



February 7, 2012

Representative Gordon and members of the Committee I am Rob Edleston and am appearing here today in my capacity as the President of the Kansas Association of Technical Colleges. I am also the President of Manhattan Technical College.

I am here today to support the funding recommended in the Governor's budget for fiscal year 2013 for the Kansas Board of Regents related to technical education. In the Roadmap for Kansas, the Governor committed to increasing the percentage of high school graduates who are college or career ready. As part of this commitment, he is proposing expanded access to technical education in Kansas to meet the needs of the citizens and employers, no matter what type of postsecondary institution they choose to attend. He has added \$28.5 million from the State General Fund to be administered by the Board of Regents in fiscal year 2013.

The legislature instructed the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority (TEA) to develop a new funding formula for technical education reflective of current needs and practices. The TEA prepared and adopted a new formula that recognizes the varying capital or other costs involved in providing different types of technical classes. For example, the cost of an upper level computer-aided drafting technology course would be \$170 per credit hour while a beginning level medical assistant course would be only \$105 per credit hour.

The FY 2013 recommendation is an investment of an additional \$8.0 million to begin implementing the tiered formula. The formula is currently underfunded by approximately \$56 million dollars below being able to prepare our Kansas workforce.

Another part of the Governor's new technical education initiative is the inclusion of \$17.5 million from the State General Fund to pay for the tuition of high school students taking career and technical education courses concurrently or on a part-time basis with the intention of getting a professional certification. The local high schools will be eligible to receive part of a \$3.0 million incentive to encourage student participation.

We also support the recommended funding in FY 2013 of \$2.6 million for the Capital Outlay for Technical Schools and Colleges Program and \$179,284 for the Technology Innovation & Internships Program, which has a one-to-one matching requirement.

The KATC would also encourage the Legislature to continue its support of the 12-member Technical Education Authority that began in FY 2008. The Governor is recommending \$682,240 to operate the Authority in FY 2013. The purpose of the Authority is to coordinate statewide planning for technical education, new programs, and contract training with business; as well as the development of a seamless system for the delivery of technical education between secondary school level and the postsecondary school level. The overhauled tiered funding system mentioned above would be one such example.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Robert J. Edleston, Ed.D.

President