



Senate Appropriations Committee

House Bill 1199

January 30, 2023

Chairman Senator Bekkedahl and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee. The Valley Prosperity Partnership (VPP) is a membership organization led by business executives – joined by leaders from higher education, economic development, and chambers of commerce – to advance and advocate for shared strategic economic development opportunities that will strengthen and diversify the Red River Valley region and the entirety of North Dakota.

The VPP greatly appreciates the funding that the Legislature appropriated in the 2021 session for career & workforce academies in the state, which included the Career Impact Academy in Grand Forks and the Career Innovation Center (CIC) in Fargo. The centers will allow learners to explore local career fields in high demand and earn certifications or college credit, introducing them to regional industry and colleges, which helps strengthen workforce pipelines throughout the state.

Due to delays in appropriated funds from federal coronavirus capital projects centers throughout the state have been put on hold. Therefore, the VPP supports the extension of a line of credit from the Bank of North Dakota to the department of career and technical education for the purpose of providing grants to entities approved by the state board for career and technical education to build career academies through the statewide area and career center initiative grant program. This funding will put centers from throughout the state that have already earned significant commitments of local funds back on track to help fill the workforce gap in North Dakota.

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