



**THE CHAMBER**  
FARGO MOORHEAD WEST FARGO

**Chamber Support for HB 1003 – NDSCS Budget**

March 7th, 2023

Chairman Sorvaag and members of the Senate Appropriations – Education and Environment Division,

For the record, my name is Katherine Grindberg and I have the pleasure of serving as the Executive Vice President for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo (FMWF) Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber's mission is to be a catalyst for economic growth and prosperity for businesses, members, and the greater community. On behalf of our over 1,900 members, I respectfully offer testimony in support of House Bill 1003, specifically as it relates to the budget of North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS).

North Dakota State College of Science, through their partnership with the Chamber Foundation on the Economic Development Authority (EDA) Good Jobs Challenge Grant, provides exemplary training in the agriculture technology sector. This EDA grant specifically addresses the acute workforce needs in the areas of precision agriculture, cybersecurity and technology, and advanced manufacturing. As a key partner on the grant, NDSCS is integral in the development of workforce pathways for students.

In addition to this great partnership on the EDA grant, the private sector is also thrilled to partner with the Career Workforce Innovation Center to provide experiential learning opportunities. Individuals throughout the business community have shown support for this concept through significant investment into the career workforce academy model. The programming offered at this career academy will support the workforce needs of the state both today and into the future.

Through world-class programming and state-of-the-art facilities, educational institutions like NDSCS will provide the competitive advantage to set our state apart in competing for high-demand workforce in a global marketplace. Facilities like the Precision Agriculture Tech Center will allow NDSCS's agriculture program to further grow, taking this program and the entire institution to the next level. As the program has nearly doubled in size over the past couple years, this facility expansion would provide the needed lab and classroom space.

Finally, in closing, I commend Dr. Flanigan for leading the institution along the path to a very bright future. The business community looks forward to enhancing the growth and vibrancy of North Dakota State College of Science.

On behalf of our members, I would like to thank the committee for their time and consideration this morning.

Respectfully,

Katherine Grindberg  
Executive Vice President  
FMWF Chamber  
[kgrindberg@fmwfcchamber.com](mailto:kgrindberg@fmwfcchamber.com)