2025 HOUSE EDUCATION

HB 1221

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1221
1/20/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the state board of higher education for workforce education innovation funds.

3:28 p.m. Chairman Heinert called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber- Beck, Representatives, Conmy, Hager, Hatlestad, Hauck, Heilman, Jonas, Longmuir, Maki, Marchall, Morton, Novak, Osowski

Discussion Topics:

- Clarification of language
- Funding

3:28 p.m. Vice Chair Schreiber-Beck introduced the bill and submitted testimony #30286.

3:30 p.m. Lisa Johnson, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, NDUS testified in support. #30213

Additional written testimony:

Sammi Weber, President of the North Dakota Student Association, submitted testimony in support. #30171

3:37 p.m. Chairman Heinert closed the hearing.

Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk

NORTH DAKOTA STUDENT ASSOCIATION | THE VOICE OF THE STUDENTS

HB 1221

January 20, 2025

Sammi Weber, North Dakota Student Association

Sammi.weber@und.edu

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sammi Weber, and I am the President of the North Dakota Student Association. I am writing to express my support for HB 1221.

The North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) is a student organization established in 1969 that is dedicated to ensuring that students have a voice in policy that affects Higher Education. The NDSA consists of delegates from each of the 11 public institutions that meet monthly to engage students in Higher Education policy in North Dakota. Our mission is to empower students, foster collaboration between students across campuses in the North Dakota University System (NDUS), and to advocate on issues of higher education in support of access, affordability, quality, and the student experience.

The $24,000,000 allocated by HB 1221 will play a critical role in ensuring that the NDUS is able to keep up with the evolving demands of North Dakota's workforce. Over the past decade, innovation has accelerated rapidly, driven by advancements in new technology and artificial intelligence. These changes have significantly impacted the country's workforce, making it more efficient and technologically proficient.

For the NDUS institutions to remain competitive, they must be equipped with the necessary resources to teach students the practical, industry-specific skills needed to thrive in the progressive workforce. Investing in workforce education innovation would allow institutions to develop and expand programs that are aligned with the demands of the workforce, ensuring that students are prepared to begin careers in these innovative and technologically advanced industries. Additionally, it would provide valuable support to students and strengthen North

Dakota's economic future. This investment will continue to enhance the skilled workforce, drive economic growth, and attract students to the state.

To support the 45,000 students of the NDUS, I respectfully ask the committee for a DO PASS recommendation on HB 1221 to prioritize the long-term success of our students and a sustainable North Dakota workforce.

NORTH DAKOTA
UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
ACCESS. INNOVATION. EXCELLENCE.

HB 1221
House Education
January 20, 2025
Lisa A. Johnson, Vice Chancellor, NDUS
701.340.5054 | lisa.a.johnson@ndus.edu

Chair Heinert and members of the House Education Committee. My name is Lisa Johnson and I serve as the Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs with the North Dakota University System (NDUS). I am here today on behalf of the NDUS to testify in support of HB1221.

This bill, proposed by Rep. Schreiber-Beck with support from ten additional legislators, provides an appropriation of $24 million to the Workforce Education Innovation Program established by the 68th Legislative Assembly, NDCC reference:

15-10-75. Workforce education innovation program - Report to legislative management.

1. The state board of higher education may provide award funds to institutions under its control to create or enhance educational programs that address the workforce needs of North Dakota business and industry. An award made under this section may be used for curriculum development, equipment and technology purchases, facility modifications and equipment installation, hiring and training new and existing instructors, educational program promotion, and enhancement of postsecondary partnerships with primary and secondary schools.
2. The state board of higher education shall provide a biennial program report to the legislative management by September first of each even-numbered year. The report must include information by institution regarding:
   a. The number, amount, and type of awards;
   b. The name of each educational program created, enhanced, or promoted;
   c. The amount and percentage of funds used for leadership and coordination costs; and
   d. Detailed expense reports, including the type of equipment and technology purchased and the number of instructors hired or trained.

As we all know, North Dakota's economic success relies heavily on its businesses and industries, which continue to evolve and demand a highly skilled, adaptable workforce. This program is critical in ensuring that North Dakota's educational institutions remain agile and capable of meeting these workforce needs. The NDUS, through this program, supports the development of innovative, responsive educational programs that directly address the skills gaps identified by employers across the state.

One of the things that campuses have struggled with when developing new programs is the lag time in the funding formula which can be up to two years before they see any state funds through recognition of completed credit hours produced while in the program's infancy. The costs to start new programs—particularly those that require specialized equipment like machining, engine repair, welding, and nursing

simulators—can be prohibitively expensive. New programs that require significant modifications to facilities to accommodate things like air handling and high voltage electrical systems combined with the hiring of new faculty or the additional training of existing faculty can quickly exceed $500,000—before any state funds begin to kick in.

The proposed appropriation of $24,000,000, will enable NDUS to distribute workforce education innovation funds to our institutions to be used for the development of new curriculum, the purchase of equipment and technology, modification of facilities and equipment installation, hiring and/or training of faculty, and promotion of new programs.

This appropriation can also help support efforts to engage the 60,000 North Dakotas with some college credit and no credential with the object of acquiring a credential that meets their personal and professional goals as well as North Dakota's needs for a highly trained workforce.

The funding for this program is an investment in North Dakota's future—a future where businesses thrive, students succeed, and the state's workforce remains competitive. By funding this program will ensure that North Dakota's higher education institutions are equipped to provide the innovative, high-quality education that both our students and our employers need.

The NDUS fully supports a "Do Pass" recommendation on HB1221 and is committed to providing staff to support and coordinate the Workforce Innovation Program on behalf of the State Board of Higher Education. I remain available to Committee members for questions and comments.

House Standing Education Committee

House Bill No. 1221 Committee Hearing: 1/20/2025 3:00PM

Chairman Heinert and Members of the House Education Committee:

I am Cynthia Schreiber-Beck, District 25 Representative. House Bill No. 1221 is to fund the policy bill HB1241 from the 2023 session that is now 15-10-75 in the North Dakota Century Code, and is commonly called the workforce education innovation program. The appropriation portion of the 2023 bill was not funded, thus this bill for an appropriation for $24 million.

The Board of Higer Education would be in control of the fund. As stated below in 15-10-75, funds would be awarded for the creation or enhancement of educational programs that address the workforce needs of North Dakota business and industry.

A current example of this is the Airframe and Powerplant Program in the establishment phase at the North Dakota State College of Science. The innovative funding could be utilized for curriculum development, equipment, facility modifications, hiring and training instructors, program promotion, and enhancement of postsecondary partnerships with primary and secondary schools. Without a source of funding, program development is difficult since the payback does not begin until students are enrolled.

The higher education institutions are told to be innovative but without funds for program development, it is difficult.

Thank you for your consideration of House Bill No. 1221.

15-10-75. Workforce education innovation program - Report to legislative management.

1. The state board of higher education may provide award funds to institutions under its control to create or enhance educational programs that address the workforce needs of North Dakota business and industry. An award made under this section may be used for curriculum development, equipment and technology purchases, facility modifications and equipment installation, hiring and training new and existing instructors, educational program promotion, and enhancement of postsecondary partnerships with primary and secondary schools.

2. The state board of higher education shall provide a biennial program report to the legislative management by September first of each even-numbered year. The report must include information by institution regarding:

a. The number, amount, and type of awards;

b. The name of each educational program created, enhanced, or promoted;

c. The amount and percentage of funds used for leadership and coordination costs; and d. Detailed expense reports, including the type of equipment and technology purchased and the number of instructors hired or trained.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1221
1/21/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the state board of higher education for workforce education innovation funds.

2:55 p.m. Chairman Heinert called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber- Beck, Representatives, Conmy, Hager, Hatlestad, Hauck, Heilman, Jonas, Longmuir, Maki, Marchall, Morton, Novak, Osowski

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

2:55 p.m. Vice Chair Schreiber- Beck moved a Do Pass and rereferred to Appropriations.

2:55 p.m. Representative Morton seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Patrick R. Hatlestad	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Matthew Heilman	Y
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Desiree Morton	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y

Motion carried: 14-0-0

Bill carrier: Representative Morton

2:58 p.m. Chairman Heinert adjourned the meeting.

Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1221 (25.0802.01000)

Education Committee (Rep. Heinert, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1221 was rereferred to the **Appropriations Committee**.

2025 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1221

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division
Prairie Room, State Capitol

HB 1221
1/31/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the state board higher education for workforce education innovation funds.

10:31 a.m. Chairman Nathe called to order.

Members present: Chairman Nathe, Vice Chairman Swiontek, Representatives Louser, Martinson, Richter, Sanford, Hanson

Discussion Topics:

- Airframe and Power Plant Program, UND
- North Dakota Center for Aerospace Medicine (NDCAM)

10:32 a.m. Representative Heinert, higher education workforce, testified tesified in favor.

10:34 a.m. Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck, District 25, testified tesified in favor and submitted testimony #32459.

10:32 a.m. Representative Landon Bahl, District 17, tesified in favor and submitted testimony #33227.

10:54 a.m. Rod Flanigan, President, North Dakota State School Science, (NDSCS) testified and submitted testimony tesified in favor #33180.

11:06 a.m. Andy Armacost, President, University of North Dakota, (UND) tesified in favor and submitted testimony #33232.

11:12 a.m. Doug Darling, President, Lake Region State College, testified in favor and submitted testimony #33088.

11:22 a.m. Ty Orton, President, Dickinson State University, (DSU) tesified in favor and submitted testimony #33054.

11:28 a.m. D.J. Campbell, Board Member, State Board Higher Education testified in favor and submitted testimony #33244.

11:30 a.m. Mark Hagerott, Chancellor, ND University Systems, tesified in favor.

Additional written testimony:

Carmen M. Simone, CEO and Campus Dean, Dakota College at Bottineau, submitted testimony in favor #32548.

James Sweeney, President and Co-founder, Fargo Jet Center, submitted testimony in favor #32974.

Bernell Hirning, President, Williston State College, submitted testimony in favor #33089.

Cale Dunwoody, Vice President of Public Policy, FMWF Chamber of Commerce, submitted testimony in favor #33140.

Tanner Overland, Chairman, North Dakota Aviation Association, submitted testimony in favor #33143.

Bethany Kadrmas, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor, submitted testimony in favor #33211.

Steven Shirley, President, Minot State University and Dakota College at Bottineau, submitted testimony in favor #33221.

11:30 a.m. Chairman Nathe closed hearing.

Steven Riehl, Committee Clerk

Standing Committee on appropriations – Education and Environment Division

House Bill No. 1221 Committee Hearing: 01/31/2025 10:30AM

Chairman Nathe and Members of the Committee:

I am Cynthia Schreiber-Beck, District 25 Representative. House Bill No. 1221 is to fund the policy bill HB1241 from the 2023 session that is now *15-10-75* in the North Dakota Century Code and commonly referred to as the workforce education innovation program. The appropriation portion of the 2023 bill was not funded, thus this bill for an appropriation for $24 million.

The Board of Higer Education would be in control of the fund. As stated below in *15-10-75*, funds would be awarded for the creation or enhancement of educational programs that address the workforce needs of North Dakota business and industry.

A current example of this is the Airframe and Powerplant Program in the establishment phase at the North Dakota State College of Science. The innovative funding could be utilized for curriculum development, equipment, facility modifications, hiring and training instructors, program promotion, and enhancement of postsecondary partnerships with primary and secondary schools. Without a source of funding, program development is difficult since the payback does not begin until students achieve completed credits.

The higher education institutions are expected to be innovative but without funds for program development, it is difficult.

I encourage your favorable consideration of House Bill No. 1221.

15-10-75. Workforce education innovation program - Report to legislative management.

1. The state board of higher education may provide award funds to institutions under its control to create or enhance educational programs that address the workforce needs of North Dakota business and industry. An award made under this section may be used for curriculum development, equipment and technology purchases, facility modifications and equipment installation, hiring and training new and existing instructors, educational program promotion, and enhancement of postsecondary partnerships with primary and secondary schools.

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c. The amount and percentage of funds used for leadership and coordination costs; and d. Detailed expense reports, including the type of equipment and technology purchased and the number of instructors hired or trained.

DAKOTA COLLEGE AT BOTTINEAU

HB 1221

House Appropriations Committee, Education and Environment Division

January 31, 2025

Carmen M. Simone, Campus Dean and Chief Executive Officer

carmen.simone@dakotacollege.edu

Chair Nathe and members of the committee:

For the record, my name is Carmen Simone, Campus Dean for Dakota College at Bottineau (DCB). On behalf of our institution, I am providing this written testimony in favor of HB 1221.

Access to additional funding to assist in defraying the expense of program development would be highly beneficial to all the institutions within the North Dakota University System (NDUS). Since my arrival at DCB in August 2022, we have diligently worked to develop and launch Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene programs in Minot as part of a focused effort to support Career and Technical Education (CTE) programming for the region. The introduction of these programs was expensive, requiring extensive facility and equipment investments, as well as contracts with personnel to provide curricular expertise. It was a very heavy lift, supplemented in part by a federal grant through the City of Minot. The Dental Assisting program is now in its first year, with eight students enrolled. The Dental Hygiene program is on track to open Fall 2025 and it will be heavily marketed once initial program accreditation is granted this spring. There is no doubt that having access to funding through NDUS as seed money would have eased this financial burden for us. In the end, we believe that we could have responded much more quickly to this strong workforce demand had we had access to additional resources.

As we look to the future, there are several additional programs that should be developed for Minot, especially given the Regional Health Sciences Institute concept that is currently under consideration. Based on feedback from regional partners, we know that the workforce need is great, and that the programs being requested will ultimately be successful. Unfortunately, we are still waiting for our most recent endeavor to cash flow due to the time required for program implementation and the intentional, but delayed output from the funding formula. Having access to additional capital to invest in the early stages of program development would create a much more robust response to local demand.

We respectfully ask the committee to give a DO PASS recommendation on this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

1/30/2025

Chairman Mike Nathe and Members of the House Appropriations Education and Environment Division

Subject: Support for House Bill 1221

Dear Chairman Nathe and Committee Members,

As President and Co-Founder of Fargo Jet Center, I strongly support HB 1221, which addresses North Dakota's critical shortage of aviation maintenance professionals. The lack of qualified maintenance technicians creates a growing challenge to meet demands for aviation businesses, impacting operations both locally and nationally.

Fargo Jet Center, based at Fargo's Hector International Airport, is a certified FAA repair station supporting general and commercial aviation. We provide aircraft maintenance and avionics services and specialize in modifying aircraft for special missions, making our services unique in our industry. Despite our efforts to recruit and train technicians, we continually face challenges in finding qualified candidates. To help bridge this gap, we have developed a robust internship program for mechanics. However, 100% of our current interns come from out-of-state schools, highlighting the urgent need for an in-state aviation maintenance training program.

Over the past decade, high schools across North Dakota have expanded aviation education programs, including those in West Fargo, Grand Forks, Minot, Williston, Bismarck, and Kindred, along with online courses available through ND Career & Technical Education. These programs have generated strong student interest in aviation careers, yet until now, there has been no in-state pathway for those wishing to pursue aviation maintenance.

The new Aviation Maintenance Program at NDSCS, set to launch in August 2025, will provide a crucial in-state option for students, allowing them to train and work within North Dakota. Supporting HB 1221 will provide essential resources for workforce education innovation, ensuring a steady pipeline of skilled aviation mechanics. This investment will strengthen North Dakota's aviation industry, boost economic growth, and support our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim Sweeney
President and Co-Founder, Fargo Jet Center
jim@fargojet.com

DICKINSON STATE UNIVERSITY

DR. HOLLY GRUHLKE
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
(701) 502-2080
holly.gruhlke@dickinsonstate.edu

Date: January 30, 2025
Re: Testimony to the North Dakota Legislature

Chairperson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide insights regarding the critical need for Workforce Innovation funding to support the development of high-impact academic programs at Dickinson State University (DSU) and institutions across North Dakota.

As we seek to address regional and statewide workforce shortages, one of the greatest challenges we face is developing new academic programs under the constraints of the current funding model. The existing funding formula does not account for program innovation or new program development. This requires institutions like DSU to reallocate existing resources to fund emerging workforce needs. This reallocation often comes at a significant cost, potentially disadvantaging existing programs or, in some cases, leading to their closure.

The Workforce Innovation funding initiative provides a strategic solution to this challenge by allowing institutions to invest in new, high-impact programs without disrupting the viability of current offerings. This funding is particularly crucial for Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, which require significant capital investments to launch.

At DSU, we have firsthand experience with the difficulties associated with launching high-demand CTE programs under current funding constraints. Our development of diesel technology and welding programs are a prime example. These programs required extensive capital investments in equipment, facilities, and faculty expertise to become operational. Despite these challenges, DSU recognized the pressing workforce needs in these fields and made the necessary sacrifices to ensure their success. However, without dedicated start-up funding, this approach is not sustainable for future program development.

North Dakota continues to experience critical shortages in technical fields, and institutions must have the necessary resources to address these gaps. Workforce Innovation funding is essential to support the creation of new CTE programs that align with industry needs and economic development goals. With this funding, DSU and other institutions can proactively develop programs that provide students with the skills and training needed for high-demand careers while ensuring that existing academic offerings remain strong.

I urge this committee to support the establishment of Workforce Innovation funding to help North Dakota's higher education institutions drive economic growth and meet workforce demands. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Holly Gruhlke

Lake Region State College

1801 College Drive North, Devils Lake, ND 58301-1598

(701) 662-1600 | (800) 443-1313 | fax (701) 662-1570
TDD (701) 662-1572 | www.lrsc.edu

Testimony for HB 1221

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Doug Darling, and I serve as President of Lake Region State College. I am here today testifying in favor of HB 1221. One of the critical issues in North Dakota is workforce. As Community Colleges we try to respond quickly and effectively to meet the workforce needs in ND. One of the challenges we have is when a new business relocates to the region and needs trained technical employees. It takes us too long to secure the resources to start new technical training programs. If a new company comes in right after the legislative session ends, we'd have to wait literally 2 1/2 years to request funding to gear up the training program. That is too long for business to wait. Most career and technical education programs require expensive specialized equipment to do the training. It's not uncommon for it to cost between $500,000 and $2,000,000 to gear up training program for a career and technical education program. Equipment is just one piece of the puzzle. Curriculum also needs to be written and many times faculty need some professional development or some training themselves to be able to teach the new content. I can't speak for the other campuses, LRSC does not have the resources in our budget to start up a new program without assistance. We've done this many times in the past with grant funds, help from industry partners and with help from the legislature. We've also closed low enrollment programs and reallocated the resources for other programs, but this also takes time because we have to teach out the students that are currently in the program and then gear up the new program. HB 1221 would provide those startup resources needed for new training programs. Having them held at the university system and having the campuses apply for them as needed will ensure that they're used for meeting workforce needs.

WILLISTON
STATE COLLEGE

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

THE CHAMBER
FARGO MOORHEAD WEST FARGO

Letter of Support – HB 1221

Friday, January 31, 2025

Chairman Nathe and members of the House Appropriations Committee – Education and Environment Division,

For the record, my name is Cale Dunwoody, and I have the distinct pleasure of serving as the Vice President of Public Policy for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce (FMWF Chamber). On behalf of our over 1,700 members, I respectfully offer testimony in support of House Bill 1221.

At the FMWF Chamber, our mission is to protect and promote business, inspire individuals, cultivate communities, and influence action. Our members continue to express concerns centered around the availability of high-quality, skilled workers. While the shortage gap across the United States is narrowing, North Dakota remains one of the most severe states when it comes to workforce challenges. The U.S. Chamber estimates that there are approximately only 30 available workers for every 100 open jobs in North Dakota, compared with the national rate of 83 available workers for every 100 open jobs. This indicates more must be done to attract, retain, develop and match employees with in-demand jobs.

Critical investments into North Dakota's Workforce Education Innovation program will provide our institutions of higher education with the additional support they need to create or enhance educational programming to fortify a robust workforce pipeline across the state. These funds will further align programs and career pathways with current industry demands, and ensure students are best prepared for our ever-evolving workforce environment. This financial support strategically invests in innovative solutions to address North Dakota's workforce shortages that are hindering economic growth and business vitality.

To meet the growing workforce demands of the state, we encourage additional support in creative solutions, like this, that build industry-aligned educational opportunities across North Dakota. We urge the committee to give this bill a DO PASS recommendation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to North Dakota's business environment.

Sincerely,

Cale Dunwoody
Vice President of Public Policy
Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce

NORTH DAKOTA
AVIATION ASSOCIATION

January 27, 2025

RE: Testimony in support of House Bill 1221 to Secure Funding for North Dakota's Aviation Maintenance Program

Chair Heinert and members of the House Appropriations Education and Environment Division,
I am writing on behalf of the North Dakota Aviation Association to express my strong support for House Bill 1221. This critical legislation will provide necessary funding for the establishment of the Aviation Maintenance Technician program at the North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS)—the first program of its kind in North Dakota in over 30 years. North Dakota's aviation industry is a vital component of our state's economy, supporting commercial, business, and general aviation operations. However, the aviation maintenance sector is facing a severe workforce shortage. Without immediate action, this shortfall will significantly impact North Dakota's ability to sustain and expand its aviation industry.

The Aviation Maintenance Technician program at NDSCS is a direct response to this urgent workforce need. While the program has secured an FAA Workforce Development Grant, full funding through HB 1221 is essential to ensure its success. This funding will allow NDSCS to develop state-of-the-art training facilities, including necessary modifications to a leased hangar at Hector International Airport in Fargo. Furthermore, it will help provide specialized equipment, faculty hiring, and industry partnerships to ensure the program meets FAA Part 147 standards.

The economic benefits of this investment cannot be overstated. With the North American aircraft fleet projected to grow by 20% over the next decade, North Dakota must prioritize local workforce development to remain competitive. This program will create high-paying career opportunities for students and transitioning military personnel, bolstering our aviation workforce and ensuring our industry partners have access to a skilled labor pool. Additionally, North Dakota currently lacks an aviation maintenance technician school, forcing students to seek training out of state, reducing our ability to retain homegrown talent.

The aviation and aerospace industries in North Dakota have voiced strong support for in-state training, and this program will serve as a bridge between the educational sector and industry needs. Through partnerships with initiatives such as SkillBridge, service members will have a clear pathway to transition into civilian aviation careers, further strengthening our workforce.

By fully funding HB 1221, North Dakota has the opportunity to invest in the future of its aviation industry and workforce. I respectfully urge you to support this legislation and ensure that NDSCS receives the resources needed to successfully launch and sustain this program.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tanner Overland
Chairman
North Dakota Aviation Association

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Rod Flanigan, Ph.D., President
Phone: 701.671.2221 | Fax: 701.671.2316 | Rod.Flanigan@ndscs.edu

North Dakota State College of Science • 800 Sixth Street North • Wahpeton, ND 58076-0001 • 1.800.342.4325 • www.NDSCS.edu

HB 1221

House Education Committee
January 20, 2025
Rod Flanigan, President, North Dakota State College of Science
701.671.2221 | rod.flanigan@ndscs.edu

Chair Heinert, Vice Chair Schreiber-Beck and members of the House Education Committee. My name is Rod Flanigan, and I serve as the President of North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS). I submit this testimony on behalf of all the faculty, staff, and students of NDSCS **in support of HB 1221**.

As originally written by Representative Schreiber-Beck during the 2023 legislative session, this bill would have provided $24,000,000 to the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education to distribute to the 11 higher education institutions throughout the state for the purpose of building, growing, and developing innovative workforce programs, initiatives, and partnerships. While I am in favor of this bill, **I still believe strongly that it would be beneficial if there was language in the bill defining how the funds would be, or could be, distributed to the various state higher education institutions.** By adding such language to the bill, it would provide both equity and clarity for how the funds are intended to be used and distributed.

If passed, this bill would provide much needed funding for NDSCS to develop and grow innovative workforce programs. Because the higher education funding formula is a performance-based formula based on credits produced, it is looking backwards 3-4 years. Our challenge in setting up new and innovative programs is that it often takes several years to build enrollment, and thus, credit hours. Funding provided through HB 1221 would allow us the sort of "seed" money needed to build these important programs. As an example, NDSCS is building a new Aviation Maintenance program. We were fortunate to receive an FAA grant that allowed us $300,000 to begin working on the program. This money, however, was spent very quickly as we began developing curriculum, securing equipment and tools needed, renting hanger space, and all the other requirements for a large program like this. Our partnership with the Fargo Jet Center, as well as others within the aviation industry, has been an amazing opportunity to get the program started, but we need your help to continue to build. HB 1221 will allow us to continue to grow and fill the pipeline with very talented and skilled workforce in these critical industries.

This concludes my testimony related to HB1221. I respectfully request that you vote in favor of this bill. Thank you so much for all you do, and for your support of higher education throughout the state of North Dakota.

Respectfully,

Rod Flanigan, Ph.D.
President, NDSCS

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Rod Flanigan, Ph.D., President
Phone: 701.671.2221 | Fax: 701.671.2316 | Rod.Flanigan@ndscs.edu

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HB 1221

House Education Committee
January 20, 2025
Rod Flanigan, President, North Dakota State College of Science
701.671.2221 | rod.flanigan@ndscs.edu

Chair Heinert, Vice Chair Schreiber-Beck and members of the House Education Committee. My name is Rod Flanigan, and I serve as the President of North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS). I submit this testimony on behalf of all the faculty, staff, and students of NDSCS **in support of HB 1221**.

As originally written by Representative Schreiber-Beck during the 2023 legislative session, this bill would have provided $24,000,000 to the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education to distribute to the 11 higher education institutions throughout the state for the purpose of building, growing, and developing innovative workforce programs, initiatives, and partnerships. While I am in favor of this bill, **I still believe strongly that it would be beneficial if there was language in the bill defining how the funds would be, or could be, distributed to the various state higher education institutions.** By adding such language to the bill, it would provide both equity and clarity for how the funds are intended to be used and distributed.

If passed, this bill would provide much needed funding for NDSCS to develop and grow innovative workforce programs. Because the higher education funding formula is a performance-based formula based on credits produced, it is looking backwards 3-4 years. Our challenge in setting up new and innovative programs is that it often takes several years to build enrollment, and thus, credit hours. Funding provided through HB 1221 would allow us the sort of "seed" money needed to build these important programs. As an example, NDSCS is building a new Aviation Maintenance program. We were fortunate to receive an FAA grant that allowed us $300,000 to begin working on the program. This money, however, was spent very quickly as we began developing curriculum, securing equipment and tools needed, renting hanger space, and all the other requirements for a large program like this. Our partnership with the Fargo Jet Center, as well as others within the aviation industry, has been an amazing opportunity to get the program started, but we need your help to continue to build. HB 1221 will allow us to continue to grow and fill the pipeline with very talented and skilled workforce in these critical industries.

This concludes my testimony related to HB1221. I respectfully request that you vote in favor of this bill. Thank you so much for all you do, and for your support of higher education throughout the state of North Dakota.

Respectfully,

Rod Flanigan, Ph.D.
President, NDSCS

MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY | President's Office

Dr. Steve Shirley, President, Minot State University & Dakota College at Bottineau
HB 1221 (In Support) 69th ND Legislative Session, January 31, 2025
House Appropriations Committee – Education & Environment Division
Workforce Education Innovation Program

Chair Nathe and members of the committee, for the record, my name is Steve Shirley, and I serve as president of Minot State University as well as Dakota College at Bottineau. I am submitting this written testimony in strong support of funding for the Workforce Education Innovation Program in House Bill 1221.

Both the MiSU and DCB campuses have been working to respond to the rapidly changing economic conditions in North Dakota by training and educating our students in key academic areas. Particularly in establishing new academic programs and/or expanding those programs that are growing quickly, the lag with funding formula payments after students are enrolled can create some challenges. The new funding source envisioned through the Workforce Education Innovation Program in HB 1221 would directly help alleviate this issue. A few examples of how these funds would be helpful:

- Last year, DCB established a new Dental Assisting program in Minot, and later this year will begin a new Dental Hygiene program. These fields are areas of great workforce shortage in western and central North Dakota. We added these programs as a direct response to industry needs. As you know, dental programs are expensive, and through a combination of support from the City of Minot, various grants, and industry support, we have made these new programs a reality. However, there are undoubtedly some fiscal realities and challenges in the immediate future as we continue building and growing these new programs; Workforce Innovation funds would certainly be beneficial.
- MiSU and DCB have brought forward a capital request as part of SB 2003 (the higher education funding bill) to purchase the Trinity Health Center West building in downtown Minot. This project has been highly ranked and supported by the State Board of Higher Education. Our vision is to turn this facility into a Health Sciences Institute where the two campuses would further collaborate and offer a number of health-related academic programs. We have strong support from Trinity, the Minot Area Chamber-EDC, and many others in the area as these new education opportunities would address some of the very significant health-related workforce shortages in western North Dakota. Again, the funds envisioned in the Workforce Education Innovation Program could be tapped and utilized to help us stand up these programs much quicker with the hiring and supporting of new faculty.
- At MiSU, we have had significant growth in new academic offerings including Cybersecurity and Operations, Data Science, and Exercise Science & Rehabilitation. All of these are rapidly growing majors at MiSU with plenty of job opportunities for graduates. Again, the availability of a Workforce Education Innovation fund to more quickly access resources for hiring and supporting faculty in these rapidly expanding fields would be incredibly helpful. These funds would also be most helpful as we expand into cutting-edge work now underway at MiSU in areas such as Artificial Intelligence.

In short, both Minot State and DCB are enthusiastic about the Workforce Education Innovation Program and the funding recommendation in HB 1221. These resources will provide a major boost to our ability of responding and adapting more quickly and effectively with significant workforce shortages and challenges in North Dakota. We appreciate your careful consideration of this bill, and would be happy to respond should you have any questions. Thank you.

Legislative Assembly

North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360

Representative Landon Bahl
District 17
3820 South 15th Street, #102
Grand Forks, ND, 58201-7782
lbahl@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:
Industry, Business and Labor
Government and Veterans Affairs

Mr. Chairman and members of the E&E Appropriations Committee,

Good morning. For the record, my name is Landon Bahl, and I have the privilege of representing District 17 in the House. I am here today in support of House Bill 1221. After speaking with the bill sponsor, I understand that this bill presents an opportunity to fund transformative initiatives, one of which could be the establishment of the North Dakota Center for Aerospace Medicine (NDCAM) at UND's John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences, in coordination with the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, as proposed in House Bill 1612.

Originally, House Bill 1612 sought $2 million in funding. However, I introduced an amendment to reduce the appropriation to $500,000, with the hope of securing additional funding through the fund created by House Bill 1221.

To illustrate the impact full funding for HB 1221 could have, consider the need for the North Dakota Center for Aerospace Medicine. North Dakota has long been a leader in aviation, home to the world's top aviation school, a thriving UAS sector, and critical military aviation operations. However, we must also lead in supporting the mental health and protection from the FAA of our aviation professionals. Pilots, air traffic controllers, and others in the industry face immense pressures, often suffering in silence due to fear of career repercussions. While we cannot change FAA federal regulations, we *can* create resources and support systems right here in North Dakota by leveraging our higher education institutions, specifically, a partnership between UND's School of Medicine and School of Aerospace Sciences.

Mr. Chairman, I respectfully encourage a *do pass* recommendation on House Bill 1221 with full funding. I am happy to stand for any questions.

Regards,
Landon Bahl

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

Testimony for the 69th Legislative Assembly – House Education and Environment Division
January 31, 2025
Andy Armacost, President, UND
andrew.armacost@UND.edu | 701.777.2121

Bill: HB1221
Position: In Support

Chairman Nathe and Members of the House Education and Environment Division,

My name is Andy Armacost, and I serve as the President of the University of North Dakota. I'm here today to speak in support of House Bill 1221, which provides an appropriation for the Workforce Education Innovation Fund.

We've had many conversations among the campus presidents about how to kickstart new initiatives in response to workforce needs in North Dakota. Doing so often requires significant funding to add infrastructure, materials, teaching aids, initial staffing, or other one-time expenses.

When we establish new programs and course offerings, the long-term expectation is they will pay for themselves by attracting students who have an interest in careers in those areas. It is incumbent upon us to create the business case for launching new programs.

The challenge is that many of the schools in our system may not have the financial buffer to fund the launch of such programs. This fund will help kickstart programs and allow us to respond quickly to the evolving needs of the workforce.

At UND, the examples are numerous, and we could put funding to immediate use in the areas such as:

- Enhancements to our career center, experiential learning, and internship programs
- Growth in interprofessional health programs and activities
- Creation of a simulated rural emergency hospital to support nursing and medical students
- Recruitment and Retention of American Indians into Nursing (RAIN) program enhancements
- Teacher recruitment and retention initiatives
- New bachelor's degree programs in space studies and audio and visual production
- A new cyber testbed for cybersecurity students
- Graduate programs in AI and quantum science
- Adoption of AI into courses across the entire UND curriculum

As I advocate for this bill, I do so with the smaller schools in mind. This funding will be truly game changing for their responsiveness to the workforce needs of the state. This initiative is one that will improve workforce training opportunities and idea-to-marketplace response times across the entire NDUS system.

Please, again, accept my strong support for this bill. Thank you.

NORTH DAKOTA
UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
ACCESS. INNOVATION. EXCELLENCE.

HB1221

House Appropriations – Education and Environment Division
January 31, 2025

Donald "D.J." Campbell, Board Member, State Board of Higher Education
701-390-75 | donald.j.campbell@ndus.edu

Chair Nathe and members of the Committee -

My name is D.J. Campbell, and I am a board member of the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education. In addition to this role, I serve on the North Dakota Workforce Development Council and previously contributed to the Greater North Dakota Chamber Workforce Policy Committee in preparation for the legislative session. I also chaired the Southwest Region TrainND Advisory Board in 2024. Professionally, I am the Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer for Sanford Health in Bismarck, where I lead workforce strategy and solutions for more than 16,000 positions across North Dakota, encompassing 4,000 distinct job profiles. I am here today to provide testimony in support of HB1221.

This bill would provide an appropriation of $24 million to the Workforce Education Innovation Program established during the last biennium. The program supports the creation or enhancement of educational programs to address the workforce needs of North Dakota business and industry. This bill would allow the State Board of Higher Education to award funds across our 11 institutions to further develop academic programming to educate and train students in highly skilled and in-demand fields.

Published in November 2023, a Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce report stated that by 2031, net new jobs in North Dakota requiring post-secondary education and training will grow by 24,000. Further, of all jobs in North Dakota, 71 percent (317,000 jobs) will require some training beyond high school in 2031. This means higher education's role in workforce development will be even more crucial.

Institutions across the state have a longstanding history of collaboration with and support for business and industry, particularly in North Dakota's key sectors of energy and agriculture. As workforce needs continue to evolve, it is imperative that we invest in emerging fields and industry transformations, including autonomous systems, cybersecurity, data security, manufacturing, and healthcare. With over 45,000 students enrolled across our campuses, our institutions play a vital role in attracting, developing, and preparing a skilled workforce to meet the demands of our state's economy.

As both a Board member and a professional in the healthcare industry, I can offer a very specific example of where this Workforce Education Innovation Program can make a huge impact.

Nursing simulation provides opportunities for students to advance their hands-on skills, practice solving critical situations, and receive constructive feedback in a supportive learning environment. It has been a crucial part of North Dakota nursing education since 2005. Simulation has become increasingly vital due to the limited nursing student clinical placement sites and availability across the state. Current evidence demonstrates that simulation can replace up to 50% of clinical hours while retaining both excellent educational and practice outcomes.

However, these simulators come with a price tag and faculty is needed to meet national standards for simulation education. These resources, though, are what is required to strengthen the emergency medical response system across North Dakota by providing accessible and targeted training.

From a purely numerical standpoint, technology will be a critical factor in addressing workforce challenges. According to the 2020 Census, North Dakota is the only state that has not experienced a decline in its population of young people (defined as individuals 18 years old or younger). Coupled with the impending wave of retirements in the coming years, this demographic shift underscores a fundamental reality—there will simply not be enough workers to meet the growing demand. This reality reinforces the need for policies that enable the development of innovative academic programs designed to address today's workforce needs, particularly in the areas of artificial intelligence and digital transformation. Technological advancements in these fields will impact every sector of business and industry across the state, including efforts to support industry partners in upskilling their workforce. HB1221 and the Workforce Education Innovation Program will build upon the existing foundation, driving forward this critical transformation.

Workforce availability remains the primary challenge to our state's future economic growth. Innovative initiatives such as the Workforce Education Innovation Program, proposed by Representative Schreiber-Beck and supported by several legislators, will provide a strategic advantage in addressing these workforce challenges. By continuously enhancing academic programs in higher education, we can better equip students and employers for success, ensuring they are well-positioned to capitalize on emerging opportunities across the state.

This concludes my testimony related to HB1221. I respectfully request a **Do Pass** on the bill and will stand for questions from Committee members.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division
Prairie Room, State Capitol

HB 1221
2/4/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the state board of higher education for workforce education innovation funds.

10:19 a.m. Chairman Nathe opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Nathe, Representative Hanson, Louser, Martinson, Richter, Sanford
Member Absent: Vice Chairman Swiontek

Discussion Topics:

- Funding
- Place holder amounts

10:21 a.m. Representative Louser moved a Do Not Pass.

10:21 a.m. Representative Sanford seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Chairman Mike Nathe	Y
Vice Chairman Steve Swiontek	AB
Representative Karl Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y

10:22 a.m. Motion passed 6-0-1.

10:22 a.m. Representative Louser will carry the bill.

10:24 a.m. Chairman Nathe closed the meeting.

Steven Riehl, Committee Clerk by Janae Pinks

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1221
2/6/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the state board of higher education for workforce education innovation funds.

10:13 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Vigesaa, Vice Chairman Kempenich, Representatives Anderson, Berg, Bosch, Brandenburg, Fisher, Hanson, Louser, Martinson, Meier, Mitskog, Monson, Murphy, Nathe, Nelson, O'Brien, Pyle, Richter, Sanford, Stemen, Swiontek, Wagner

Discussion Topics:

- Higher Education
- Committee Voting

10:13 a.m. Representative Nathe introduced the Bill.

10:15 a.m. Representative Louser moved a Do Not Pass.

10:15 a.m. Representative Stemen seconded.

10:15 a.m. Roll Call Vote.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	Y
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Berg	Y
Representative Glen Bosch	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	A
Representative Jay Fisher	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Eric J. Murphy	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy L. Pyle	Y
Representative David Richter	Y

Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Gregory Stemen	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	Y
Representative Scott Wagner	Y

10:15 a.m. Motion passed 22-0-1.

Representative Louser will carry the bill.

10:16 a.m. Representative Louser moved the bill be placed on Consent Calendar.

10:16 a.m. Representative Nathe seconded.

10:16 a.m. Voice Vote - motion passed.

10:16 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa closed the meeting.

Sierra Schartz, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1221 (25.0802.01000)

Appropriations Committee (Rep. Vigesaa, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** and **BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR** (22 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1221 was placed on the Tenth order on the calendar.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1221
2/6/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the state board of higher education for workforce education innovation funds.

10:37 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Vigesaa, Vice Chairman Kempenich, Representatives Anderson, Berg, Bosch, Brandenburg, Fisher, Hanson, Louser, Martinson, Meier, Mitskog, Monson, Murphy, Nathe, Nelson, O'Brien, Pyle, Richter, Sanford, Stemen, Swiontek, Wagner

Discussion Topics:

- Higher Education
- Funds for Education

10:38 a.m. Representative Louser moved HB 1221 be placed on Consent Calendar.

10:38 a.m. Representative Nathe seconded.

10:38 a.m. Voice Vote - motion passed.

10:39 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa closed the meeting.

Sierra Schartz, Committee Clerk