

**KANSAS POSTSECONDARY
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES
November 21, 2024**

Chair Ray Frederick, Jr. called the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. According to law, proper notice was given.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Ray Frederick, Jr. (TEA Chair)
- Curtis Sneden (TEA Vice Chair)
- Natalie Clark
- Keith Humphrey
- Debra Mikulka
- David Reist
- Dr. Tiffany Anderson
- Cindy Hoover
- Amber Shultz
- Todd Zimmer

MEMBERS ABSENT:

- Mike Beene
- Mark Hess

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Member Curtis Sneden moved to approve the October 31, 2024 meeting and a second was received from Member Keith Humphrey. The motion carried.

INTRODUCTIONS

None

REPORTS

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Frederick briefly noted that he would forgo the chairman's report and invited Vice President April White to present the Workforce Development report.

REPORT FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Vice President White explained that the annual Federal reports for both Adult Education and Carl D. Perkins grants are rapidly approaching and expressed her appreciation to the staff from DRP for their assistance with all of the various data requirements for these reports. She also shared that the course/bucketing reassignments discussed and approved by the TEA last month were also approved by the Board of Regents at their last meeting and that the process of reviewing the remaining course reassignments will continue.

Vice President White highlighted efforts to collaborate more closely with the Board's Academic Affairs unit, addressing changes that affect two-year colleges and their funding, including the Board of Regents action regarding the funding for developmental education courses and a new initiative called the "First 15" to provide high school students the first 15 general education credit hours at no cost to the student. The team is working to understand the funding implications for institutions. She also mentioned recent efforts around degree articulations, including pathways to ensure completed computer science, business administration, nursing and social work credit transfers directly to four-year degree programs at any of the state universities.

In alignment with the Board's strategic goal of economic prosperity (Pillar 3), work continues with the six state universities to support their initiatives. Vice President White also noted ongoing collaboration with the Kansas Hospital Association on the virtual healthcare day and integrating micro-internships into healthcare careers.

Lastly, she announced the cancellation of the December 5th Budget and Finance Committee meeting and confirmed that an official email notification would follow.

TEA MEMBER REPORTS

Dr. Tiffany Anderson highlighted her involvement in a career exploration course for 8th graders, which impacts all middle schools in Topeka Public Schools. The course, held at the Topeka Center for Advanced Learning & Careers (T-CALC), helps students develop Individual Plans of Study (IPS) and explore Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways. After completing internships and visiting various colleges and career sites, the program will conclude on December 2nd with a visit to Washburn Tech, facilitated by Dean Smathers. Select students will present their insights to the committee. She expressed gratitude to Dean Smathers for his support in helping students plan for careers in Topeka.

Dr. Anderson shared her recent testimony in Washington, D.C., addressing the national teacher shortage and advocating for more university support and flexibility to attract teachers. In sharing her experience, she noted there were differing perspectives on the issue, and found the audience, including Civil Rights Commissioners, receptive to her testimony. She felt privileged to represent educational voices, relaying university insights and advocating for improved support.

Chair Frederick congratulated Dr. Tiffany Anderson on her participation in the D.C. events addressing the teacher shortage. Member Deb Mikulka also commended Dr. Anderson's efforts and highlighted the severe teacher shortage in rural districts. She stressed the importance of aligning educational pathways with current needs, praising the collaborative work of community and technical colleges and universities in CTE.

REPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY COLLEGES

President Seth Carter highlighted the initiatives undertaken by various Kansas community colleges to enhance affordability, access, and student success.

REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COLLEGES

President James Genandt, Manhattan Area Technical College, shared updates from several technical colleges, highlighting key initiatives to expand educational opportunities and support workforce development across Kansas.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Technical Program and Curriculum

Act on New Technical Programs:

- *Barton Community College – Medical Laboratory Assistant (51.0802) Technical Certificate A/28 credit hours*
- *Washburn University Institute of Technology – Associate Degree Nursing (51.3801) Associate of Applied Science degree/65 credit hours*
- *Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology – Electrical Technology (46.0302) Technical Certificate B/37 credit hours, and Associate of Applied Science degree/60 credit hours*
- *Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology – Mental Health Technician (51.1502) Technical Certificate B/39 credit hours, and Associate of Applied Science degree/60 credit hours*

Act on Excel in CTE Fees

- *Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology – Mental Health Technician (51.1502) program, fees totaling \$20 totaling for the Management of Aggressive Behavior (MOAB) textbook.*
- *Barton Community College – Medical Laboratory Assistant (51.0802) program, fees totaling \$684. This includes \$105 for background checks and immunization tracking and \$579 for textbooks.*

Act on Promise Act Programs:

- *Barton Community College – Medical Laboratory Assistant (51.0802)*
- *Washburn University Institute of Technology – Associate Degree Nursing (51.3801)*
- *Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology – Electrical Technology (46.0302)*
- *Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology – Mental Health Technician (51.1502)*

Member Hoover moved to approve the Consent Agenda, and a second was received from Member Sneden. Chair Frederick requested that Robyn Meinholdt call the roll and collect the votes. Robyn confirmed the members present: Ray Frederick, Jr. (TEA Chair) voted yes along with Natalie Clark, Keith Humphrey, Debra Mikulka, David Reist, Dr. Tiffany Anderson, Curtis Sneden (TEA Vice Chair), Cindy Hoover, Angela White for Amber Shultz, and Todd Zimmer. The motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDA*Other Matters***FY2025 SAFETY FUNDS**

Charmine Chambers, Director for Workforce Development, provided in update on the State Safety Fund programs, for which the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) oversees distributions. These include the Commercial Driver Training (CDL) and Motorcycle Safety programs.

Total fiscal year 2025 funding of \$60,395 was distributed from the CDL Safety Fund based upon the headcounts of students completing the program and receiving their CDL license.

The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) provides a report of the headcount and funding per institution for the Motorcycle Safety Fund annually. For fiscal year 2025, \$89,200 was available for distribution, the same amount as the previous year, and distributions are made based on the headcount reported by each institution.

This was an informational update, with no action required by the Technical Education Authority.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION UPDATE

Member Natalie Clark shared updates from the Registered Apprenticeship celebration at the Salina airport hangar, where three teacher apprenticeships were being recognized. She outlined several key initiatives tied to the Kansas education vision, emphasizing postsecondary success, academic performance, kindergarten readiness, and civic engagement. Member Clark also highlighted the Kansas Education System Accreditation (KESA) 2.0, which focuses on aligning standards, assessments, and measurement systems for school improvement.

She pointed out changes to graduation requirements for the class of 2028, focusing on the postsecondary assets connected to CTE. Member Clark reviewed recent math assessment scores, noting modest improvements following the impact of COVID-19. Regarding CTE, she reported that, in 2023, Kansas had 55,302 CTE participants, with 30,934 concentrators, and showed strong academic performance for CTE students, with their

graduation rates and assessment scores surpassing state averages. Member Clark also highlighted improvements in chronic absenteeism and shared that 70.05% of CTE concentrators attained college credits during high school.

Further, she discussed the national career cluster framework's proposed changes, moving from 16 clusters to 14, and shared Kansas initiatives in teacher recruitment, particularly through mentorship programs at Pittsburg State University. She also touched on a reserve grant to enhance high school teachers' access to electronics and programmable logic controllers in response to feedback from business and industry. Slides for the presentation are available at https://www.kansasregents.org/resources/PDF/TEA/KSDE_Presentation_to_TEA_11.2024.pdf on the [KBOR website](#).

ADULT EDUCATION UPDATE

Chair Frederick introduced Associate Director Susanna Lee to provide an update. Associate Director Lee began by emphasizing the role of Kansas Adult Education in helping adults by supporting college and career readiness skills, including high school equivalency diploma, English language proficiency, workforce preparation, and more. She shared that in the 2023-2024 program year, Kansas Adult Education served 6,869 participants, marking an 11.4% increase from the previous year. As of November 2024, enrollment has grown by 20.5% compared to the same time last year.

The program serves a highly diverse population, with participants speaking over 70 native languages, and includes individuals with varying educational backgrounds, including those with less than an 8th-grade education and those with foreign postsecondary degrees.

Over a third of participants face barriers to employment, and the program aims to increase job skills and help adults enter the workforce. Although challenges remain, with an estimated 190,000 adults lacking a high school diploma and around 110,000 adults with limited English proficiency, Kansas consistently ranks high in federal performance indicators. The state also ranks above-average in literacy and numeracy levels, but there are still many adults at lower skill levels in literacy and numeracy.

Associate Director Lee highlighted innovations like the "alternative placement" pilot program, which allows certain students to bypass traditional pre-tests and post-tests in favor of other measurable outcomes. This has been particularly useful for students pursuing a fast-track GED or those in workplace literacy programs tailored to specific job skills. Additionally, Kansas is working to help internationally trained professionals re-enter their careers, providing support for fields such as engineering, healthcare, and teaching.

The state continues to expand Integrated Education and Training (IET) programs that offer concurrent academic and career training. Associate Director Lee concluded by stressing the importance of partnerships with employers, educational institutions, and community organizations in supporting adult learners and encouraged members to engage with local agencies to promote adult education programs.

The presentation slides are available on the [KBOR website](#) at https://www.kansasregents.org/resources/PDF/TEA/Adult_Education_Update_Presentation_Nov_2024.pdf

MILITARY ARTICULATION UPDATE

Dr. Vera Brown, Director for Workforce Development, updated the TEA on Kansas efforts to enhance military experience and training to college credit articulation, aiming to increase the number of postsecondary credits awarded. She highlighted a successful partnership across 13 states, supported by the Lumina Foundation, which resulted in a [Military Articulation Portal](#) containing 287 occupations and 853 articulations across all sectors. This portal has become a national model, helping veterans convert their military experience into college credits. Kansas is leading efforts to improve military credit articulation, with further expansion of the portal planned.

Associate Director Tobias Wood presented the Portal and demonstrated its features, which allow service members to search for military occupations and find corresponding academic credits at participating institutions. He also stressed the importance of continued awareness efforts. Member Mikulka praised the Portal and Kansas leadership, emphasizing the need for awareness among both military members and educational institutions.

Director Brown outlined possible steps to increase military-originated credit hours by involving Prior Learning Taskforce in credit acceptance, engaging veteran support personnel on campus to identify barriers in order to propose solutions, engaging registrars who may require training, engaging administrators to update or create articulations and portal information, re-investing into the work of KS-CMC, and promoting military articulation to the public as well as college campuses.

Member Keith Humphrey shared his personal experience with military credit articulation, underscoring its importance for veterans transitioning to civilian careers. Member Mikulka suggested asking the employers if they have had experience with the articulation program and what employer needs may be considered. Chair Frederick emphasized the need for feedback from Portal users and collecting usage and click-through data.

Elaine Simmons, Vice President of Instruction at Barton Community College, shared insights from the institution's long involvement with Fort Riley. She stressed the importance of awareness and training within institutions to ensure military members are aware of available credit opportunities. Simmons also mentioned Barton's successful internal committee, which has developed 33 articulations, and emphasized the need for champions within institutions to spread the word about the program.

Member Hoover agreed with the focus on raising awareness rather than expanding the program's scope. She suggested creating a task force to ensure service members understand the available resources. Member Mikulka agreed, advocating for baseline data on the program's usage and addressing barriers. Chair Frederick and the group agreed that the next steps should focus on refining and defining the program, with an emphasis on improving communication to ensure military members are aware of the opportunities available to them.

Next Meeting Reminder

Unless otherwise noted, the meeting is scheduled virtually on Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 1:30 pm. [TEA Meeting Dates, Agendas and Minutes](#)

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Frederick concluded the meeting at 11:42 a.m.