

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Brunk at 9:19 A.M. on March 13, 2008 in Room 784 of the DSOB.

All members were present except:

Lana Gordon-excused
Brenda Landwehr- excused
Candy Ruff-excused

Committee staff present:

Jerry Ann Donaldson, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Renaë Jefferies, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Jill Wolters, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Stephen Bainum, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Andy Solter, President, Kansas Career Pipeline
Blake Flanders, Vice President, Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority

Others attending: See attached list.

Andy Solter presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Kansas Career Pipeline. Their vision is to help Kansas students and adults find the right career path and get the right education to get the right Kansas jobs. There is a internet based program that can be accessed from any point in the state. It connects students to the right education that they need for the jobs that they have selected.

Representative Grant asked what jobs are short on employees. Andy advised that the presentation would cover that question soon. The short answer was the construction industry.

Andy continued his presentation with a display of the top interest clusters of careers based on answers from 21,020 students. The top interest was in the finance field with 12.8% interest by students.

Representative Kiegerl raised a question about expanding the battery of tests that are given to students. Andy said that he would ask their program supplier if they use some of these tests.

Representative Goico asked Andy if an interested constituents should contact you? Andy recommended that they log onto the website and take the assessment test. The system is self contained and gives them what they need to make their decisions. The website is kansascareerpipeline.org.

Representative Brunk asked where the education systems is in getting children connected to the pipeline. Andy said that superintendents are beginning to understand the need. They are not there yet but are making progress. Representative Brunk asked what the time frame was for getting this done. Andy said that it is happening right now and we should have full results in a couple of years of implementation.

Representative Quigley asked how the students are using this. Andy said that it was primarily through counselors but that it is also going to the teacher level.

Representative Brunk asked if parents and students are understanding that the two year degree is 60% of the jobs. Andy asked if that question could be answered by Blake Flanders.

Blake Flanders gave an update on the Technical Education Authority. They now have a full Authority membership appointed with three ex-officio members which are the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Labor and the Commissioner of Education. The first strategic planning session has been done and the mission of the Authority is to develop and support a robust technical education system throughout our state.

Representative Brunk asked what does this mean to us as legislators? Blake said that we are using this first year to improve the quality of our system. We are not asking for any money until we improve the system that we have. We are putting together funding groups to help institutions offer programs for high skill, high wage jobs. Usually the programs that support high wage jobs are also expensive. Some careers are expensive, such

CONTINUATION SHEET

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as nursing or dental hygienist. The Jabara campus in Wichita cost 54 million dollars to build a state of the art national center for aviation training. We want to produce a return on investment for students and for Kansas taxpayers.

Representative Kelley asked if the Kansas Career Pipeline is offering a place to provide training. Blake indicated that the role of Kansas Career Pipeline was to provide career guidance to students and adults and connecting business to those opportunities. .

Andy Solter returned to the podium to mention a video that is available on the website.

The Chairman adjourned the committee at 10:30 AM. The committee will meet tomorrow for action on two bills heard Wednesday, March 12th.