



COWLEY COLLEGE

Date: February 7, 2023
To: Chairman Thomas and Members of the House Education Committee
From: Jessica Lucas, Cowley College Government Affairs Liaison
Re: Support of HB 2132

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today in favor of HB 2132, legislation that will further enhance the successful Kansas Promise Scholarship Act. Cowley College supported this bill in its original iteration and believes the addition of elementary and secondary education is a positive addition for our students and their prospective employers.

We also want to take this time to urge the committee to add another feature to the Promise Scholarship Act that will aid in our efforts to recruit and retain more people to Kansas. I'm here today to request an amendment when the bill is worked that would also make Kansas Promise Scholarship Act dollars available to out-of-state students. This is a cost-effective tool to bring young people and adult learners to our Kansas institutions at no cost to them for workforce training; in exchange, they're offering us two years to live and work in Kansas.

During that two years, we know many will stay as they establish roots in their communities and jobs. We can spend millions of dollars trying to market our state to out-of-state individuals and companies can spend thousands on hiring benefits to relocate them to Kansas ... and we'll probably still have to do both of those things. But for minimal state resources, simply the addition of last-dollar scholarship money, we can enable our community colleges to recruit out-of-state students under the Promise Act, train them in Kansas, then see them in the state for a minimum of two years as part of the Scholarship agreement.

Our college, and our peer institutions across the state, are all working on training and educating a skilled workforce who will hopefully find employment with a Kansas-based company. This bill aids in those efforts to meet our teacher shortage and with the extension to out-of-state students, can help us meet the workforce crisis more rapidly.