



KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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Colleges

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Proponent Testimony on HB 2402

Kansas Community Colleges are a proponent of HB 2402 and appreciate the opportunity to have a seat on the Blue Ribbon Commission created by this bill. We are excited to work with the other members of the commission to thoughtfully examine higher education issues in Kansas now and in the future. Kansas Community Colleges have been working together for over a year to identify efficiencies and ways to work together through partnerships and other structures to reduce operational costs and promote student success. We look forward to sharing what we have learned, have implemented, and believe could be beneficial to Kansas students. Thank you for the contemplative way this bill was crafted and the opportunity to have all affected parties at the table have a voice in this important discussion for the Kansas workforce future. The Association thanks Speaker Hawkins and the other House members who discussed the idea of this bill with us early in the session and their willingness to take the time necessary to carefully craft this bill to ensure the commission is equipped to explore ways higher education can best meet the needs of Kansas students.

Higher education is a cornerstone of progress and innovation in Kansas. It equips individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to tackle the challenges of today and the uncertainties of tomorrow. In particular, the discussion about how to best serve students from all types of backgrounds and studying multiple subjects which may or may not require a degree will be enlightening. Kansas has a proud tradition of excellence in education, and we all look forward to continuing that tradition in the future.

This commission is charged to consider how higher education can best serve students and foster economic growth by creating a skilled workforce that attracts businesses and industries to our state, which is critical for the future. It promotes social mobility by providing opportunities for individuals from diverse backgrounds to succeed. Moreover, it drives innovation by encouraging research and development in key areas that will advance the state's economy. Thank you for including community colleges as a seat on this commission and we look forward to participating in this process. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Heather Morgan at 785-221-2828 or hmorgan@kacct.org.