

CAREER WORKFORCE ACADEMY

(Joe Raso and Craig Whitney)

SUGGESTED MOTION:

Move to approve the funding request of \$15 million as part of the public/private partnership for the Career Workforce Academy.

OR

SUGGESTED MOTION:

Move to not participate in the funding request of \$15 million as part of the public/private partnership for the Career Workforce Academy.



RECEIVED
CASS COUNTY COMMISSION

JUL 12 2019

July 12, 2019

Cass County Commission
Mary Scherling, Chair
211 9th Street South
Fargo, ND 58103

RE: Request time on July 22 Cass County Commission meeting to discuss Career Workforce Academy

Dear Commissioner Scherling:

On behalf of the collaborative Career Workforce Academy project, we are requesting time on the July 22 regular meeting of the Cass County Commission to discuss and ask for funding support for the Cass County Career Workforce Academy.

The attached letter provides the details of this request, but please know that the Fueling Our Future Governance Board is supportive of the collaborative effort by the school districts of Fargo, West Fargo, Northern Cass, Central Cass and North Dakota State College of Science to design and deliver workforce training and education that is responsive to changing employer and student needs. This initiative will expand the region's ability to attract, retain and grow businesses and develop opportunities for student success in the workforce.

We respectfully request that Cass County consider committing a \$15 million investment in the project. Cass County's investment would solidify the public/private partnership and move the project capital investment to near completion which would lead to an anticipated construction start date of Spring, 2020.

We look forward to advancing our discussion and request for financial support.

With gratitude.

Signed,

Craig Whitney
FMWF Chamber of Commerce

Joe Raso
Greater Fargo/Moorhead EDC



July 12, 2019

Cass County Commission
Mary Scherling, Chair
211 9th Street South
Fargo, ND 58103

RE: Funding Request: Cass County Career Workforce Academy

Dear Commissioner Scherling:

On behalf of the collaborative Career Workforce Academy project, we are providing the Cass County Commission with the following items listed below.

- A brief project overview
- Status of key project priorities
- Request for financial investment

First, as you may recall from prior Cass County presentations, the project is designed as a public private/partnership with a \$30 million capital budget. (\$15 million private and \$15 million public) To date, \$11,350,000 in private sector investments have been pledged. The academy will offer programs that will provide K-14 students, the incumbent workforce and new immigrants a curriculum to prepare them for successful careers. The program is also dependent on strong partnerships with business/industry leaders from the region that work together to enhance curriculum with relevant learning for successful outcomes.

Further, the academy is a collaborative effort by the school districts of Fargo, West Fargo, Northern Cass, Central Cass and North Dakota State College of Science. It is designed to deliver workforce training and education that is responsive to changing employer and student needs. This plan will expand and enhance our ability to attract, retain and grow businesses and develop opportunities for student success in the workforce.

The Career Workforce Academy will:

- Provide exposure to multiple career paths for all levels of K-14 students.
- Present more opportunities for students to sample and experiment with a variety of careers.
- Create opportunity for those interested in a technical degree.
- Create a path for incumbent workers and new Americans for a new career.
- Provide appropriate facilities and equipment for hands-on career training.
- Focus on the region's workforce and employer needs.

Second, in order to move this project forward, “three key priorities” have been identified by the project executive team. *Project Location, facility ownership and governance.* It is also worth mentioning that project proponents spent considerable time and effort to support Governor Burgum’s matching state funds program for Career Academies across North Dakota. The legislature chose not to fund the program. As a result, other local options have become a priority.

1. Project Location: The executive committee for the Career Academy met on June 20, 2019 and reached consensus for a preferred site located at the NW corner of 45th Street South and 64th Avenue South, Fargo, ND.

Below is a list of reasons for the site preference:

- The stature of CTE in Cass County that will enhance visibility and identity
- 15 acres are available (10 acres donated) which provide room phased growth
- Investment in new facility will allow opportunity for “world-class” programming
- Ease of access and proximity of for K-12 schools
- Provides neutral ground for K-12 district students
- Visionary for long term growth of our communities
- Support from business

2. Facility Ownership: Per the June 20, 2019 career academy executive committee meeting, the project partners’ desire is for the NDSCS Alumni Foundation to be the preferred option for facility ownership.

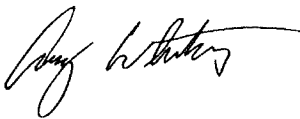
3. Governance: Documents to form a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) amongst the partners are being drafted to create a formal structure to ensure long term support and success. Upon final decisions regarding facility ownership, we anticipate formal agreements will be available for review by mid-August, 2019.

Third, based on the Career Academies steady progress, the undersigned partners below respectfully request, that Cass County consider committing a \$15 million investment in the project. Cass County’s investment would solidify the public/private partnership and move the project capital investment to near completion which would lead to an anticipated construction start date of Spring, 2020.

We look forward to advancing our discussion and request for financial support.

With gratitude.

Signed,



Craig Whitney
FMWF Chamber of Commerce



Joe Raso
Greater Fargo/Moorhead EDC

Beth Slette
West Fargo Public Schools

Morgan Forness
Central Cass Public Schools

Rupak Gandhi
Fargo Public Schools

Cory Steiner
Northern Cass Public Schools

John Richman
North Dakota State College of Science

Cass County Legislators:

Thomas Beadle (27)
Brandy Pyle (22)
Michelle Strinden (41)
Ruth Buffalo (27)
Mary Johnson (45)
Andrew Marschall (16)
Gretchen Dobervich (11)
North Dakota House of Representatives

Shannon Roers Jones (46)
Michael Howe (22)
Austen Schauer (13)
Pam Anderson (41)
Jim Kasper (46)
Josh Boschee (44)
Ron Guggisberg (11)

Kyle Davison (41)
Tim Mathern (11)
Jim Roers (46)
North Dakota State Senate

Judy Lee (13)
Kathy Hogan (21)
Kristin Roers (27)