



## Dickinson High School

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Dr. Shon Hocker, Superintendent

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Chairman Holmberg and members of the committee, my name is Marcus Lewton, CTE Director for Dickinson Public schools. I am here to speak in favor of House Bill 1431, particularly the New CTE Center funding aspects. This funding will help ensure our vision of a collaborative center focused on meeting the workforce needs of the region.

For more than a year our community of Southwest North Dakota has collaborated around developing a CTE center for the region. Initially spurred by industry frustration with a lack of skilled laborers, the SWND CTE Task Force has worked to meet the future needs of our youth and community. This dream seeks to combine resources of different entities to provide a more efficient and effective education for our region.

To date we have engaged local governmental entities, business and industry, public schools, a private school and Dickinson State University. Dickinson Public Schools has purchased an existing 100,000 square foot, 40 acre complex for the price of six million as a sign of commitment. We are excited about the collaborative possibilities for our region!

The 501c(3) is being finalized to manage the center and all financials for the project- Our Business plan lays out the next five years including architecture, construction, and financial strategies. Our goal is for industry to guide curriculum, so our students are being educated on current industry standards. Recently we have begun engaging business and industry on programming with a plan to intensify these discussions in the summer of 2021.

Our Dream; to facilitate career readiness in Southwestern North Dakota through premier Career and Technical Education in response to state and regional business, industry, and labor needs. Through working together we see the very real possibility of students accessing Work-Based Learning, Industry Certificates and Associates Degrees when they are ready, not when they graduate high school.

Thanks for your consideration into this opportunity for our region and youth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Lewton', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right across the page.

Marcus Lewton, Ed.D.