

LEGISLATIVE INTERIM WORKFORCE COMMITTEE

**Comments Regarding eFolio by North Dakota University System
May 26, 2010**

- In general terms, there is definite interest in the use of electronic portfolios across the North Dakota University System.
- Currently, electronic portfolios have been implemented by various departments in at least five of our institutions. For example, teacher education is one area in which many of our college and university students are using some type of electronic portfolio.
- In addition to the electronic portfolios used on our campuses, every middle and high school student in North Dakota currently has access to the RUReadyND electronic portfolio at www.rureadynd.com. This software provides career exploration and education planning for students as well as test preparation tools for teachers.
 - RUReadyND gives students the capability to:
 - Build a career and college plan. This plan is saved in their individual portfolio so they can return to it and change or update it over time.
 - Explore over 1,200 career options
 - Connect a career to a college major
 - Search for colleges by cost, location, programs, size, and other factors
 - Search for scholarships
 - Formerly known as Bridges Guidance Central, RUReadyND is provided through Bank of North Dakota and Student Loans of North Dakota.
 - The Career Resource Network of the Department of Career and Technical Education prepares teachers, counselors, and parents to help students access and use RUReadyND.
- One question we would like to explore is: Could Avenet work with the company producing RUReadyND (Xap) to develop a smooth transition of the electronic information from K-12 into higher education?
- To transition from higher education into workforce and economic development, the following issues will be important to consider in order for the eFolio to reach its full potential:
 - Will all North Dakota college and university students (in both public and private institutions) be required to develop and maintain an electronic portfolio?
 - How will we encourage college and university graduates to keep their portfolios up to date?
 - Will there be an incentive that encourages employers to use the portfolio?
- If the Committee is interested in exploring the use of electronic portfolios, it might be useful to bring all the stakeholders together to develop an integrated approach to the use of electronic portfolios in the state. The stakeholders would include K-12, Career and Technical Education, higher education, the business community, Department of Commerce, Job Service, Bank of North Dakota, and other agencies and organizations. The purpose would be to:
 - Determine the goals you would like the electronic portfolio to achieve
 - Identify the most important features of the electronic portfolio (e.g., developing an education plan for a specific career, preparing a resume, completing class assignments or certification forms, searching by employers, etc.)
 - Inventory where and how electronic portfolios are currently being used in the state
 - Plan for the smooth transition of electronic portfolios from K-12 into higher education and then into the workforce