



HB 1265

Senate Education Committee March

26, 2025

Alan LaFave, President

701-845-7102; alan.lafave@vcsu.edu

Chairman Beard and members of the Senate Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Valley City State University concerning House Bill No. 1265. VCSU stands in support of HB 1265.

Valley City State University has a long and distinguished history in preparing teachers and leading in innovation. We are uniquely positioned to provide leadership in preparing the teacher workforce by partnering with the Department of Public Instruction, Department of Career and Technical Education, and other system institutions to train and upskill current K-12 educators and provide learning opportunities in the advanced technology and artificial intelligence arena. Valley City State University has 1,526 alumni, teaching in 346 different schools in 154 different communities across North Dakota. Additionally, the State Board of Higher Education designated VCSU as a center of excellence in the application of instructional technology in 1996 when the campus became the first in the state and second in the nation to provide laptop computers for all students. This practice continues today, and our commitment to innovation, education, instructional technology leadership, and high impact practices ensures student learning remains a top priority.

If you vote to support HB 1265 and include grant funding, VCSU can readily identify several projects that it would submit to the grant committee.

VCSU proposes to establish the state's premier "Advanced Technology AI (Artificial Intelligence) Institute for Teaching and Learning," dedicated to shaping the future of K-12 education and the VCSU learning experience through AI integration. Our institute will focus on:

1. **Teacher Training:** Offering comprehensive AI training programs for K-12 educators and VCSU faculty, ensuring they are equipped with the necessary skills to navigate the AI-driven future of education.
2. **Career-Ready Graduates:** Providing all graduates with the expertise needed to thrive in an AI-centric world, fostering innovation and adaptability.
3. **Creating Personalized Learning Pathways:** Spearheading research initiatives to develop and implement new educational paradigms empowered by AI and learning science to enhance student learning outcomes and teaching effectiveness.
4. **AI Engagement and Excellence:** Incentivizing AI engagement among educators, staff, and students, fostering a culture of inclusion and excellence in AI education.
5. **Ubiquitous Access:** Ensuring widespread access to AI tools and resources for employees and students, leveling the playing field and promoting inclusivity in AI education.

6. **Model Institution:** Providing AI expertise for North Dakota employees by creating a model institution for the responsible and effective deployment of AI across the entire organization, setting standards for AI integration and ethical usage.

The integration of advanced technologies and AI can significantly enhance our educational programs and improve student outcomes in all areas on campus. Teachers can leverage resources to enhance learning experiences, personalize instruction, and improve efficiency.

Our Kinesiology and Human Performance (KHP) department is one area of campus that is already using AI tools. Through the development of personalized and adaptive learning materials, AI-driven platforms can create tailored exercise programs for students in our Strength and Conditioning and Exercise Science and Rehabilitative Studies programs. Currently, students in the therapeutic exercise course use AI to create comprehensive patient profiles and rehabilitation protocols. Additional potential applications in the KHP department include:

1. Virtual rehabilitation programs providing personalized protocols and real-time feedback to patients.
2. Incorporating adaptive technology and AI powered devices for anatomy and physiology content learning, such as robotic exoskeletons or Anatomage software.
3. Data analysis in all KHP programs, covering topics such as biomechanics, exercise physiology, patient vital signs, and various sport leadership and management concepts.
4. Create realistic case studies for developing lesson plans.
5. AI-powered wearable devices which can track athletes' performance metrics such as heart rate, speed, distance, and muscle activity. This analyzed data can help customize training programs, monitor workload, and prevent injuries.
6. Assist with game strategy analysis of game footage and player statistics to facilitate predictive analytics outcomes and help make data informed decisions.

Incorporating AI into education offers teachers powerful tools to enhance personalized learning, streamline administrative tasks, and engage students in new and interactive ways. By leveraging AI for adaptive instruction, automated assessments, and differentiated learning support, educators can create more effective classrooms. Additionally, AI-driven analytics and professional development resources help teachers refine their strategies and improve student outcomes.

As adaptive technologies and AI continue to improve, its thoughtful integration into education can lead to more dynamic, efficient, and personalized learning experiences for all. For us to implement and lead in this effort, funding and resources will allow us to make these tools available for teachers across North Dakota by providing continuing education opportunities and preparing the next generation of the teacher workforce.

Valley City State University will collaborate and work closely with our partner institutions and state agencies to create and develop these training opportunities for faculty, staff, students, and industry, through the establishment of the Advanced Technology AI Institute for Teaching and Learning.

Thank you, sincerely, for your consideration.