

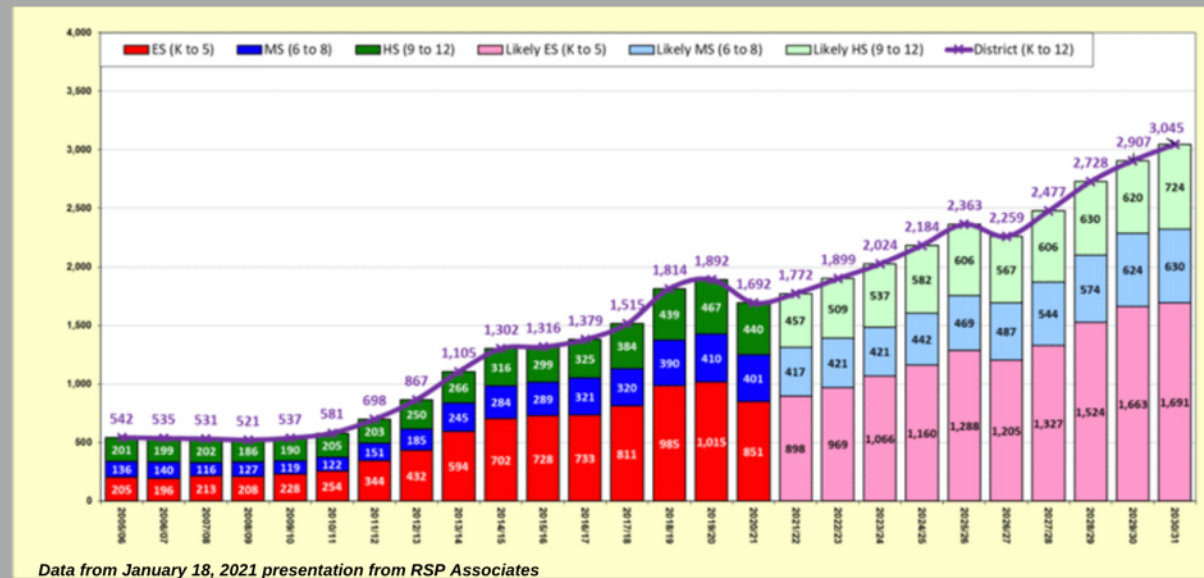
BAKKEN AREA SKILLS CENTER

Providing a new career and technical Center in northwest North Dakota to serve regional k-12 students and address short and long range workforce needs. A combined effort from regional school districts, post-secondary, political subdivisions, and industry partners to provide higher levels of education and training to support sustainability and quality of life in our communities



HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

- Career and Technical Education a key component for MCPSD #1 for generations.
- Shortages and needs for workforce skills has existed since early 2000s – lack of workers in key market/labor areas challenges growth and quality of life.
- The development of the Bakken and Three Forks formations has driven the need for workforce directly and indirectly related to energy development and infrastructure needs
- K-12 school enrollments exponentially increase in the NW region with energy development.



HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

- In 2016, discussions begin on options for the MCPSD#1 to work with Economic Development and with Industry partners to collaborate on how to best integrate workforce skills and exposure to career opportunities in the region to high school students, while also addressing the need for retraining adult workers.
- Discussions began during a slowdown in the industry and how to maintain workforce during slow periods to retain workforce during a recovery. Many families choose to stay during slow down periods if availability of other employment is available and training options.
- MCPSD #1 joins the Class A realm in North Dakota in the fall of 2018; becomes only Class A school district in ND without a physical post-secondary institution presence in its community.

WORKFORCE SKILLS INITIATIVE

- Formal meetings began in 2017 with a group of 5-6 members including the school district, economic development, local state representative, and 3-4 Industry partners. Meetings developed into quarterly and has grown to over 20 entities included and 25-30 attendees at most meetings. Subgroups specifically targeted to energy industry and post-secondary education were formed to focus specific work in each area.



WORKFORCE SKILLS INITIATIVE

- The Workforce Skills Initiative has allowed Industry partner to share curriculum with the school district as well as coordinate career visits to expose students to employment opportunities related to energy. Energy cohort class developed at WCHS using input from the committee members and aligned to current workforce needs.
- The next level of participation and success will require dedicated space to provide more hands-on experiences for students (and adult learners) and to overcome shortcomings with current facilities as it relates to specific and applied training opportunities.
- The vision for a facility would combine all aspects of K-12, post-secondary, adult retraining and certifications, and general community outreach and education.

EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

- Williston State College (MOU)
- TrainND (MOU)
- University of Mary
- Great North West Area Career and Technical Center (Virtual only)
 - 14 school district members
- Corp of Discovery High-Tech Consortium (traveling modules)
 - 22 school district members
- Golden Compass Solutions – Coordination of students competencies and apprentices and workforce skills experiences.
- Energy and Environmental Resource Center – future collaboration with students in STEAM or engineering pathways.
- Thousands of students impacted through collaborations and exposure to programming to be developed out of the Bakken Area Skills Center

FEASIBILITY STUDY

- McKenzie County Job Development Authority conducts a feasibility study to assess the need and application in taking the next step in work conducted by the Workforce Skills initiative.
- The study outcomes shows substantial need and a focus, in the immediate term, for three areas:
 - Health Careers
 - Automation
 - Buildings and Trades
- Subcommittees in each area formed and comprised of school board members, industry representatives, and economic development.
- The study assessed the employment needs in our region based on input from large employers and the importance of sustaining those skills for stability and long range growth as it relates to infrastructure, quality of life, and overall workforce capacity.
- Regional support for training, certifications, and Choice Ready components of K-12 is needed and the needs in NW North Dakota are substantial as it aligns with ongoing and long range energy and community development.

VISION AND SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED

- Merging and improving services provided by the GNWACTC (virtual/remote classes for high school students)
- Merging and improving services provided by the Corp of Discovery High Tech Consortium (six-week modules)
- Expansion of physical options through the Center itself and traveling trailer modules to regional school districts to mitigate distance to larger schools/satellite centers.
- Examples of proposed or potential trailer modules as an option for 30+ school districts associated with the Center:
 - CDL Simulator, Meats Lab, Building Trades, Precision Ag, Bobcat training, EMS/Paramedic simulations, Automation, UAV, Aviation, Medical Technician, Welding
- Golden Path Solutions to offer career counseling services to member school to connect employers with students that have demonstrated competencies that align with regional employment.

VISION AND SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED

- Utilization of Center to offer expanded "T4" opportunities to bring students and employers together and offer face-to-face interactions.
- Essentially, a NW ND one-stop network for communication and expansion of information involving industry and workforce initiatives.
- Other Career Academies/Center explored – Hobbs, NM similar model successfully completed recently. The Center will promote a variety of skills and employment; however, with an emphasis and vision of energy support for our region.



FEDERAL CORONAVIRUS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS GRANT

- The 2021 North Dakota Legislative Assembly provided in HB 1015 matching (1:1) grants for ND public school districts or CTE Centers pursuing expansion of career and workforce skills to students across the state. \$70 million was allocated with \$35 million assessable in the first round due October 1st.
- Purpose: To provide funding as a resource for school districts to increase Career and Technical Education opportunities through the establishment of additional Career and Technical Centers and facilities. The CTE programs can incorporate virtual or distance learning methods of instruction along with traditional delivery methods. Applicants are encouraged to be visionary in scope.
- 30 points in the 100 point matrix used to evaluation grant application is dedicated to post-secondary and workforce partners and letters of support and collaboration to ensure workforce and post-secondary are included in the mission/vision of the facility.
- Workforce continues to be a major focus for North Dakota and has been part of this initiative from the beginning for the Bakken Area Skills Center. A focused and collaborative effort with school districts, communities, and industry to focus efforts toward one common goal – viable and sustainable workforce through supports and education to adapt to the ever-changing landscape and improving opportunities for the citizens and employers for generations to come.

WHAT DOES A PARTNERSHIP REPRESENT WITH BASC?

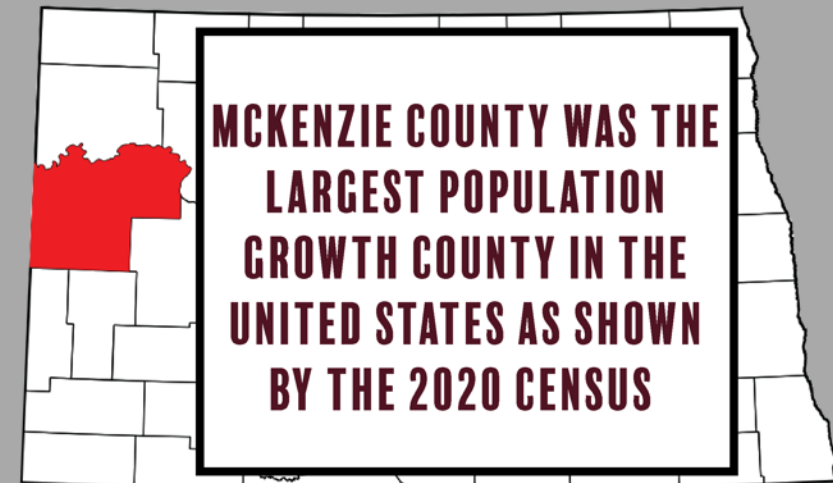
- Recognition of the employer and industry within the building
 - The Center will serve as a hub for job related information for our area; promotion and access to employer information readily available.
- Coordination and promotion of facility use, at any time, in dedicated spaces and high-bay areas designed for education and trainings of any nature. This facility will be designed for education of any level learners/trainings and preference to partners in the facility and their training or ongoing programming needs.
- Advisory group participation will be offered and allow for ongoing direction and changes to adjust for market trends or local needs.
- Curriculum participation and offerings – access to students to develop connections for Work Experiences, apprenticeships or post-secondary employment.
- Return on investment – opportunity to gain valuable workforce sustainability and develop long term workforce within the area and reduction in overall training costs related to employee retention.
- Be part of an effort to bring innovation and proactive approaches to our region to connect education and workforce in a meaningful way.

CURRENT LEVELS OF SUPPORT

- The required \$10 million match to this point:
 - \$4 million pledged by the McKenzie County Commissioners over two years.
 - City of Watford City along with other private developers have offered land for the site.
 - School district will consider receipt of federal funds to award toward the project and assume ongoing responsibility for operational costs.
 - Local American Legion and Masons have pledged support for the project.
 - The initial goal was \$4 million from Industry and local business toward the project as it aligns to workforce skills and resources. Hobbs, NM project had 70% funding from Industry partners for similar project; our goal is 20% for this project thanks to the support potential from the state and this grant.
 - In-kind donations are accepted as part of the local match involving the grant.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

- The gap in this application to date is committed financial support and formal partners of the Bakken Area Skills Center. Without commitment from Industry; this project and potential use of grant funds may not become a reality.
- October 1st is the deadline – any commitments from Industry will be appreciated and included in the application as well as recognized within the facility if the grant is awarded.
- This opportunity, years in the making, can bring something special to North West ND and provide benefits to all stakeholders. This region, as the fastest growing County in the nation with the 2020 census, needs this support and promote the long range goals of the energy industry in North Dakota.
- It is time for innovation and collaboration to reach its potential in western ND to support the Energy industry.



CONTACTS

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