



WRITTEN TESTIMONY
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SENATE APPROPRIATES PUBLIC HEARING
SB 2019
JANUARY 7, 2021

Chairman Senator Holmberg and Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, as Director of Career and Technical Education in Cass County, I thank you for your leadership and commitment to the State of North Dakota and our region as you embark on the 67th Legislative Assembly.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 2019 which will provide necessary funding to the Department of Career and Technical Education, to not only sustain, but to GROW career and technical education learning models for workforce development and student success.

As of 2019, North Dakota reported CTE concentrators graduating at higher rates, 95.87% compared to 88%. Engaged CTE learners stay in school as they participate in relevant, hands-on projects. CTE learners see the value of education through industry partnerships and classroom activities that provide authentic work experiences. Alignment to post-secondary technical programs increase rigor, contribute to dual credit opportunities, and establish meaningful transitions to college, careers, work, or the military.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) has been and will remain vital in providing career awareness and preparing learners for training and job market shifts. As North Dakota employers report a shortage of highly-skilled workers and industries morph due to changing dynamics; strengthening and expanding K-12 career education, secondary and postsecondary CTE programs will serve as a critical foundation for learner access to relevant career and technical education (CTE) curriculums and quality experiential learning.

As a member of the 67th Legislative Assembly, you will have the opportunity to strengthen, expand, and transform North Dakota by investing in CTE funding, area career and technology centers, and career academies. I request your support and approval of SB 2019, as a vote of “no” will restrict us to grow. We look forward to your consideration and stand ready to partner with you to grow a highly skilled North Dakota workforce that will lead the nation!

Respectfully,
Dr. Denise Jonas, CTE Director