

BAKKEN AREA SKILLS CENTER

Mission:

Facilitating 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 of 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 for current and future generations.



HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

- Workforce shortages in buildings and trades and other skilled labor areas existed before the Bakken and Three Forks developments in our area. Students were forced to obtain trade school or vocational education degrees outside of western ND which presented challenges in young people returning to western ND communities.
- Student enrollment increases in western ND, in particular northwest ND, allowed for support of additional CTE programming and to expand on K-12 class offerings and Choice Ready programs.
- 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 down periods to retain workforce to support an eventual recovery. Many families choose to stay during slow down periods if availability of other employment and training options are present.
- Transition of philosophy from importing to meet workforce needs to providing the resources to allow local students and adults to more consistently meet workforce needs.
- 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 members. Subgroups specifically targeted to energy industry and post-secondary education were formed to provide input to the school district on curriculum integration and career counseling.
- Engaging post-secondary to consider more dual credit and certification options for students and to accelerate the opportunities to enter the workforce with the skills necessary to be successful and as identified by the industry.



WORKFORCE SKILLS INITIATIVE

- The Workforce Skills Initiative has allowed Industry partners 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 class has grown to 13 students and addresses a variety of knowledge and soft skills related to workforce transition.
- 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.
- Group discussions on how to improve all aspects of K-12, post-secondary, adult retraining and certifications, and general community outreach and education with increased collaboration and shared resources on multiple levels.
- The synergy between K-12, post-secondary, and adult education as it relates to employment, and specifically energy related employment, is cultivated through the discussions and overall planning.
- Common goal - If workforce can limit the ability to reach the full potential available to our communities; it requires every effort possible to resolve at a meaningful level by all stakeholders.

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
- Workforce training that provides a variety of options and skill sets to allow for innovation and timely adjustments to curriculum by addressing changing dynamics and new opportunities within the industry or related services; i.e. carbon storage, petrochemical, etc.

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
- The study assessed the employment needs in our region based on input from large employers and the importance of promoting those skills for as it relates to infrastructure and overall workforce needs.
- Regional support for training, certifications, and Choice Ready components of K-12 is essential and the needs in NW North Dakota are substantial as it aligns with ongoing and long range energy and community development.
- The Center concept requires flexible spaces to allow for classes to be offered in areas as needed and based on changes in the workforce and economy. Diversification and entrepreneurial opportunities to be included in the Center programming and vision

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 26+ school districts associated with the Center in some capacity:
 - 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.
- Students participating in apprenticeships and career work experiences as aligned with new legislation allowing for education to occur outside the traditional school building.

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.
- Maximum contribution of \$10 million per project to be assessed by a committee of nine members and upon recommendation to the State CTE Board.

WHAT DOES A PARTNERSHIP REPRESENT WITH BASC?

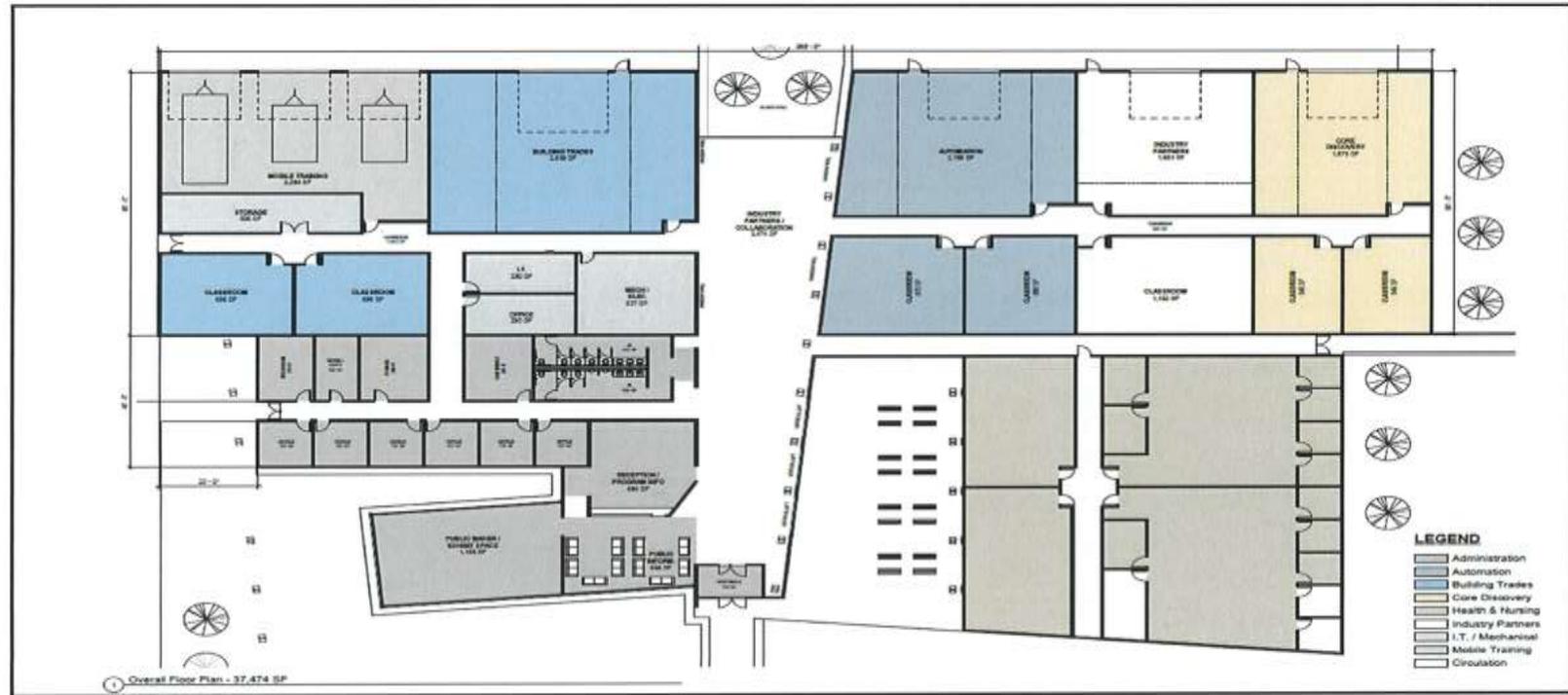
- Recognition of the companies within the building
 - The Center will serve as a hub for job related information for our area; promotion and access to employer information readily available.
- Coordination and promotion of facility use, at any time, in dedicated spaces and high-bay areas designed for 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.

Bakken Area Skills Center Project Information

- Approximately \$20 million project cost of construction and equipment
- Approximately 38,000 square feet dedicated to high-bay areas, classrooms, and collaborative spaces designed to provide flexibility and industry designated space for trainings and education.
- Financial partnerships include:
 - McKenzie County Commission
 - City of Watford City
 - MCPSD #1
 - Service groups (Masons, American Legion)
 - Industry (Major Partner – ONEOK)
 - Other
- Land donations offered – 20 acres provides options for heavy equipment training, CDL, Unmanned Aircraft Systems, etc.

Bakken Area Skills Center Building Layout

Draft Layout



Overall Floor Plan - 37,474 SF

Bakken Area Skills Center
Wakarusa City, North Dakota

Overall Floor Plan

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