansas is facing an unprecedented skilled labor shortage. If adopted, the Kansas Promise Scholarship Act would invest needed dollars in targeted scholarships to educate, train and equip students to enter the workforce with the skills required for the jobs of today and those of tomorrow.

Thank you for your continued support of technical education.