

**KANSAS POSTSECONDARY
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY**
MINUTES
November 20, 2025

The Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority (TEA) meeting was called to order by Chair David Reist at 10:00 a.m. on November 20, 2025. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	David Reist, Chair	Debra Mikulka
	Curtis Sneden, Vice Chair	Mike Beene
	Cindy Hoover	Natalie Clark

Chair Reist announced that the consent agenda and discussion item VA4 would be presented prior to the reports to accommodate members who may need to leave the meeting early.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Member Sneden moved to approve the minutes for the October 23, 2025, meeting. Member Beene seconded, and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Hoover moved to approve the consent agenda. Member Beene seconded, and the motion carried. The following items were approved:

Technical program and curriculum committee

ACT ON A REQUEST FOR DEGREE AND/OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM: WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY: AUTOMATION ENGINEER TECHNOLOGY (15.0406)

Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology (WSU Tech) has received approval to offer a 52-credit hour Technical Certificate program and a 61-credit hour Associate of Applied Science in Automotion Engineer Technology.

ACT ON A REQUEST FOR A NEW PROMISE ACT PROGRAM: WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY: AUTOMATION ENGINEER TECHNOLOGY (15.0406)

The following program was approved to become Promise Act eligible:

- Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology: Automation Engineer Technology (15.0406) falls under the Advanced Manufacturing and Building Trades category specified in legislation. SOC 17-3023 for Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technologists and Technicians and SOC 17-3024 for Electro-Mechanical and Mechatronics Technologists and Technicians were identified as High Wage occupations on the 2025 High Demand Occupations list from the Kansas Department of Labor.

ACT ON A REQUEST FOR EXCEL IN CTE FEES: BUTLER COMMUNITY COLLEGE: EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) COURSE

The following changes to Excel in CTE fees were approved:

- Butler Community College: increased fee for background checks for Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course. Changing from \$50 to \$80 effective for spring 2026 term.

ACT ON ARTICULATED CREDIT WITH THE KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:

The articulated credit crosswalk between KSDE and KBOR for the following programs was approved:

- Automation Engineer Technology (15.0406)
- Industrial Machine/Maintenance Technology (47.03603)

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Other matters

ACT ON CPL GRANT LETTER OF SUPPORT

Vera Brown, Director for Career Technical Education, requested approval for a support letter to accompany a grant application to the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL). The grant aims to strengthen Kansas' process for evaluating military prior learning credits by providing technical assistance, policy and data guidance, and strategies to scale improvements across institutions. The request includes authorizing Chair Reist to sign the letter on behalf of the TEA and nominating one TEA member to serve on the advisory committee. Member Mikulka volunteered to serve on the advisory committee.

Member Sneden moved to approve the request. Member Mikulka seconded, and the motion carried.

INTRODUCTIONS & REPORTS

REPORT FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

April White, Vice President for Workforce Development, reported visiting several institutions, including Pratt Community College, Seward County Community College, Garden City Community College, Dodge City Community College, Fort Hays Tech | Northwest, Colby Community College, Fort Hays Tech | North Central, and Cloud County Community College. She also attended the Rural Talent Lab in North Carolina, where she participated in discussions on strategies to better serve rural communities in Kansas.

REPORT FROM TEA MEMBERS

Member Beene reported attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Heavy Equipment Operator program at Fort Hays Tech | North Central in Beloit. He commended President Burks and his team for hosting an excellent event and recognized their successful grant application, which funded the purchase of new Caterpillar and John Deere equipment. The program was highlighted as one of the best equipped in a five-state region. Member Beene noted the students' enthusiasm and extended compliments to President Burks and his team for their outstanding work.

REPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Amber Knoettgen, President of Cloud County Community College, presented the community college report and highlighted key student-success metrics. She noted that in 2024, community and technical colleges produced 60% of all credentials earned statewide. Institutions are strengthening student outcomes by expanding learning center support, dual advising, early-alert systems, wraparound services, and the use of AI tools, as well as offering incentives to help near-completion students finish their credentials. President Knoettgen also reported that Butler Community College hosted the Kansas Community College Corequisite Symposium in October, where sixteen community colleges collaborated on strategies, and ideas and worked through a guided discussion to enhance English and math co-requisite instruction. She concluded by congratulating Barton Community College, Coffeyville Community College, Colby Community College, and Cowley County Community College for being named Aspen Prize Top 200 institutions.

REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COLLEGES

Greg Nichols, President of Salina Technical College, presented the report for the technical colleges and congratulated the institutions named to the Aspen Top 200 list, noting that five of Kansas' seven technical colleges are eligible to apply for the Aspen Institute's \$1 million prize. He emphasized the sector's continued focus on affordability and access to higher education, highlighting strong scholarship support provided through the Flint

Hills Technical College, Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology, and Manhattan Area Technical College foundations. President Nichols noted that strong workforce demand and available resources remain strong, students still face barriers that institutions are working to address. He reported that colleges are actively partnering with industry to expand programming and strengthen the talent pipeline. He concluded by sharing that job placement rates in high-demand, high-wage fields offered by technical colleges remain exceptionally strong at 92–95%.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Other matters

RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON FY2026 STATE SAFETY FUND

Becky Pottebaum, Director for Finance and Administration, provided an update on the FY 2026 Safety Fund, which supports community colleges offering approved motorcycle safety courses and community and technical colleges offering Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training programs. She explained that funding is allocated based on student enrollment, with CDL enrollment reported directly to KBOR and motorcycle safety enrollment collected by the Department of Education (KSDE). In academic year 2025, nine community colleges enrolled 463 CDL students, an 8.7% increase from 2024—and received a total of \$60,395. For motorcycle safety programs, KSDE set a \$75 per student funding rate for FY 2026. Six colleges trained 1,157 motorcycle safety students in academic year 2025, a 3.8% increase from the prior year, resulting in \$86,775 in total funding. Both distributions were issued to eligible institutions in early November.

RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PERKINS RESERVE GRANT

Jamie Whitmore, Associate Director for Career Technical Education, presented an update on the FY 2025 Perkins Reserve Grant. She explained that the Perkins Reserve comprises roughly 15% of Kansas' federal Perkins V allocation and is distributed competitively to address high-priority statewide needs and support high-skill, high-wage career pathways. For FY 2025, the grant focused on reducing barriers to success for students in Perkins-defined special populations, including economically disadvantaged students, individuals with disabilities, English language learners, and students pursuing nontraditional fields. Institutions analyzed performance gaps within these groups and proposed projects aimed at improving credential attainment, employment outcomes, and overall access. For FY 2025, \$500,000 was distributed to the ten eligible institutions who applied.

RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAM ALIGNMENT VERIFICATION PROJECT

Crystal Roberts, Associate Director for Workforce Development, provided an update on the Institutional Program Alignment Verification (IPAV) project, which supports the TEA's statutory responsibility to strengthen technical education through aligned programs that meet industry needs. She explained that the AY 2026 project framework was launched in response to instances of alignment non-compliance and inconsistent procedural interpretations. The project opened in October 2024, followed by a webinar for all eligible institutions, which were required to submit IPAV documentation by March 1, 2025. Workforce development staff conducted an extensive review by June 30, 2025, comparing each institution's KHEDS data, websites, catalogs, degree maps, and other public program information to TEA-approved alignment maps. Staff used the IPAV spreadsheet to track corrections and communicate with institutions, and they identified common issues that led to the creation of a living FAQ document. To accommodate varying institutional timelines, a grace period for achieving full alignment was extended to July 1, 2026, although most compliance issues have already been resolved. All participating institutions submitted presidential certification letters confirming their commitment to alignment. Associate Director Roberts noted that the project allowed for a necessary systemwide recalibration and highlighted that developing an alignment survey for programs governed by third-party accreditors may further streamline future realignments.

NEXT MEETING REMINDER

Chair Reist closed by reminding members that the next TEA meeting will be held virtually on December 18, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Reist adjourned the meeting at 10:35 p.m.