

Strategic Affiliation Initiative



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HB2290: A strategic affiliation to serve rural Kansas

**Senate Ways and Means
March 15, 2023**

- President Tisa Mason - Fort Hays State University
- President Eric Burks - North Central Kansas Technical College
- President Ben Schears - Northwest Kansas Technical College

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Introduction

- A shared commitment to serving rural students, businesses, industries, and communities
- A common and mission-centered vision
- Our “True North”

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Why affiliate? Why now?

- Rural Kansas is under significant demographic and economic pressures.
- The need to address expected population declines in:
 - Rural Kansas
 - College-bound students
 - Workforce
- Declines in these areas ultimately lead to a declining economy in rural Kansas

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The path forward

- Focus on creating opportunities for all students
- Forge strong partnerships with business and industry
- Expand our presence and impact in local communities

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FHSU partnerships in rural Kansas

- Nursing
- Transition to Teaching
- Speech Pathology
- Social Work

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A brief history of affiliations and mergers



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How will this benefit students?

- More programs at more locations
- New pathways to educational goals
- Low tuition
- Seamless transfer processes
- Experiential learning opportunities
- An expanded career network
- Integrated student advising

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How will this benefit employers?

- Employers can shape how programs develop and align
- Expanded access to employee development
- Increased access to prospective employees
- Creation of a reliable employee pipeline

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How will this benefit communities?

- Stronger educational institutions to better serve their local communities
- Expanded access to established outreach efforts
- Opportunities to partner on economic development
- Keeping graduates local

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Turning challenges into opportunities

- Addressing expected population and workforce declines
- Leveraging the strength of powerful partnerships
- Proceeding from positions of institutional strength

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Next steps - academic pilot programs

- Agriculture
- Construction Management
- Nursing

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Next steps - administrative pilot programs

- Admissions and Marketing
- Advising
- General Education
- The Transfer Processes
- Registrar Functions
- Procurement
- An IT Study Group

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Our work to date and moving forward

- Northwest Tech board vote
- NCK Tech board vote
- KBOR consideration
- Introduce legislation
- The Higher Learning Commission

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In closing

We respectfully ask for your support for an affiliation that is strongly rooted in the Kansas Board of Regents' strategic plan, and focused on:

- Helping Kansas families
- Supporting Kansas business and industry
- Advancing economic prosperity in rural Kansas