

**To:** South Dakota Board of Technical Education  
**From:** Nick Wendell, Executive Director  
**Date:** 5/15/19 *Nick Wendell*  
**Re:** Executive Director Report

This memo is intended to serve as a brief report, in lieu of my typical in-person report delivered at regular board meetings. Although there is much activity impacting the system, the following topics may be of most interest.

### **Potential University Center Transition**

As noted in a previous email, the South Dakota Board of Regents and the University of South Dakota reported, during the April 24, 2019 meeting of the Government Oversight and Audit Committee, their intention to transition the existing University Center in Sioux Falls to a community college. Such a transition has the potential to have a negative impact on Southeast Technical Institute (STI).

The primary concern is related to the creation of academic programs that duplicate existing programs offered at STI. The programs at STI have been built through considerable state investment and collaboration with industry partners throughout the state of South Dakota.

President Griggs (STI) and President Gestring (USD) are continuing conversations about how the two institutions can partner to enhance the post-secondary opportunities in Sioux Falls.

### **Western Dakota Technical Institute Considering a Separate LEA**

On May 7, 2019, the Rapid City Area Schools (RCAS) Board of Education adopted a resolution to petition the South Dakota Board of Technical Education for the establishment of a separate local education agency (LEA) to govern Western Dakota Technical Institute (WDTI).

While the process for considering such a petition is outlined in state statute, the statute does not articulate what information should be included in the petition. I have asked Chairman Dykhouse to appoint a subcommittee, comprised of three board members, to consider a potential timeline and identify the criteria which should be included in the petition.

A primary objective of this work is to establish a system that provides precedent should the board be asked to consider a future petition to create a separate LEA.

Board Members Bob Faehn, Scott Knuppe, and Diana Vanderwoude have agreed to serve on the subcommittee.