

The Workforce



June, 2013

A Message From Vice President Flanders:

This newsletter will serve as a periodic update regarding important workforce initiatives that affect you, your business and economic prosperity for Kansas citizens.

As we strive to deliver a highly prepared workforce to Kansas companies, we want to enhance our business and industry partnerships. A message heard from business leaders is the need for a workforce with industry credentials. Partners at the Kansas Department of Commerce have developed a skills pledge to help guide you in determining work-related skills essential for your industry. By asking for industry credentials, you can be clear on what skills you require for entry employment. I encourage you to sign this pledge and:

- Ensure the educational system is focused on the needs of employers
- Use standardized metrics for validating skills and competencies

- Minimize risk in the hiring process
- Provide a qualified, technical workforce that drives productivity, improvement and company performance



To demonstrate your commitment to a skilled Kansas workforce, please sign the skills pledge at:

www.kansascommerce.com/skillspledge.



Community and technical colleges prepare and encourage all students to earn academic awards and value-added industry credentials. This work continues as we align all postsecondary career technical education programs with the needs of business and industry. Contact me for more information on industry credentials and how we can help to build a stronger workforce for your company.

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Governor Brownback's Career Tech Education Initiative

In January 2012, Governor Brownback announced a bold and innovative plan to enhance career technical education in Kansas and better prepare high school students for colleges and careers. The legislature responded and provided free college tuition for high school students earning postsecondary credits in technical courses and incentives to school districts for students earning industry-recognized credentials. The free college tuition applies to any and all postsecondary technical courses in approved programs at Kansas public community and technical colleges.

Many high-demand jobs in Kansas require postsecondary technical education. Governor Brownback's Career Tech Education Initiative prepares students for a future of economic prosperity and develops a qualified and talented workforce for business. In the first year of the initiative, over 5,800 students earned college level technical education credit and obtained skills leading to industry credentials.



You can learn more about Governor Brownback's Career Tech Education Initiative at:

http://www.kansasregents.org/governors_cte_initiative



TEA—Postsecondary Technical Education Authority

Kathy Howell, Chair
Eddie Estes, Vice Chair
Bruce Akin
Thomas Burke
David Coleal
Diane DeBacker
Sheila Frahm
Pat George
Joe Glassman
Lana Gordon
Connie Hubbell
Steve Kearney

TEA Mission: Drive the advancement of a robust technical education system to meet the needs of Kansas business and industry



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