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January 13, 2025

Members of the Senate Appropriations – Education and Environment Committee:

Workforce needs for the state continue to be a critical factor for North Dakota's economic growth and vitality, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) serves as a critical component in the development of our state's workforce pipeline. SB2019 provides the opportunity to financially support and expand the availability of CTE programs to students across the state. The expansion of high quality CTE programs was evident in the state's appropriations for the new CTE Centers, including the Career Impact Academy serving the Grand Forks region.


Priority items within SB2019 that I would strongly advocate for the committee's inclusion includes the following:

- **CTE Capital Projects Program (\$56M)** – To complete the remaining funding gaps in the CTE Center projects, along with supporting new CTE Center proposals. During the last session, the legislative ask was \$55M for inflationary funds, with \$26.5 being allocated. The remaining balance for existing projects is needed to deliver on the CTE Centers proposals originally approved by the state.
- **Cost to Continue (\$4M)** – As costs within existing programs (salaries, benefits, curricular resources) increase year-over-year, these dollars are used to help maintain current reimbursement rates.
- **New Programs (\$22M)** – The new CTE Centers are coming online statewide, and with the new facilities are new programs to expand and enhance the availability of high-quality CTE to our state's students. For the Career Impact Academy, opening in Fall, 2025, we are planning to offer 9 different CTE program pathways to our region.
- **Work-Based Learning Coordinators (\$1.5M)** – Grand Forks received a 2-year grant allocation from funds approved during the last legislative assembly, and this position has been essential in expanding work-based learning for our current students, and future students of the Career Impact Academy.
- **TrainND (\$1.6M)** – The Career Impact Academy provides a facility, and collaborative, strategic location in expanding TrainND presences within the Grand Forks region.

As a member of the 69th Legislative Assembly, you have the opportunity to support CTE as an investment into meeting our state's workforce challenges. I respectfully ask your support of SB2019, including the priority items above, which supports the goals and objectives of Career & Technical Education, and the Career Impact Academy.

Sincerely,

Eric Ripley
Executive Director of Career & Technical Education

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