

1/31/2021

Golden Path Solutions support for HB 1431

Representative Delzer and committee members,

For the record my name is Patrick Mineer, CEO & Founder of Golden Path Solutions. **I want to express my support for HB 1431**, particularly around the initiatives of Workforce Development and Career & Technical Education.

Our North Dakota based company is building technology & processes to help students understand their skills and talents based on their high school experiences, including classes, activities, and interests, and align those talents to North Dakota employers who need them through awareness and tuition sponsorships. We work with schools across the state & employers across all sectors including manufacturing, healthcare, services, and technology. We believe creating these connections can help alleviate a student's anxiety about their future career paths and help them pay for post-secondary school, can help employers develop a talented future workforce with the skills they need, and help our communities and our state by driving retention, productivity, and economic growth.

As mentioned above, one of the things we focus on are a student's experience in school. We have found, particularly in but not limited to manufacturing, that most students are either ill-informed about what careers in this space are like, or just simply not aware of the career opportunities that exist. We've met welders, machinists, tool & die makers, controls technicians, automotive mechanics, electricians, etc. who have amazing careers and love their jobs & make a great salary, but their path to those careers came from outside school or through limited exposure to traditional trade classes. The **Career Workforce Academies (CWAs)** can change that by:

- Giving students real-world experiences in areas of advanced manufacturing, machining, drafting, controls, mechanics, computers, aviation, etc. using the most up-to-date technologies that will excite them.
- Changing the perception that technical or trade careers are in dirty or noisy environments. Individuals are amazed after visiting companies like Korber or Marvin Windows on how pristine and clean the facilities are. CWAs can show students first-hand what it's like working in these environments.
- Students today are doing less and less with their hands in school and outside of school. Conversations with people in these careers reveal much of their experience was working on cars or construction projects at home, working on a farm, etc. As technology gets more complex, farms become more automated, and that real-world experience is happening less often. CWAs can address that.
- More companies are offering their own internal training for certain skilled jobs (i.e. Bobcat and welding, Steffes & fabrication, etc.). CWAs can help students get a baseline of knowledge that might help them get into the workforce more quickly, with high school experience supplemented by on-the-job training, leading students to start earning money more quickly, building up 401Ks, & driving revenue growth faster.

We have seen students literally light up when they find the thing they love to do. CWAs can make that happen for more and more students. Imagine where we have a scalable way of giving students education and experiences that will lead them to a career in areas where we desperately need work force. Imagine the benefits to that student in finding their path and loving their job, and to the company who will benefit from that future worker's passion and experience. This is happening in communities who have these CWAs today and needs to be extended to meet the future workforce needs of ND employers. As such, we support the passage of House Bill 1431. Thank you for your attention.

Patrick Mineer
CEO & Founder
Golden Path Solutions