



TO: Representative Kelly and members of House Education Committee

FROM: Kansas Association of Technical College, Greg Goode, President

SUBJECT: SB22 – Post Secondary Technical Education Authority

DATE: March 11, 2013

This letter is written in support of SB22, extension of the Technical Education Authority (TEA). The TEA has been an integral part of increasing the visibility and accountability of career and technical education in Kansas since 2006. To provide some idea of their impact, in 2007 Kansas ranked last in the percent of the population enrolled in CTE courses. Recently, Kansas climbed to 34th (see page 2), much due to their persistent efforts.

The TEA brings an expertise to technical education that KBOR relies on. Their membership is primarily people who work directly in or with technical education. Their membership are employed in many technical fields such as business owners, nursing, Aerospace, HVAC, Westar Energy, Western Kansas Manufacturer Association, Kansas Department of Labor, etc. Their leadership allows KBOR to focus on their many other roles in higher education.

Initially there was a feeling among many that TEA caused an unnecessary duplication of effort, that they add a layer of meetings to attend, plus more oversight means more work for the colleges. But as they have matured, the results are evident that this body is responsible for helping reinvigorate technical education in Kansas as the attached chart indicates.

As such, the Kansas Association of Technical Colleges proudly supports SB22 to extend TEA and their many fine achievements, including:

- The TEA insures the technical college curriculums meet industry standards across the state. A student attending HVAC at Garden City has the same outcomes as a student attending Washburn Tech.
- The TEA has been instrumental in making certain students who leave technical programs have 3rd party industry credentials making graduates more marketable.
- The TEA has been a strong advocate for career and technical education. As the economy changes and as we need more students going into technical fields, the TEA acts as an “advisory” board to the colleges.
- TEA has been an advocate of the metrics process used to evaluate program quality. These will be in place soon, giving the state another tool to quantify success. This again is a very time consuming activity that KBOR would have found challenging to administrate.