

SB 2019 - Department of Career and Technical Education Funding
Central Region Area Career and Technical Center Testimony in Support
January 13, 2025

Chairperson Nathe, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 2019. My name is Katelyn Lindler, and I am a junior at Century High School.

When I was in elementary school, I dreamed of becoming an astronaut. Just like many other adolescents, this dream changed to many different careers such as a doctor, cop, singer, you name it. It was not until middle school when I finally started to find my interests and what career I would actually like to pursue. I think the continuation and growth of opportunities for CTE classes should be a very important priority within the schools because students benefit from the exploration of new careers and the education of life skills within CTE classes, which most core classes do not teach.

I am now a junior, who is graduating a whole year early, and I feel confident in my career path (thanks to CTE classes). In the past, I have taken Horticulture and Botany through the Bismarck Career Academy and I really enjoyed it. Horticulture and Botany did not just teach me about the genetics of plants, but the class also taught me what careers I could pursue if I went farther with Horticulture. After I took this class, I realized that Horticulture is not for me, even though it was still a very useful class. I am now taking Child Development and Medical Terminology online through CRATC. This benefits me because after high school, I plan to go to college to become a pediatric dental hygienist. I would not have known exactly what I wanted to do and be confident in that path if I did not end up taking these specific classes. Career and Technical education classes give kids a head start on how and where they want to spend the rest of their life.

A lot of the time, I hear my peers say that they will not need a certain skill that core classes such as English or math teach. Although, I do think it is very important for students to understand the concept of how to identify congruent shapes or how to use a semicolon, CTE classes have the opportunity to educate students about career oriented readiness. The best thing about CTE classes is how there are so many different types, making those classes very inclusive and dedicated to your specific interests.

Overall, CTE classes are crucial to a student's education and career readiness. Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you take my (and many other active students) thoughts into consideration.

Sincerely,
Katelyn Lindler

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Chairperson Nathe, members of the committee, Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 2019. My name is Breanna Hasenyager, and I am a senior at Legacy High School.

School for me has always been something I was good at but never something I enjoyed or was passionate about. The Career Academy in Bismarck has changed everything I thought school and learning was about. This program has brought me out of my comfort zone in many amazing ways that has pushed me to be a better student. The Career Academy has become a space that introduces me to careers I'm interested in. Not only has it affected my career decision but has given me confidence, ways to meet new people, and most importantly provided me a calm and stress free environment for me to learn.

The Career Academy and their extended programs focus on helping students to discover career paths to pursue and prepare them for work spaces. While this is an amazing opportunity for any kind of learner, to me there are different aspects of these programs that are overlooked. For me the biggest change in my learning is the feeling of calmness. As a senior I take almost every class at the Career Academy, this includes my Core classes such as english or social

studies. I take these classes through a program called Empower [ED]. As a learner this has made the biggest change in my life and mental health. I have formed so many relationships with my peers, teachers, and staff outside of the classroom. Walking into the Career Academy I feel a sense of safety because of the environment the teacher provides. I notice that every teacher here makes it a part of their work to get to know every student that walks into their classrooms.

Without this building I would spend my days walking around Legacy High School with my heart beating out of my chest, listening to lectures that I don't connect with, and feeling only motivation to make it through my week.

While the Career Academy has helped me through all of the emotional ups and downs high school has to offer. It's also helped me find a career field I'm passionate about and intend on pursuing while also showing what fields I'm not interested in. I've taken many agricultural programs at the Career Academy. I'd love to see programs like these expand and get resources they need. I've learned so many technical skills such as welding, how to vaccinate an animal, and how to apply sutures. From technical skills to social and business skills I've learned everything I need to know to prepare me for the workspace and further my education in my career and all these have been available to me as a highschool student. For every calming classroom and every skill I've learned I've grown grateful for the opportunities I have from the Career Academy.

Sincerely,

Bre Hasenyager

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Chairperson Nathe, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill No.2019. My name is Solly Jonas, and I am a student at the Career Academy as well as a senior at Bismarck High School.

The Career and Technical class that I have taken have helped me open my perspective on what I could do in the future. When I was a freshman I took Applied Mechanics and it was great. I learned how to weld, woodwork, do electrical work, and small engine work. It was a great class because it taught me skills that I can use for the rest of my life. My sophomore year I continued my mechanical skills by taking Auto Tech 1. Then my junior year I took Intro to Agriculture and Welding 1. In agriculture I learned about farming and how to run a farm, along with ranching and how ranching works. We got to do multiple projects and go on field trips, like we went to a family farm and got a tour of it. While taking welding I have expanded my skills to help me use them at work or even start a hobby.

I feel that my experience at the Career Academy has been successful and guided me towards career options. So I feel that the CTE should continue getting funding to help the younger generations get a good or better experience here at the Career Academy and across the state.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,
Solly Jonas
CTE Student
Bismarck Public Schools

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Chairperson Nathe, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 2019. My name is Logan Schmitcke, I am a senior at Bismarck high, I have been attending classes in the CTE world up at the Bismarck Career Academy my entire high school career. I have really enjoyed these classes at the Career Academy. It has taught me how to expand my knowledge in different careers. Throughout my time at the Career Academy I've problem solved and figured out problems on my own.

I also want to thank my CTE experience for teaching me respect, responsibility and perseverance. Thanks to them also, they helped me find my career path. I've decided to continue my career path at BSC and I will be attending auto body. I wouldn't be able to figure out what I want to do for a career if I didn't have the programs at the Career Academy.

Sincerely,
Logan Schmitcke
CTE Student
Bismarck Public Schools

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Chairperson Nathe, committee members, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 2019. My name is Lukas Svalen. I am a senior at Bismarck High School, and I have participated in CTE classes throughout my high school career. CTE has helped me determine the line of work I want to choose when I graduate. I have been coming here since my freshman year when I joined the Applied Mechanics course. I have learned many things that have helped me throughout my high school career. I also took the horticulture program and enjoyed learning about how plants make stuff grow like crops and what it takes to grow a healthy crop.

Auto collision has been one of my main courses up here and I really enjoy this class. I've learned so many valuable lessons in that class. I am a third capstone student right now and I would love it if future kids would be able to get the chances I got.

Thank you to the Career Academy for giving me the chance to improve my learning by doing hands-on things.

Sincerely,
Lukas Svalen
CTE Student
Bismarck Public Schools

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Chairperson Nathe and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 2019. My name is Hudson Egeberg, and I am a student in Bismarck Public Schools. However, I take almost all of my classes at the Bismarck Career Academy.

I am writing as a student of the Bismarck Career Academy to express my strong support for continued funding for Career and Technical Education programs. I have taken Building Systems I and II as well as Creative Engineering, and these courses have provided me with invaluable hands-on skills. In my Building Systems classes, I have learned how to mix and pour concrete, install sheetrock, shingle a house, wire electrical components, and laminate countertops. These skills are especially important to me because I plan to go into real estate after high school and start flipping houses with my retired grandpa. The knowledge I've gained through the Career Academy has opened up countless opportunities for my future.

I am also enrolled in the Empowered Ed course, which allows for self-paced learning. In this class, I get to choose my assignments based on the required standards, giving me a sense of independence in my education. Through this course, we complete community projects in our own time to give back to those in need. For example, my friends and I recently built a large shelf to hold Costco totes for the Ministry on the Margins. These totes provide storage for homeless individuals to keep their belongings safe while staying there overnight. We were able to complete this project using one of the fully equipped workshops at the Bismarck Career Academy, along with the power tools available to us.

Additionally, I have taken Creative Engineering, where I learned how to design and build projects using engineering principles. This class is incredibly beneficial for students who want to pursue engineering in college, as it provides a strong foundation. In fact, many of the concepts taught in a first-year engineering program are already covered in this course. Furthermore, most colleges use the same software that we are trained on at the Bismarck Career Academy, giving us a significant advantage.

I appreciate your time and consideration in reading my testimony. The Career Academy has had a tremendous impact on my education and future career, and I strongly believe that continued funding for programs like these will benefit many more students like me.

Thank you.

Hudson Egeberg
Bismarck Career Academy Student

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Chairperson Nathe, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 2019.

My name is Ty Moran, and I am a student from BHS and take classes at the Career Academy. I wish you would

consider continuing funding Career & Technical Education because it has helped me in my learning and my career, and I would like kids after me to experience the learning and the help I got. It benefited me because of what I learned from auto-tech and welding. CTE helped with my job as a diesel mechanic, learning how things work on vehicles and taught me how to have patience and many more skills.

Because of my hands-on experiences at the Career Academy, I plan to go into a career being a diesel mechanic, and the automotive classes available at my school, because of the funding you have previously allocated, helped teach me about the main components of a vehicle and the electronic parts of a vehicle.

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February 7, 2025

Chairperson Nathe and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to provide a written testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 2019 my name is Brodie Gerhardt, and I am a senior at Century High School and the Bismarck Career Academy and Technical Center.

I think this bill being passed would be crucial to the future of our generation. The Career Academy not only educates you but teaches you life skills and career-ready practices you can use forever.

I personally have taken many classes at the Career Academy such as Applied Mechanics Carpentry and Auto Collision Welding and I have really enjoyed these classes. They were very helpful in deciding what career path I should pursue. Carpentry was a really fun class and led me to get my job framing houses. Passing this bill can change so many kids' lives just like it changed mine. Thank you for taking my opinion into consideration.

Sincerely,
Brodie Gerhardt.

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Jan 13, 2025

Chairperson Nathe, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 2019. My name is Jenaveve Lipp and I am a student at Century, who takes classes here at the Career Academy and Technical Center. I would like to share with you some of my successes that have come from my having classes here.

I have been taking classes at the Career Academy since I have been a sophomore, and I am now a senior. I started out in Botany/Horticulture, mainly to get me out of taking Bio, but the class ended up getting me very interested in science. At the same time I took Digital Art and Photography, which helped me pursue the artist side of me, more than any class at Century. I started to really like my classes at the CA and took more the next year, even joining Empower[Ed] to help individualize my classroom learning, which turned out to be one of the best academic choices of my high school career. I was also starting to like art more so I took Graphic Design. This year, being a senior I am taking English, Government,

Economics, and Gym through Empower[Ed] which is really helping me understand my path after high school.

My brother took Career Academy classes before me, convincing me to take them. He took our building systems classes, Empower[Ed], and a few others, he is now an Apprentice Electrician. We are both very thankful to have been given this opportunity to attend classes at the Career Academy and hope that people like us can continue to in the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jenaveve Lipp

Brycen Johnson
2/5/2025

I support the Senate bill .No 2019, I think this bill will create many opportunities for students to gain experience and knowledge for future careers. I have taken 5 classes at the Career Academy and I have learned many skills that I use everyday. I use skills that I learn from CTE at work and personal projects.

All CTE classes are good to know even if you are not planning on pursuing that career. Building systems taught me how to fix drywall, pour concrete and woodworking. Applied mechanics taught me how to weld, I use welding everyday at work. Career Academy helps students figure out what they want to do as a career instead of spending money on college trying to figure out what they want to pursue. Removing funding from Senate Bill No 2019 would greatly impact all students across the state.

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Chairperson Nathe, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate No.2019. My name is Devon Kostelecky. I am a junior at Bismarck High School, and have been in CTE classes all of my high school years.

I have been in many different CTE classes throughout my education and I want to help make the CTE classes better. I think that all the kids that are in CTE classes really enjoy it. It is a good way for kids to get out of their school and have hands-on experience. With the CTE classes providing hands-on experience really teaches you a lot and you get to work on things by yourself.

I think that providing schools with appropriate funding could allow Career and Technical Education centers to expand their programming. I have benefited from taking automotive collision courses and hope that future students get to have that same experience. It is great with all of the funding that CTE classes have provided with.

Dear Committee,

Career Academy and CTE classes have benefited my education and real world skills in ways that traditional schooling couldn't ever do. I've learned certain skills through taking classes such as applied mechanics, building systems, horticulture and auto collision that have taught me things I can apply to real world situations such as potential situations one might encounter at their job or in their home someday. I've learned how to repair and repaint my truck after hitting a deer, getting in a fender bender, etc. I've learned how to repair simple household objects that tend to break. Please continue to fund these opportunities for future students.

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Testimony in Support March 6, 2025

Chairperson Nathe, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 2019. My name is Everett Cunningham. I am a senior at Mandan High School and I take classes at the Career Academy.

I believe the Career Academy is very important for a lot of students. This is because of the opportunities it provides to explore possible careers. A lot of people starting to think about careers I feel don't really know what the careers they're interested in actually involve. The Career Academy helps them really decipher what they would be doing day to day in that career path. I have only attended the Career Academy this year but I believe it has been a substantial help to deciding what I want to do after I graduate. It has also helped me relieve a lot of stress by helping me rule out a lot of ideas. Having one less option bouncing around in my head is a major help for me. And that helps me in general with keeping up my school work and at a good standard.

I also believe that it is good for most students, including myself, to have a very interactive and hands-on class in their schedule. Sitting at a desk all day receiving lectures drives my brain to wander or just shut off by the last couple of classes in my day. Some students just need that one class to reset their brain.

I hope you take the funding into reconsideration because the Bismarck Career Academy is already helping a lot of students. So imagine what it can do with more funding.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Everett Cunningham

Mandan High School, & Bismarck Career Academy