



Dickinson High School

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Dr. Shon Hocker, Superintendent

To: Chairman Delzer and Members of the Committee

Date: February 1st, 2021

I am here to testify in favor of HB 1431. Over one year ago an informal task force was created to explore the possibility of developing a Career and Technical Education Academy in Dickinson. The primary reason being a response to regional business, industry, and government employment needs. The Creation of an Academy offering training in high skill, high wage, and high demand careers will provide needed training opportunities for our region.

The work of SW CTE Task Force over the past year has been intense with over sixteen full committee meetings and numerous sub-committee meetings to 1) create a mission, vision, and beliefs; 2) create a priority list for programs of study; 3) create a governance board; 4) and develop a business plan. Our goal is to begin offering programing in the fall of 2021. House Bill 1431 would provide much needed support for the workforce needs of the region and the beliefs of SW CTE Academy.

The beliefs of SW CTE Academy (found below) are rooted in engaging the regional workforce community. Through community partners, curriculum and programing will be fitted to local business and industry needs. The connection between Dickinson State University, Dickinson Public Schools, Trinity Catholic Schools and the Roughrider Area Career & Technology Center will allow prescribed training with ladderred opportunities for secondary and post-secondary students in the region.

Ladderred opportunities will provide efficient and effective training opportunities for students in the region. Students can begin working on careers when they are academic and skill ready, rather than waiting to graduate. These ladderred programs will also help make efficient use of both physical and human resources. House Bill 1431 will help create a central location with satellite resources.

I sincerely welcome your support and funding to make the Southwest North Dakota Career and Technical Education Academy a reality. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to ask any questions.

Sincerely,

Marcus Lewton

SW CTE Academy Beliefs

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| -Build and maintain relationships with community leaders | -Retention of students in SW ND | -Responsive to businesses, the industry, and public sector needs |
| -Provide instruction for lifelong leadership | -Integrate teaching using up-to-date technology based on industry feedback | -Develop ladderred programing that allows for flexibility and accomplishment (i.e. certificates, licenses, associate degrees) |