

January 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

As the Chair of the North Dakota Workforce Development Council, I am proud to offer my unwavering support for the Council and its critical initiatives. Our mission is to advise the governor and the public on the nature and extent of workforce needs within the state, as well as to identify innovative and effective ways to address these needs. Through our biennial report, we have consistently delivered actionable recommendations, many of which have been adopted by the Department of Commerce and funded by the legislature.

The Council's work has directly contributed to transformative programs such as:

- **Regional Workforce Impact Program and Find the Good Life:** These initiatives originated from the Council's recommendations for a funding model supporting locally-led workforce solutions and a statewide talent attraction campaign. Both programs have become essential in tackling workforce challenges and enhancing North Dakota's competitive edge.
- **Operation Intern and the Technical Skills Training Grant:** The Council's endorsement of these programs highlights the value of investing in students and underscores the importance of skilled workforce training. These initiatives have strengthened the pipeline of talent entering high-demand careers.

Having attended multiple National Governors Association (NGA) Workforce conferences, I can confidently say that North Dakota is at the forefront of finding creative solutions to workforce challenges. The state has demonstrated remarkable innovation and adaptability in implementing strategies that effectively address labor shortages, skill gaps, and workforce development needs. From fostering strong public-private partnerships, North Dakota has built a comprehensive approach that not only supports current economic demands but also anticipates future workforce trends. As a result, other states are actively studying and seeking to adopt North Dakota's best practices, recognizing the effectiveness of its initiatives in strengthening economic growth and building a resilient, skilled workforce.

I urge you to support the recommendations brought forward by the Workforce Development Council. Investing in workforce development is essential for driving results that benefit the private sector and ensuring long-term economic prosperity for North Dakota. Without appropriate resources, we cannot sustain the progress we have made or address future challenges.

Thank you for your continued commitment to finding workforce solutions.

Sincerely,



Cindy Griffin
Chair, North Dakota Workforce Development Council
