



Office of the President

To: House Appropriations Committee

From: Dr. Bernell Hirning, President-WSC

Date: January 30, 2025

Subject: Testimony on HB1221

Greetings! I am writing today in support of HB1221, which proposed to provide funding for higher education for innovation in workforce education.

At Williston State College, we are positioned nicely to effectively utilize funds from this appropriation through our TrainND Northwest workforce division, as well as the CTE offering at the College. By working in partnership with the CTE centers at McKenzie County High School in Watford City, as well as the CTE center at Williston High School, along with a newly emerging partnership that includes BSC, the higher education entities of western ND, in partnership with industry, will be able to make a meaningful impact on developing a trained workforce for the Bakken Region.

Please consider funding HB1221 to assist higher education in making innovation the forefront of all that we do in western ND.

Bernell Hirning, PhD
President-Williston State College