

SOUTHEAST REGION

Career & Technology Center

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Chairman Bekkedahl and Members of the Senate Appropriations-

Good morning, your time in Bismarck is short with the duty of ensuring North Dakota's needs are met. One of the principal topics you will have to address is workforce needs for the state, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) serves as a vital component in the development of our state's workforce pipeline.

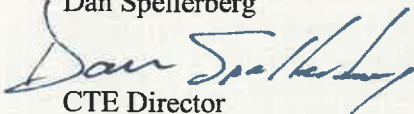
As Director of the Southeast Region Career & Technology Center, I am providing written testimony in support of HB1199. Your vote backing this request is critical to Career and Technical Education in our state. In 2021 the state was made aware and the 67th legislative assembly allocated 68 million dollars of federal funds for the ND CTE department to distribute on a competitive basis under the Coronavirus Capital Projects Grant. As a center Director, I asked all 14 of our member schools how could we enhance CTE in our member schools. Several of the schools instantly implemented a needs assessment to determine local industry and CTE needs. We identified several projects that would enhance and expand CTE opportunities to our students and our member schools. We prioritized our request, with the following projects -

- Priority 1) The building of a new CTE Center branch in South Central North Dakota, it will initially serve the communities of Edgeley, Ellendale, and Kulm by providing high quality comprehensive career and technical education opportunities for school aged and adult learners. We currently have facilities in Wahpeton and Oakes; this would create a third site to service our western side of SRCTC.
- Priority 2) The building of a new CTE program in Hankinson, to include Agricultural Education. Hankinson is limited on inhouse CTE offerings, and by adding this program and building we look forward to enhancing students CTE opportunities in Hankinson ND.
- Priority 3) Creating additional rotational units that will be shared with all our member schools. This is to include creating a Precision Agriculture Mobile Lab, Advance Manufacturing Lab, and adding resources and equipment to our Mobile Health care trainer.
- Priority 4) Renovate existing buildings to provide additional lab space for CTE offerings in Lisbon.

We submitted our grant application to NDCTE office in October of 2021, and December of 2021. NDCTE approved \$2,979,975 towards our projects. We asked for what we projected our project to cost back in October. We are approaching a year since we were approved and have moved forward with several of our projects, but are limited on funds, as our dollar matching funds will only take our projects so far. We need the dollars promised to us to be able to finish these projects. We want to be able to meet the guidelines outlined in the grant agreement by having our CTE projects completed by 2024. With HB1199, I value our state's willingness to immediately address the delays in the matching funds for the approved CTE center applications. This bill serves as a positive step forward in allowing the projects to reclaim momentum in the collective efforts to expand and provide high quality CTE programs for our respective regions.

I would respectfully ask the Committee to provide a DO PASS recommendation and when the discussion regarding additional funds for the CTE centers to address cost overruns and inflationary costs emerges before this committee, to be equally as supportive.
Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Spellerberg



CTE Director
Southeast Region Career & Technology Center

*Educational Opportunities
Through Cooperation and Technology*

