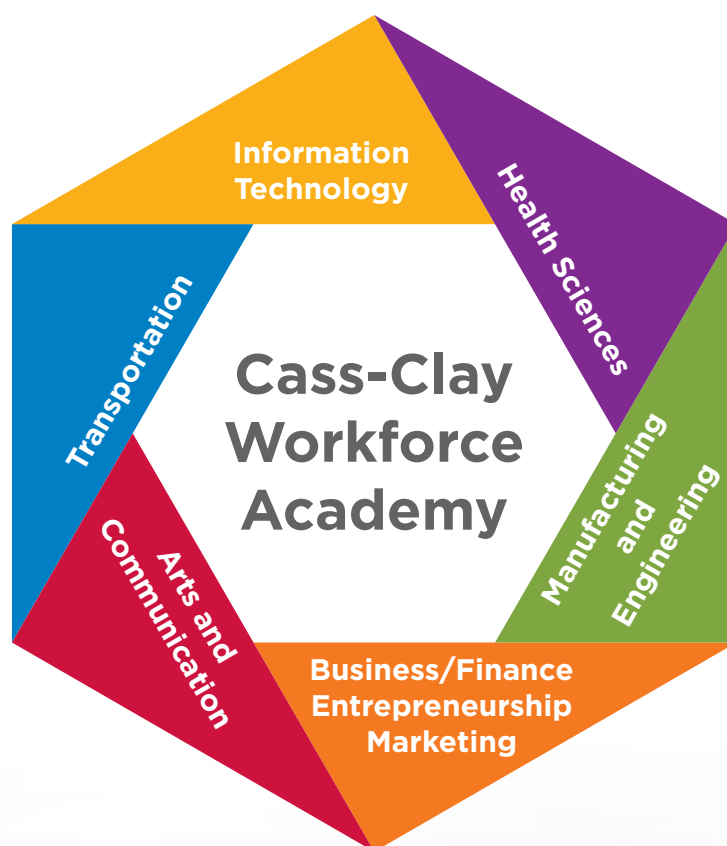


CAREER WORKFORCE ACADEMY

Secondary Early Entry • Post-Secondary • Incumbent Worker



Collaboration • Innovation • Career Preparation
Workforce Entry • Technical and Academic Education

The Right Student, in the Right Program, for the Right Reasons

CAREER ACADEMY: COLLABORATING TO FILL A NEED

The Career Academy, proposed by the North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS), will be a collaborative partnership that includes private sector companies, K-12 school districts in Cass and Clay counties, other two-year educational institutions, the FMWF Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Fargo-Moorhead Economic Development Corporation and the cities of Fargo and West Fargo. Career and technical education and training will focus on grades 10-14 and also industry incumbent worker skill attainment. Collaboration will occur with other regional and state organizations when deemed relevant.¹

EXTENDING EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER AWARENESS OPPORTUNITIES

The Career Academy will provide educational opportunities beyond what is offered at high schools, such as:

- ◆ Early Entry options for Career and Technical Education (CTE) or certificate programs.
- ◆ Opportunities to graduate from high school with a completed training certificate or program.
- ◆ Career awareness educational opportunities for secondary and post-secondary students.
- ◆ Customized training for the incumbent workforce featuring course offerings that align with workforce demands.

WORKING TOGETHER TO DEFINE PROGRAMMING

Career Academy partners will work together to promote, investigate and develop plans for various student entry points for education to include high school and all post-secondary institutions in the region. The Center will explore certificate programs (both statewide and nationally) and the needed support to provide certification programs, as well as license and diploma programs.

BUILDING A DREAM

Funding and partnership support is key to making the Career Academy a reality. The process below identifies the path to success:

- ◆ **Engage and secure financial support** from business, industry and other sources.
- ◆ **Public Communication** expounding a new approach to CTE education to advance education and training opportunities that will expand the regions workforce for residents to live, work and raise a family.
- ◆ **Evaluate** current baseline programming in each respective secondary and post-secondary schools and develop pathways for individuals to succeed with a career and life-long educational opportunities.

CONVENIENT LOCATION

The Career Academy location will be in Cass County, centrally located between all the high schools within Cass County and near interstate highway access from Clay County. It must be accessible by public transportation and have visible curb appeal.

¹**Examples include:** Lakes Area Service Cooperative, the N.D. and Minn. Departments of Commerce, and the South East Educational Cooperative (SEEC).

SIoux FALLS, S.D. CAREER ACADEMY INITIATIVE

Mission: “To educate and prepare students for future success through specialized, relevant, career-oriented learning.”

Fall Enrollment: 875

The CTE Academy allows students to create promising futures in technical careers through relevant, hands-on learning opportunities.

The Career and Technical Education Academy serves students from Sioux Falls and 9 surrounding school districts. They currently offer 15 different specialized and technical programs for students in grades 9-12.



BISMARCK, N.D. CAREER ACADEMY INITIATIVE



The Bismarck Public Schools (BPS) Career Academy is 98,000 sq. ft. at a cost of 13 million.

Fall 2016 Enrollment: 1,300

BPS shares space with Bismarck State College (BSC).

COLLABORATIVE CAREER PATHWAY WORKING GROUP

The Workforce Environmental Assessment project included establishing a working group to address the educational trend on linking K-12 education alongside associate degree programming. The task force kicked off its efforts in March 2016 with a visit to the Sioux Falls, S.D. Career Academy.

Below is a list of participants and areas of emphasis as of June, 2016.

West Fargo Public Schools

David Flowers
Mark Lemer
Allen Burgad
Denise Jonas
Ed Mitchell

Fargo Public Schools

Jeff Schatz
Broc Leitz
Bob Grosz

North Dakota State College of Science

John Richman
Dennis Gladen
Tony Grindberg
Harvey Link
Jane Vangsness Frisch

Moorhead Public Schools

Lynn Kovash
Brandon Lunak
Dan Markert
Missy Eidsness



WORKFORCE EDUCATION CAREER PATHWAY CLUSTERS

Transportation

- ◆ Driver
- ◆ Aviation/UAS
- ◆ Auto/Diesel

Manufacturing

- ◆ Assembler
- ◆ Welding
- ◆ Robotics

New Americans

- ◆ English
- ◆ Skill(s) Welding
- ◆ Truck Driving

Health Sciences

- ◆ Lab Tech
- ◆ Nursing
- ◆ Health Info/Records

Agriculture

- ◆ UAS/Crop Nutrition
- ◆ Precision Agriculture
- ◆ Marketing
- ◆ Crop Production

Architecture/Construction

- ◆ Carpentry
- ◆ Drafting
- ◆ Ventilation

Information Technology

- ◆ Project Manager
- ◆ Networking
- ◆ Programming

Arts & Communications

- ◆ Graphic Designer
- ◆ Video Systems
- ◆ Computer Animator

Incumbent Workforce

- ◆ Management Training
- ◆ Sales Training
- ◆ Team Building

Business/Finance/Marketing

- ◆ Accounting/Banking
- ◆ Accounts Pay/Rec
- ◆ Sales/Marketing

Space was divided into three categories.

1. Dedicated Space: Specific classroom space for both BSC/BPS
2. Shared Space: Shop space that is shared between BSC/BPS students and staff
 - ◆ Shared salary of tool room supervisors
 - ◆ Shared cost of equipment
 - ◆ Designed schedules of when both groups need to use the shop space
3. Common areas hallways, restrooms, etc.

Staffing: Shared staff, BSC staff maintain the Tech Center while BPS staff maintain the Career Academy. Cost sharing includes items like printing, office supplies, copying, etc. BSC hires their staff whereas BPS teachers are secondary certified staff. Auto Tech, Auto Collision, Agriculture tool room share personnel from Bismarck State College shares that helps with handing out tools and ordering supplies for the students.

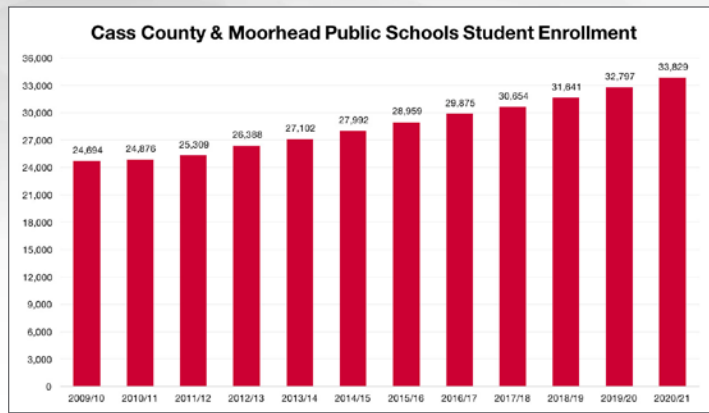
Courses offered at the Career Academy/Tech Center for high school students:

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------------|
| ◆ 3D Modeling | ◆ Electronics | ◆ Mechanics |
| ◆ Agriculture | ◆ Engineering | ◆ Networking |
| ◆ Architecture | ◆ Graphic Arts | ◆ Robotics |
| ◆ Auto Tech | ◆ Health Careers | ◆ Welding |
| ◆ Auto Collision | ◆ Horticulture | |
| ◆ Aviation | (Science credit) | |
| ◆ Carpentry | ◆ Math | |

The academy has 1,300 high school students who take classes each day from all high schools in Bismarck including St. Mary's and Shiloh. Students receive Articulation credits with BSC in many of our classes.

Course offerings at the Career and Technical Education Center help students understand the relevance of academic work, expose them to career opportunities and develop team working skills. Students will be able to see how their learning is related to the world of work.

K-12 STUDENT ENROLLMENT PROJECTED GROWTH

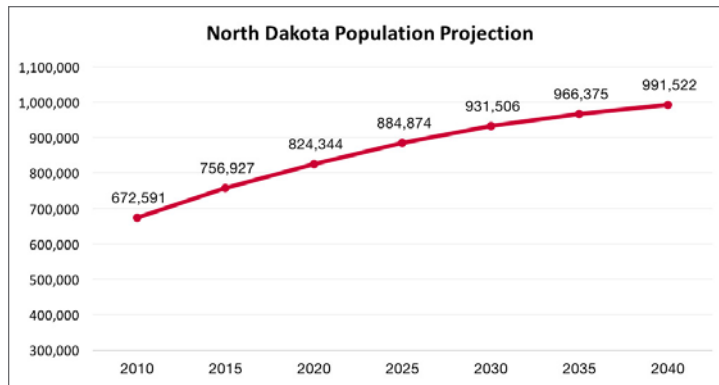


STATE DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

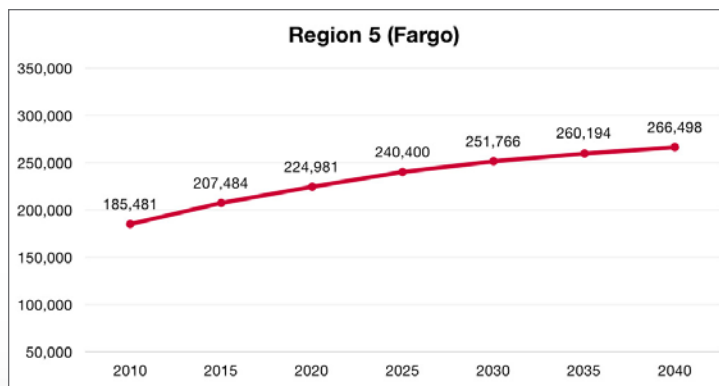
State of North Dakota expected migration scenario.

Source: North Dakota Census Office projections of state and regions, 2016

The population of the state is expected to grow continuously from now to 2040, but begin to slow after 2030.



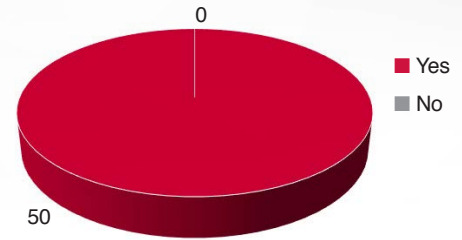
NORTH DAKOTA'S ECONOMIC PLANNING REGIONS



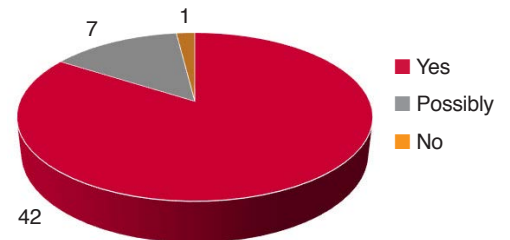
PRIVATE SECTOR SUPPORT

Business leaders indicated that at a minimum the Fargo-Moorhead community could generate \$15,000,000 with 4-year pledges to match State and other local/federal support for the project.

Do you support expanding the current NDSCS public/private model to address our region's workforce challenges?



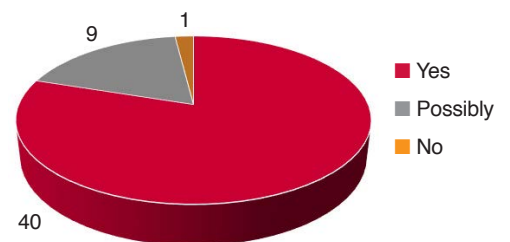
Do you believe our region can support a \$15 million business/private investment commitment?



LEVEL OF SUPPORT

When asked the question would your organization participate with the effort to secure \$15,000,000 strong support was expressed.

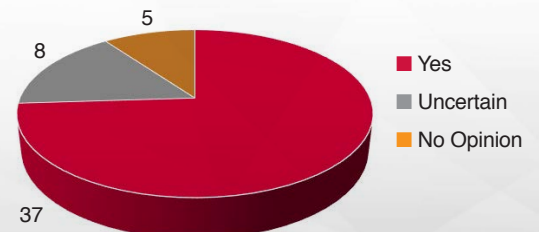
Will your organization make a financial investment via a 4-year pledge?



CAREER PATHWAYS

Business leaders supported the notion of expanding an academic programming partnership with K-12 institutions. Creating a cohesive pathway for students into career fields requiring associate degrees that aligns with student population trends was widely supported.

Do you believe K-12 curriculum should align with NDSCS A.S. education programs?



CAREER PATHWAY MODEL

INTRODUCTION

The Career Workforce Academy, proposed by the North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS), will be a collaborative partnership that includes:

- ◆ Private sector companies
- ◆ K-12 school districts in Cass and Clay counties
- ◆ NDUS two-year educational institutions
- ◆ FMWF Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Greater Fargo-Moorhead Economic Development Corporation
- ◆ Cities of Fargo and West Fargo

Career and technical education efforts will focus on grades 10-14 and industry incumbent worker skill attainment. Collaboration will occur with other regional and state organizations when deemed relevant.

The Career Workforce Academy will blend high school and college in a rigorous yet supportive model, compressing the time it takes to complete the first two years of college. Students may receive both high school and college credit for early college courses completed in grades 10, 11 and 12. Courses can be taught by the high school faculty, college faculty, via face to face, ITV/IVN or online. Students who participate in the Early College Program will have a “smart start” to their college education.

Why would high schools partner with NDSCS in Early College Programing?

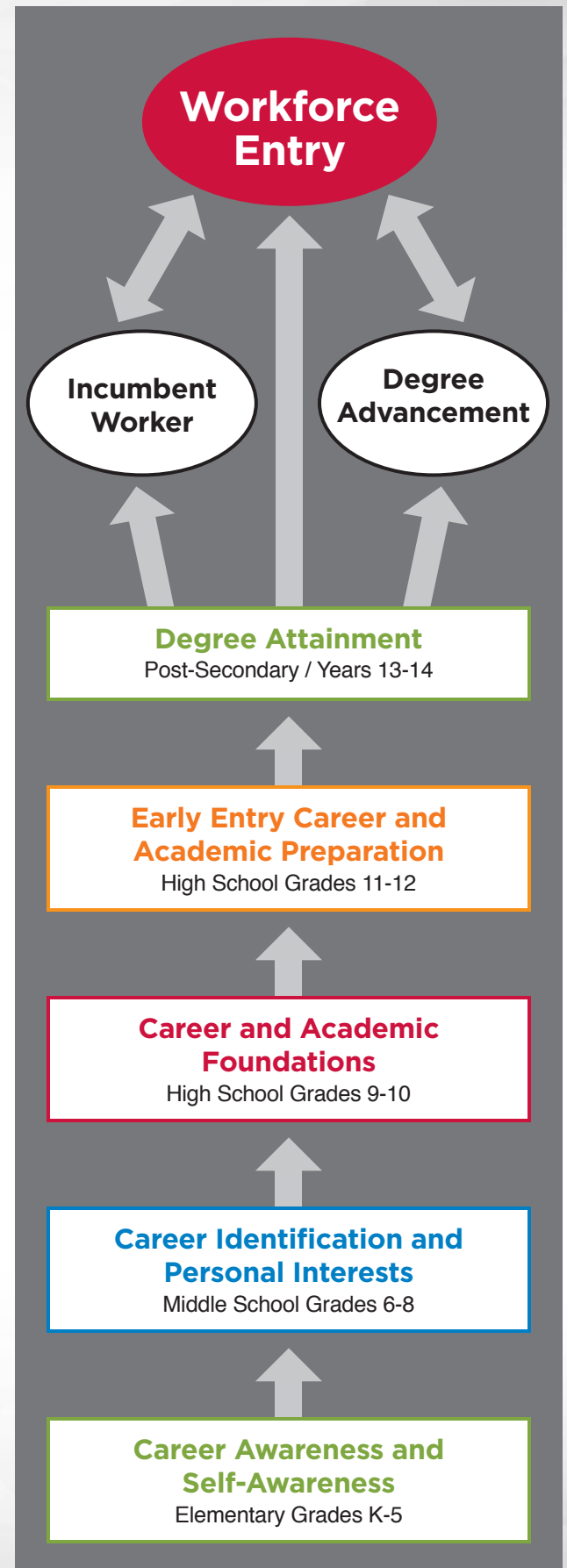
High schools partnering with the NDSCS at the Career Workforce Academy can simultaneously offer their students the opportunity to earn both a high school diploma and one or more years of college credits toward an Associate's degree. The Early College Program will motivate high school students to stay in school, work hard and meet serious intellectual challenges. Early College Program high schools have the potential to improve high school graduation rates and better prepare students for high-skilled careers by engaging all students in a rigorous, college preparatory curriculum and reducing the number of years to complete a college degree. Early High School program data indicates that students enrolled in an Early College option score higher on state-mandated math and English Language Arts exams.

How does the Early College Program benefit students and their families?

Early College Program students are challenged and supported to develop the knowledge, skills, and behaviors that lead to success in college by pursuing a more rigorous curriculum. Credits earned through the Early College Program will provide students the opportunity to accelerate their college career.

Reducing the time-to-degree can result in substantial savings to the student and their families. Students completing one year of college courses in the Early College Program can potentially save \$8,000 to \$25,000 depending upon whether they attend a public or private institution.

Credits earned under the Early College Program will apply toward a degree at the NDSCS and are transferable to other college and universities. A college degree is the goal for all participants.



SAMPLE Student Placement Guide

Sample – Early Entry Course Guide

Pathway	Key	College Placement Scores		Industry Connections		Early Entry Transition	
CTE Program		Accuplacer Algebra-Reading-English	ACT Math-Reading-English	Standards Alignment	Credentials or Skills Assessment	Credit for Prior Learning	Dual Credit #
Web Developer		25-85-5	17	TBD	TBD		36
Information Systems Administrator		41-85-5	17	TBD	Cisco, A+		42
IT Forensic and Security		41-85-5	17	TBD	TBD		37
Welding Technology		25-61-4	15	TBD	TBD	x	8
Robotics, Automation and Mechatronics		25-61-4	17-15-15	TBD	TBD	x	
EMT		76-61-4	21-14-12	TBD	CNA, CPR/First Aid, EMR	x	
Pharmacy Technician		57-85-5	19-18-16	TBD	CNA, CPR/First Aid	x	
Practical Nursing		See Admissions Requirements		TBD	CNA, CPR/First Aid	x	

Sample Schedules

Option 1:	Option 2:	Option 3:	Option 4:
1. Block A Periods EB* & 1: 7:25-8:55 a.m. 2. Block B Periods 1 & 2: 8:20-9:50 a.m. 3. Block C Periods 2 & 3: 9:25-10:55 a.m. 4. Block D Periods 4 & 5: 11:55-1:25 p.m. 5. Block E Periods 6 & 7: 1:58-3:28 p.m.	M/W/F 7:30-8:30 a.m. 9-10 a.m. 10:30-11:30 a.m. 12-1 p.m. 1:30-2:30 p.m.	T/R 7:30-9 a.m. 9:30-11 a.m. 11:30-1 p.m. 1:30-3 p.m.	1. Block 1 – 8-9:30 a.m. 2. Block 2 – 10-11:30 a.m. 3. Block 3 – 12-1:30 p.m. 4. Block 4 – 2-3:30 p.m.

SAMPLE COURSE ALIGNMENT High School to College Program Areas

Manufacturing and Engineering

College Program	High School Manufacturing Courses	Academy Courses Transition – Grade 11 and 12	College Courses – Year 13
Welding Technology	Metals I and II Auto Manufacturing 1, 2 and 3 (Move Programs from current sites)	Dual Credit WELD 151, 152, 153 and 154 MGFT 101 and 123	Pick up remaining courses in Program of Studies
Robotics, Automation and Mechatronics	PLTW – IED PLTW – POE Robotics	Dual Credit RAMT or ECAL courses	Pick up remaining courses in Program of Studies
General Education Options	ENGL110 (3) or ENGL 105 Technical Communications (3) MATH 130 – Technical Mathematics (2) and MATH 132 – Technical Algebra (2) MATH 136 – Technical Trigonometry PSYC 100 – Human Relations (2)		
		CIS 101 – Computer Literacy (2) FYE 101 – Science of Success	

Health Science – Medical Related Careers

College Program	High School Health Science Courses (Credit toward Admissions)	Academy Courses Transition Grade 11 and 12 (Credit toward Admissions)	Continue College Coursework – Year 13
EMT	Health Science I and II Prevention and Care General Education (DC)	Health Science I and II EMS Coursework General Education and Labs	Advanced EMT Paramedic Community Paramedic
Nursing	Health Science I and II Med Term General Education (DC)	CNA Health Science I and II General Education and Labs	Practical Nursing
Pharmacy Tech	Health Science I and II General Education (DC) Med Term	Health Science I and II Pharmacy Technician courses General Education and Labs	Pharmacy Technician
General Education Options	ENGL110 (3) and ENGL 120 (3) MATH 130 – Technical Mathematics (2) and MATH 132 – Technical Algebra (2) MATH 136 – Technical Trigonometry BIOL 220 and BIOL 221 - Anatomy/Physiology I and II		
		CIS 101 – Computer Literacy (2) FYE 101 – Science of Success	

SAMPLE Early College Degree Plan

Information Technology Pathways Early Entry - Dual Credit (Concurrent programming)

Grade	Fall	Spring	Location	Credits
Grade 10	CIS 128 IT Essentials I (3)	129 IT Essentials II (3)	High School	6
Grade 11	CIS 164 Network Fundamentals I (4) CIS 191 Science of Success (1) CIS 212 Microsoft Windows OS (3)	CIS 165 Network Fundamentals II (4) CIS 197 Internship 9 (1) CIS 220 Unix OS (3)	Academy	16
Grade 12	CIS 267 Intermediate Networking I (4) ENGL 110 College Composition I (3) – replace English IV PHIL 210 Ethics (3)	CIS 268 Intermediate Networking II (4) CIS 244 Web Server Management (3) MATH 103 College Algebra (3)	Academy	20

Certificate Complete 42

Year 13	CIS 215 Windows Server (4) CIS 279 Security Awareness (1) CSCI 160 Computer Science (4) SOC/HUM elective (3) HPER (1)	CIS 180 HTML and CSS (3) CIS 216 Windows Network (4) ENGL (3) HPER (1)	Academy	24
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A.A.S Complete 66

IT Forensics and Security

Grade	Fall	Spring	Location	Credits
Grade 10 or 11	CIS 128 IT Essentials I (3)	CIS 129 IT Essentials II (3)	High School	6
Grade 11	CIS 164 Network Fundamentals I (4) FYE 101 Science of Success (1)	CIS 165 Network Fundamentals II (4) PHIL 210 Ethics (3)	High School or Academy	12
Grade 12	CIS 241 IT Forensics (4) CIS 282 Computer System Security (4) ENGL/COM (3)	CIS 242 IT Forensics II (4) CIS 284 Managing Network Security (4)	Academy	19

Certificate Complete 37

Web Design/Web Developer

Grade	Fall	Spring	Location	Credits
Grade 10	CIS 180 HTML (3)	CIS 181 Web Authorizing (3)	High School	6
Grade 11	CIS 164 Network Fundamentals I (4) CIS 232 Graphic Design (3) FYE 101 Science of Success (1)	CSCI 135 Web Programming XML (3) BOTE 108 Business Mathematics (3) ENGL 125 Intro to Prof. Writing (3)	Academy	17
Grade 12	ENGL/COM 110 (3) BADM Intro to eBusiness (3) CSCI 122 Visual Basic (3)	CIS 220 UNIX OS (3) HPER (1) CIS 182 Image Editing (3)	Academy	16

Certificate Complete 39

Year 13	CIS 279 Security Awareness (1) CSCI 133 Database Concepts SQL (3) CSCI 160 Computer Science I (4) CSCI 230 Web Database ASP/PHP (3) PHIL 210 Ethics (3)	CIS 197 Internship 9 (1) CIS 233 Vector Graphics (3) CIS 244 Web Server Mgmt (3) CSCI 102 Fundamentals of Cyberlaw (3) SOC/HUM Elective (3) HPER (1)	Academy	28
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A.A.S Complete 64





September 9, 2016

Chancellor Mark Hagerott and members of North Dakota Board of Higher Education
North Dakota State University System
10th Floor, State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 215
Bismarck, ND 58505-0230

Chancellor Hagerott and members of the North Dakota Board of Higher Education:

I wrote to you in May about a sense of urgency among leaders to find the qualified workforce necessary to reach our economic potential. Now, I urge you, in the spirit that the market is demanding, to support the expansion of North Dakota State College of Science in Fargo to broaden access to workforce development and training by allowing the institution to move forward with an effort to begin fundraising within the private sector.

The Chamber of Commerce, along with the Greater Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corporation, United Way Cass-Clay, Fargo Moorhead Area Foundation and the Fargo Moorhead Convention and Visitors Bureau, recently conducted and released a comprehensive workforce study. This study analyzed the growing issue of an extreme workforce shortage in the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area. Over the next four years, there will be over 30,000 open jobs, many of those being skilled labor. It is imperative to the continued success of our community, state and region that we provide ample opportunities for students and adults to receive job training in fields that are in high demand.

The Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area is North Dakota's largest and fastest growing population center. In addition, the Fargo area K-12 public school's projected enrollment numbers are significant leaps from year to year. A strong partnership between the K-12 education system and NDSCS, along with other two-year colleges, is a key attribute to advance career pathways for students and current employees. Allowing collaboration to occur, high school students are exposed to viable career opportunities at a faster rate and businesses are gaining highly qualified and trained job candidates.

A preliminary study has been done in which K-12, higher education, the business community, as well as corporate CEOs were interviewed about the workforce challenges they are facing in their respective businesses. The overwhelming results were that clearly there is a need for a collaborative effort between K-12 and higher education in order to address our workforce challenges.

In May, my letter showed you the support of the Chamber and business community and our hope to seek a third of the funds needed for this effort from private investors, a third from the state and a third from other sources including the federal government. However, in light of the economic environment that our state finds itself in, that plan will clearly need to be adjusted. Today we are asking you and the Board of Higher Education to take action to allow NDSCS to proceed with phase one of this effort by allowing us to move forward with raising private funds that will enable progress as this project moves forward.

The Chamber has a strong coalition of business and industry partners that depend on NDSCS to train their workforce. We look forward to seeing this project become a reality and would appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Craig Whitney
President/CEO
Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce



May 19, 2016

Chancellor Hagerott
Members of the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education
600 E. Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 215
Bismarck, ND 58505-0230

Dear Chancellor and Members;

Over the last two years the Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corporation has refocused our core mission to be more Workforce oriented than attraction or expansion oriented. Our current low unemployment numbers have caused local businesses to change their strategies for growth and it has almost halted attraction of new businesses to our market.

We have passed the tipping point as it relates to workforce, we are seeing businesses close for lack of workforce, businesses deciding not to open due to lack of workforce, manufacturing facilities moving production lines to other locations due to lack of Workforce and Tech Businesses opening satellite offices in other states due to the inability to attract workforce to our area.

We are at a critical stage and we need our education partners to be prepared to help meet these challenges. This need includes K-12, two-year and our four-year, plus institutions.

The current NDSCS facility in the Fargo market has served a valuable asset since 1997 but with the incredible growth within North Dakota's major city it's time for our two-year education partner to adapt to the needs of the market. Since 1997 the population has increased 40% and the types of jobs have changed significantly.

Twenty years ago our market was based on an agrarian market with a great deal of service and retail jobs. In today's market Technology, Higher Education and Finance & Banking jobs have led our growth.

We currently have over 5,000 open positions within the Fargo market and according to our most recent Workforce Study, which was completed in 2015, we will need to fill over 30,000 positions by 2020 in the FM area. These jobs are not only new positions but a large percentage will be due to retirements within our market. These retirees are some of the most skilled workforce we have and replacing them will push businesses and organizations into making difficult decisions on future growth.

Our region needs a new and upgraded NDSCS in our market, one that partners with K-12 schools and provides the training for today and tomorrow's jobs!

Sincerely,



James P. Gartin
President, Greater Fargo Moorhead EDC





June 27, 2016

Governor Jack Dalrymple, Chancellor Mark Hagerott and Higher Education Board Members
North Dakota University System
10th Floor, State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 215
Bismarck, ND 58505-0230

Dear Governor Jack Dalrymple, Chancellor Hagerott and Higher Education Board Members:

As Mayors, we have had the opportunity to lead our communities through an incredible period of growth. We certainly want to continue that growth, but workforce shortages are inhibiting some possibilities.

We hear every day from business owners just how critical the situation is in our communities. We know our state's universities and colleges are working hard to bring us graduates to fill our needs. However, we also realize there is a dire need for technical skills in such fields as health care, welding technology, mechanical skills and many others. To that end, the North Dakota State College of Science has been providing the state with graduates to help fill those needs for many years.

However, NDSCS needs more classroom space in the metropolitan area. In our discussions with President Richman, this new facility would educate students in conjunction with area businesses that have offered to form a public/private partnership. Additionally, the facility would be used for K-12 programming efficiently serving our area schools.

We, as mayors, support the plan to build a facility in the metropolitan area, as well as President Richman's funding plan. We ask for your financial support as the cities of Fargo and West Fargo also look for opportunities to partner in the effort.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Mahoney".

Timothy J. Mahoney, Mayor
City of Fargo

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rich Mattern".

Rich Mattern, Mayor
City of West Fargo





October 3, 2016

North Dakota State College of Science has been a vital member of the Wahpeton community since 1903. Throughout the years, NDSCS has not only grown a reputation for providing a top-quality education at its Wahpeton campus, but has also recognized that it has a statewide mission.

While NDSCS has maintained its primary campus presence in Wahpeton, the College has also offered academic programs and workforce training initiatives throughout North Dakota for more than 50 years. As business and industry needs have grown, NDSCS has responded. Recent examples include the NDSCS Nursing program offered in Oakes, and its Pharmacy Technician program offered in Bismarck. These programs and others have not diminished the College's presence in Wahpeton, but have enhanced its ability to accomplish its mission to educate and train the workforce for North Dakota and the region, as well as align with the SBHE goal to provide programs people want, where and when they need them. These multiple off-site locations, including NDSCS-Fargo, have strengthened NDSCS's ability to deliver greater socio-economic value to the state. In addition, off-site programs have contributed to increasing enrollment at NDSCS-Fargo as well as the main campus in Wahpeton.

NDSCS has offered education and training opportunities in the Fargo-West Fargo community for more than 20 years. In that time, the area has seen ever-increasing population growth. Along with the population, there has been enrollment growth in several K-12 school districts, as well as business and industry. The ever-increasing program offerings align with an NDSCS goal that states: "Meet the workforce and educational needs of the Fargo-West Fargo region." NDSCS enrollment at its Fargo location has, and is, projected to continue to follow these same growth patterns.

The challenge to the College is that NDSCS-Fargo will soon be at capacity and the facility will be an inadequate size to serve the projected population growth in the Fargo-West Fargo area. Since expansion of the current facility is not feasible, NDSCS-Fargo will need to relocate in order to continue to provide the appropriate education and workforce training opportunities people want, where and when they need them. This new location will allow for enhanced and expanded collaboration between K-12 and Higher Education which is an important initiative for North Dakota University System Chancellor, Mark Hagerott.

As a business leader in Wahpeton, I recognize that NDSCS program offerings in the Fargo-West Fargo community and other locations have strengthened the College's ability to bring even greater socio-economic value to the state.

I support the continued expansion of NDSCS program offerings, delivery methods, and delivery locations – including NDSCS-Fargo.

Terry Goerger *Business Leader*
Jim Sturdevant *Business Leader*
Joel Sirek *Business Leader*
Tom Shorma *Business Leader*
Jana Berndt *Business Leader*
Colette Barton *Business Leader*
Russell Thane *Former State Senator*
Rollie Ehlerth *Richland County Commissioner*
Perry Miller *Wahpeton City Councilmember*
Clark Williams *Former State House of Representatives*
Alisa Mitskog *District 25 State House of Representatives*
Dan Rood Jr. *SE CTE Director/Former Wahpeton Mayor*
Rick Jacobson *Superintendent, Wahpeton Public Schools*
Craig Caspers *Former SBHE Member/Business Leader*
Cliff Hermes *Wahpeton Resident/Former Educator*

Cindy Schreiber-Beck *Business Leader*
Paul & LeAnn Folden *Business Leaders*
Larry Luick *District 25 State Senator*
Brad Pauly *Business Leader*
Tim Campbell *Richland County Commissioner*
Casey Miller *Business Leader*
Rick Steckler *Business Leader*
Nathan Berseth *Richland County Commissioner*
Scott Meyer *Business Leader*
Fred Strege *Business Leader*
Steve Dale *Wahpeton City Councilmember*
Ned Clooten *High School Principal, Wahpeton School District*
Marty Schmidt *Wahpeton City Councilmember*
Janel Frederickson *Business Leader*
Meryl Hansey *Current Wahpeton Mayor*





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Dr. Jeffrey M. Schatz, *Superintendent* • 701.446.1005

Dr. Robert Grosz, *Associate Superintendent, Teaching & Learning & Secondary Education* • 701.446.1010

Dr. Rachael Agre, *Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Education & Professional Development* • 701.446.1069

Mr. Broc Lietz, *Business Manager* • 701.446.1027

Ms. Brittnee Nikle, *Director, Human Resources* • 701.446.1038

Mrs. AnnMarie Campbell, *Executive Assistant & Communications* • 701.446.1005

May 11, 2017

RE: Career Workforce Academy

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter of support on behalf of the Board of Education and Administration of the Fargo Public Schools for the continued development of a plan of action to better serve the educational and workforce needs of North Dakota and the Southeast region of the state.

Over the past two years, the Fargo Public Schools has participated in numerous conversations with a team of individuals representing a consortium of both public and private interests. The public interest represents educational institutions, including representatives from K-12 education in West Fargo Public and Moorhead Public Schools, and higher education institutions including North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS) and M-State Moorhead. The private interests are represented by local business leaders with the Greater Fargo-Moorhead Economic Development Corporation and the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce.

The development of a "Career Workforce Academy" will provide industry recognized credentials to K-12 students, two-year college students, and the incumbent workforce. Specifically, the development of career awareness activities, career exploration projects, and career pathway programs that align with the workforce needs of the state and local area will be centric to these efforts.

The Fargo Public Schools supports the continued development of a future "Career Workforce Academy." We look forward to our continued involvement in this process.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeffrey M. Schatz
Superintendent



Educating today's learners for tomorrow's world.

District Office – 207 West Main Ave. – West Fargo ND 58078

Patti Stedman Board President
Kara Gravley-Stack..... Board Vice President
Jon Erickson..... Board Director
Andrea Payne Board Director
Dan Schaeffer..... Board Director
Allan Skramstad..... Board Director
Shauna Vistad..... Board Director

Dr. David Flowers Superintendent
Dr. Allen Burgad Assistant Superintendent, Secondary
Beth Slette..... Assistant Superintendent, Elementary
Marian Bell Special Education Director
Pete Diemert Building & Grounds Director
Robin Hill Human Resources Director
Mark Lemer Business Manager
Ed Mitchell..... Technology Director
Brad Redmond..... Transportation Director
Dana Rieth Food Service Director

May 18, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Over the past two years I and other members of the WFPS staff have been engaged in conversations, planning events and visitations to facilities in other communities to explore the concept of a Career Workforce Academy or similar construct. During this process, which has engaged representatives from K-12 education in Fargo, Moorhead and West Fargo, ND State College of Science, MN State, business/industry, Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corporation, I believe a clear consensus has evolved that such an entity is a great need for our community.

I have engaged the school board in discussion of the concept, and of our intention to continue participating in the development of means to secure funding for a facility as well as the means to program and operate such a program to the benefit of students K-14. Our strategic plan clearly envisions our school district's role in helping ensure that our students graduate ready and empowered for the next steps in their education or career pathways.

On behalf of the West Fargo Public Schools school board and administration, I pledge continued support and participation in development of the concept of a career/workforce academy that will provide enhanced opportunities for our students, align with workforce needs, and maximize the utilization of facilities and resources in our community to these ends.

Respectfully,

David Flowers, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Phone: (701) 356-2000

Website: www.west-fargo.k12.nd.us

Fax: (701) 356-2009





Northern Cass School District No. 97

Home of the Jaguars



16021 18th St. SE
Hunter, ND 58048
Phone: (701) 874-2322 Fax: (701) 874-2422
Web Site: www.northerncassschool.org

Dr. Cory Steiner, Superintendent
Derrick Bopp, AD/Dean of Students
Crysta Schenck, Elementary Principal
Julie Keckler, Business Manager

September 29, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Over the past year, I and other members of the Northern Cass School District have been engaged in conversations, meetings, planning events, and presentations to explore the concept of a Career Workforce Academy. During this process, representatives from K-12 education in Fargo, Moorhead and West Fargo, ND State College of Science, MN State and Technical College, business/industry, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corporation have been engaged in purposeful conversations around this concept. It has been evident from the first meeting an entity such as this is a great need for our region. The rural schools in Cass County aren't able to provide the variety of curricular options necessary for students to explore their passion areas on a consistent basis. This concept will not only expose students to different courses and careers, but it will also provide them with the opportunity to engage in authentic and meaningful learning at the highest of levels.

I have engaged the school board in discussion of the concept. They understand it is our intention to continue participating in the development of a facility as well as the means to program and operate such a program to the benefit of students at all levels. Our strategic plan's first goal relates to students being choice ready. This concept will allow our district to guarantee our students are truly choice ready. Our 'Why' is we believe every child can change the world; therefore, we must provide a world class education. This concept will allow us to truly meet our 'why' for every student who attends Northern Cass.

On behalf of the Northern Cass School District, school board, and administration, I pledge support and participation in development of the concept of a career/workforce academy. This will not only benefit our students, but also the metro area as a whole. This academy will help our region meet the changing needs of society in a manner which prepares students and adults for the next steps in their lives.

Sincerely,

Dr. Cory J. Steiner
Superintendent of Schools



Fostering Student Excellence

Central Cass School District

September 25, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Central Cass Students, Parents, Staff and members of the business community have completed a master planning process over the past 18 months. Many conversations occurred related to programming and academic offerings related to agriculture, vocational, career, and technical areas that were simply not currently available to our students. Yet the need to offer these opportunities and skill development was deemed important by our constituents as an alternate pathway to higher ed. and/or college and career options.

As such, we have joined a consortium that has partnered with other institutions in Cass County to expand some of these offerings to our current students. As those conversation expanded, planning events and visitations to facilities in other communities to explore the concept of a Career Workforce Academy or similar construct occurred.

Representatives from K-12 education in Fargo, Moorhead and West Fargo, ND State College of Science, MN State, business/industry, Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corporation, took part in identifying this as a need for something similar in our community. Our Board also sees this as an important venture to be involved with and feels it fulfills our mission of "student excellence" "community collaboration" and "expanded opportunity" for our students.

Central Cass is committed to assisting in the development of a future Career Academy and securing the funds necessary for building and operating a facility such as this. We feel this program will benefit all students in our area, grades K-12, as we want to ensure that our students graduate ready and empowered for the next steps in their education or career pathways. These enhanced opportunities for our students, align with workforce needs, and maximize the utilization of facilities and resources in our community to these ends.

Respectfully,

Morgan Forness

Phone: 701-347-5353 Elementary
Phone: 701-347-5352 Middle & High School

Fax: 701-347-5354
Website: www.central-cass.k12.nd.us

802 5th Street North, Casselton, ND 58012

Equal Opportunity Employer





June, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

As current and former elected members of the North Dakota legislature, we understand the importance of a skilled workforce and support efforts to expand local initiatives to enhance our ability to deliver education and training through new and innovative models for individuals to achieve career readiness.

The Fargo/Moorhead regional Career Academy project will be a collaborative partnership that includes private sector investment, K-12 school districts, North Dakota State College of Science and other two-year educational institutions, the FMWF Chamber of Commerce, Greater Fargo/Moorhead Economic Development Corporation and the cities of Fargo and West Fargo. The academy will expand career and technical education and training that focuses on elementary, junior high and high school career pathway programs that align with targeted industry growth clusters. We believe business and industry commitment to cooperative educational/apprenticeship opportunities that work in tandem with students enrolled in K-14 educational programs will have a positive impact on closing the skills gap in North Dakota.

We support the creation of a regional career academy that along with a similar initiative in Bismarck, ND will prepare North Dakota's youth for a more productive and successful lives. Further, as members of the legislature support innovative models to advance career pathways that will be the best way to help our youth to achieve their potential and financial independence.

State Senate

Rich Wardner, *Majority Leader, Dickinson*
 Joan Heckaman, *Minority Leader, New Rockford*
 Larry Luick, *Wahpeton*
 Judy Lee, *West Fargo*
 Carolyn Nelson, *Fargo*
 Merrill Piepkorn, *Fargo*
 Tim Mathern, *Fargo*
 Ron Sorvaag, *Fargo*
 Kyle Davison, *Fargo*
 Tom Campbell, *Grafton*
 Jonathan Casper, *Fargo*
 Jim Roers, *Fargo*
 Tim Flakoll, *Fargo*

State House

Al Carlson, *Majority Leader, Fargo*
 Corey Mock, *Minority Leader, Grand Forks*
 Cindy Schreiber Beck, *Wahpeton*
 Dennis Johnson, *Devils Lake*
 Thomas Beadle, *Fargo*
 Shannon Roers Jones, *Fargo*
 Joshua Boschee, *Fargo*
 Glenn Bosch, *Bismarck*
 Alisa Mitskog, *Wahpeton*
 Ron Guggisberg, *Fargo*
 Gretchen Dobervich, *Fargo*
 Kathy Hogan, *Fargo*
 Mike Nathe, *Bismarck*
 Clark Williams, *Wahpeton*
 Michael Howe, *Casselton*





— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

Doug Burgum
Governor

June 2017

Dear State Board of Higher Education members,

As Governor of the great state of North Dakota, I strongly endorse the Fargo/Moorhead Regional Career Academy project.

This partnership will harness the power of private sector investment and the knowledge of K-12 school districts, as well as the North Dakota State College of Science and other two-year educational institutions, combined with the community-based focus found in organizations such as the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce, Greater Fargo/Moorhead Economic Development Corporation and the cities of Fargo and West Fargo.

The synergetic effort being made to create a regional academy focused on equipping young adults with the skills they need to achieve career readiness is remarkable.

The project's focus is one of great merit, as the benefits of career and technical training to create a more empowered workforce extend far beyond that of the individual's ability to lead a more successful and productive life.

Business and industry's commitment to cooperative educational and apprenticeship opportunities fosters growth in all areas of society, including workforce development, efficient infrastructure and healthy, vibrant communities. Growth in these areas is beneficial to all and is strongly enhanced by cooperative efforts such as the Fargo/Moorhead Regional Career Academy project. It will allow our workforce to remain competitive in a 21st century economy, and we must support these ventures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Burgum".

Doug Burgum
Governor



