

February 28, 2023

Subject: Letter of support for HB 1178

Senator Elkin and members of the North Dakota Senate Education Committee, I am writing in support of HB 1178, which allows for the appointment of additional community members to career and technology center governing boards. For archive purposes, I am Dr. John Miller, and I currently serve as the interim Vice-President and Provost of Dickinson State University.

HB 1178 allows for appointment of up to three community members in addition to the school district members already designated in section 15-20.2-04 of the North Dakota Century Code. Specifically, said appointments may include a representative from an institution of higher education under the control of the SBHE.

Given the dual mission of DSU, including, and expanding emphasis on career technical education, the university is especially interested in taking an active role in both programming and support for the Southwest Career and Technical Education Academy in Dickinson, given the fact that DSU will share space in the facility and support programs that are direct technical career pathways from local school districts to DSU. Allowing the university to have a seat on the SWCTE governing board will provide DSU with the opportunity to work more closely and in “real time” with the local career technical center and all participating school districts, thus helping DSU to be more receptive to the needs of our K-12 partners and to business and industry.

The effectiveness of any governing board is ultimately measured in the time and talent of its members, and with the passage of HB 1178, colleges and universities will have an opportunity to directly contribute time and talent to the governance of local career and technology center boards. This addition to North Dakota Century Code section 15-20.2-04 simply adds “people power” and expertise to local CTE governing boards, while supporting the critical role played by locally elected trustees.

Personally, and on behalf of Dickinson State University, I urge you to support HB 1178.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Miller, Ed.D.
Interim VP/Provost
Dickinson State University