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Postsecondary Technical Education Authority

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I-4 Postsecondary Technical Education Authority

The 2007 Legislature created the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority (Authority) in response to the recommendations of the Kansas Technical College and Vocational School Commission.

The new Authority is composed of 12 members as follows:

- Four members appointed by the State Board of Regents:
 - Two members of the Board of Regents;
 - One representative of a community college that provides technical education; and
 - One representative of technical colleges in the state, or his designee;
- Three members appointed by the Governor:
 - One member representing Kansas business and industry; and
 - Two members representing the general public;
- One member appointed by the Senate President representing business and industry;
- One member appointed by the Speaker of the House representing business and industry; and
- Three *ex-officio* members: the Commissioner of Education, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of Labor.

No more than two members can represent any one specific technical career cluster, and of the members appointed from business and industry and the general public, at least one must come from each congressional district. In addition, no more than five members of the authority may be from the same political party. The chairman of the Authority is selected by the Governor.

Under delegated authority from the Board of Regents, the Authority is charged with:

- Coordinating of statewide planning for existing and new postsecondary technical education programs and contract training;
- Reviewing existing and proposed postsecondary technical education programs;
- Reviewing requests of state funding for postsecondary technical education and making recommendations to the State Board of Regents for funding amounts and distribution;
- Developing benchmarks and accountability indicators for the programs;
- Developing and annually advocating a policy agenda for postsecondary technical education; and
- Conducting studies of ways to maximize resources to best meet the needs of business and industry, making recommendations to the State Board of Regents.

Recommendations adopted by the Authority are considered and acted on by the State Board of Regents. Disapproval of a recommendation requires a majority vote of all members of the State Board of Regents, within 45 days of the submission of the recommendation.

The Authority and the Board of Regents select the Vice-President of Workforce Development to serve as the executive director of the Authority, with the participation of the Kansas Association of Technical Schools and Colleges and the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees. The Vice-President is not a member of the Authority and serves in the unclassified service, at the pleasure of the Board of Regents.

In addition, the Legislature required that the governing bodies of the following institutions submit a plan to merge or affiliate with a postsecondary education institution, or become an accredited technical college with an independent governing board by July 1, 2008:

- Northeast Kansas Technical College;
- Kansas City Area Technical School;
- Kaw Area Technical School;
- Salina Area Technical School; and
- Southwest Kansas Technical School.

The Authority will sunset on June 30, 2014.

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