

**Senate Appropriations Committee**  
**Chairman Brad Bekkedahl**  
**January 30, 2023**

**HB 1199**

**Chairman Bekkedahl** and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, my name is Mark Vollmer. I proudly serve as Superintendent of Minot Public School District #1 and Minot Air Force Base #160. I stand in front of you today to offer support for HB 1199.

Thank you to the committee for allocating funding for the CTE Capital Projects last legislative session! Your actions brought forth many ideas to expand career and technical opportunities and build partnerships across the state.

Last year, Minot Public Schools was awarded \$10,000,000 in CTE Capital Projects funding (\$6,666,666 America Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) and \$3,333,333 Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund). The opportunity to expand career and technical education in the Minot area quickly became a reality as work began on the Minot Area Workforce Academy.

The Minot Area Workforce Academy will serve as a hub to an Area Career and Technical Education Center providing new opportunities for high school students and the community. The expansion of the Early Childhood Education and addition of Commercial Driver's License programs are set to open August 2023 in the Minot Area Workforce Academy. The addition of a large Skills Training/Multipurpose Room also provides needed space for local skills training.

As Minot Public Schools moves forward with a new high school, Minot North, and renovates Magic City Campus to accommodate 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade students, CTE program expansion and additions are also included in the plans. These CTE opportunities were highlighted in the CTE Capital Projects application funded. To stay within the existing budget, several of the CTE projects are on hold until further funding is secured.

Minot Public Schools and the community of Minot support HB 1199 and ask the Senate Appropriations Committee to extend a line of credit to the department of career and technical education for the purpose of providing grants to entities to build additional Career Academies and further fund those in the process of being built.

As North Dakota's public workforce education and training delivery system, the ND Department of Career & Technical Education is the best agency to approve, support and monitor the Bank of North Dakota loans for the Career Academy grants. NDCTE is committed to providing youth with exploration opportunities and the foundation skills needed to enter the world of work, while providing adults with skills needed to enter, re-enter, or advance in the workforce.

The Minot area is no exception when it comes to a shortage of trained workers. Coordinating efforts to provide short-term CTE training to fill our job openings is necessary. Using the Minot Area Workforce Academy as a hub to ***train local to retain local***, we will:

- Advance career and technical education throughout the Minot area,
- Provide quick re-tooling of unemployed workers,
- Provide opportunities for advancement of education, including GED services, certification programs, and access to association, undergraduate and graduate programs.
- Improve access of existing facilities to be used by local businesses for training, and to
- Remove barriers to employment, and meet the workforce needs of our community.

On behalf of Minot Public Schools and the community of Minot, we request your support of HB 1199, the ND Department of CTE and the Bank of North Dakota line of credit funding.

HB 1199 further advances CTE. In my nearly 30 years in North Dakota schools, I have never seen a greater need for career and technical education to assist in filling our state's workforce needs. Therefore, we encourage a "DO PASS" recommendation.

Thank you for allowing me to share our plan and our progress – a plan that exemplifies community collaboration to promote success. I will stand for any questions you may have.