

Manhattan Area Technical College
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
December 3, 2024/MATC Advanced Technology Center/4:00pm (zoom/live stream)

Mission: Manhattan Area Technical College provides high quality technical, general, and adult education to prepare individuals to pursue technologically advanced careers and lead productive lives in a dynamic and diverse global environment.

Vision: As a leader in technical education, Manhattan Area Technical College will enhance student-centered learning and service to business, industry, and community members.

Values: Providing HIRE Education - Helping Ignite & Revolutionize Education

HELPING IGNITE the ambition and passion:

- in our students through self-advocacy
- in our faculty and staff by providing student centered support
- of our community by supporting regional workforce needs.

REVOLUTIONIZE EDUCATION through:

- active learning with hands-on instruction from day one
- faculty delivering cutting-edge industry driven expertise
- inspiring innovative lifelong learning.

Objectives:

- Offering associate of applied science degrees and technical certificates upon completion of programs and courses in technical fields to meet student, employer, and community needs.
- Complementing technical instruction with general education courses emphasizing written and verbal communication, quantitative literacy, and critical thinking/problem solving.
- Creating opportunities for secondary students in technical and general education through partnerships.
- Providing student-centered services to include counseling, financial aid, skill enhancement and assessment, employability preparation, and student-led organizations.
- Assessing student performance and outcomes to enhance learning.
- Allocating resources to ensure a safe, accessible, and student-friendly learning environment.
- Maintaining integrity through interaction with Business and Industry Leadership Teams (BILT), our Board of Directors, and ensure compliance with approving agencies.
- Serving as a valued community leader and partner in the educational, economic, and workforce development of our service area.

Board of Directors Statement of Ownership: The Board of Directors for Manhattan Area Technical College has identified its moral ownership, to which it has a fiduciary or trusteeship responsibility, as the general public of the college's service areas.

VISION AND MISSION: The Vision and Mission of the Manhattan Area Technical College Board of Directors is to ensure that MATC strives to be a leader in postsecondary technical education in Kansas to prepare people for productive and enriched lives.

Attendance:
Board of Directors

Tim Flanary, Chair (Pottawatomie)
Brett Ballou (Riley)
Julie Crimmins (Clay)
Dan Strom (Pottawatomie)
Leslie Goodwin (Geary)

David Urban, Vice Chair (Riley)
John Armbrust (Riley)
Heather Peterson (Pottawatomie)
Stephanie Pierce (Riley)

Administration/Staff

James Genandt, President/CEO
Josh Gfeller, VP of Operations
Chris Boxberger, Academic Partnerships/Outreach
Kim Davis, Nursing Ed & Health
Peter Vopata, HR Coordinator
Andrew Caponera, Systems Admin/Asst Dir Facilities
Kim Withroder, Director Institutional Research

Pam Imperato, Special Advisor to President
Cara Prichard, Chief Financial Officer
Kerri Bellamy, Advanced Technologies
Neil Ross, Student Services
Brian Koch, Math Instructor, Chair Faculty Senate
Lisa Isaacson, Early Childhood Education
Suzy Baker, Exec Operations Coordinator, Board Clerk

Agenda (*items require Board action)

1. Call to Order
 - a. Introductions (if necessary)
 - b. Agenda revisions (if necessary)*
2. Executive Session
3. Tour of the Virtual Reality trailer
4. Consent Agenda*
 - a. Previous board minutes (**Attachment 1**)
 - b. Previous month check register and related financial information (**Attachment 2**)
 - c. Organizational update (**Attachment 3**)
5. General Agenda (*items that may require Board action)
 - a. Faculty Senate (**Attachment 4**)
 - b. Operations
 - i. Facilities update (Front sign completion, Critical Env Tech Lab update)
 - ii. Drainage project update (**Attachment 5**)
 - c. Finance
 - i. BHE expenditure report (**Attachment 6**)
 - ii. Finance Snapshot (**Attachment 7**)
 - iii. Kansas Board of Tax Appeals - Exemption application update
 - d. Academics
 - i. New Faculty
 - ii. Cybersecurity Technology & Electrical update (**Attachment 8**)
 - e. Partnerships/Outreach
 - i. Updates
 - ii. Manhattan Chamber Growth Plan and MATC
 - iii. Adult Ed/Workforce prep fee* (**Attachment 9**)

- iv. Flint Hills Community Accelerator - Childcare Business Initiative (**Attachment 10**)
- f. Resource Development
 - i. Patterson Grant (**Attachment 11**)
- g. Governance Monitoring Reports (as required)
 - i. General Executive Constraint* (**Attachment 12**)
 - ii. Overtime compliance update
- h. President's Report (**Attachment 13**) & HLC accreditation update
- i. Other
- 6. Board Process Review
- 7. Events/Meetings Calendar
 - a. Jan Board Meeting (Jan 28, 5:30p)
- 8. Adjournment

	Schedule of President's Monitoring Reports
Monthly Through BOD Meetings	1. GENERAL EXECUTIVE CONSTRAINT
Written Report in December	a) The President shall not cause or allow any practice, activity, decision or organizational circumstance which is illegal, imprudent, or unethical
June	2. TREATMENT OF PEOPLE
	a) With respect to treatment of students, staff, volunteers and the community, dealings shall not be inhumane, unfair, or undignified.
October	3. BUDGETING/FINANCIAL PLANNING/FORECASTING
	a) Budgeting shall not deviate significantly from board priorities, or risk fiscal jeopardy.
Quarterly (Reports to Include Both MATC Operating Financials as Well as MATC Foundation Impact)	4. FINANCIAL CONDITION
	a) With respect to the actual, ongoing condition of the organization's financial health, the President shall not cause or allow the development of fiscal jeopardy or a significant deviation of actual expenditures from board priorities established in policies.
	b) July – September
	c) October - December January – March
	d) April – June
Ongoing	5. INFORMATION AND ADVICE
	a) With respect to providing information and counsel to the board, the President shall not permit the board to be uninformed.
October	6. ASSET PROTECTION
	a) Assets shall not be unprotected, inadequately maintained, or unnecessarily risked.

October	<p>7. COMPENSATION/BENEFITS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) With respect to employment, compensation, and benefits to employees, consultants, contract workers, and volunteers, the President shall not cause or allow fiscal integrity or public image to be jeopardized. b) Annual Budget presented for approval if not done earlier (pending final state approval of appropriations and negotiations)
January & August	<p>8. STRATEGIC PLAN (General Executive Constraint & Board Governance Process)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Annual presentation of Strategic Plan...the President shall not operate the college without a Strategic Plan. b) Monitoring progress of Strategic Plan.
February & October	<p>9. ACHIEVMENT OF ENDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Vision & Mission b) Essential Skills c) Work Preparedness d) Workforce Development e) Leadership

Manhattan Area Technical College
Board of Directors Minutes
October 29, 2024/MATC Wamego Center (614 US 24)/5:30pm (zoom/live stream)

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Heather Peterson (Pottawatomie)

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Josh Gfeller, VP of Operations
Chris Boxberger, Academic Partnerships/Outreach
Kim Davis, Nursing Ed & Health
Brian Koch, Math Instructor, Chair Faculty Senate
Beth Dugan, Academic Advisor, Adult Education

Pam Imperato, Special Advisor to President
Cara Prichard, Chief Financial Officer
Kerri Bellamy, Advanced Technologies
Neil Ross, Student Services
Chelsea Weese, Chemistry Instructor
Suzy Baker, Executive Operations Coordinator, Board Clerk

Agenda (*items require Board action)

1. Call to Order - David Urban called meeting to order at 5:31p
 - a. Introductions (if necessary) - Beth Dugan, Chelsea Weese
 - b. Agenda revisions (if necessary)* - None.
2. Consent Agenda* - David motioned to approve, Heather 1st, Brett 2nd. 5 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.
 - a. Previous board minutes (**Attachment 1**)
 - b. Previous month check register and related financial information (**Attachment 2**)
 - c. Organizational update (**Attachment 3**)
3. General Agenda (*items that may require Board action)
 - a. Faculty Senate (**Attachment 4**) - Brian presented Faculty Updates document. Report will include Faculty professional development, new faculty updates & things happening within our programs. Brian will present this report at each board meeting moving forward.
 - b. Operations
 - i. Facilities update - Josh - front entrance project update. Sign is coming soon to the front entrance. Discussed water drainage issue in the back of the building. BHS has looked at the project & brought in Olsen to consult. Budget and BHS/Olsen estimates were discussed. Timeline is this fall/winter to get ahead of spring rains. It was decided we would accept bids for this project and Josh will present those at the next board meeting if they are able to get those done by then.
 - ii. Other?
 - c. Finance
 - i. BHE expenditure report (**Attachment 5**) - Josh presented monthly report.
 - ii. FY24 Actuals (see Governance Monitoring Report on Financial Condition below) (**Attachment 6**) - Cara presented FY24 actuals.
 - d. Academics
 - i. PAC/BILT Dinner Review - Jim - First annual dinner was well attended & feedback was positive. Great participation from staff & we look forward to building this. We will now try to do this each fall.

- ii. Presentation by Chelsea Weese, Science Faculty Member (**Attachment 7**) - Chelsea did a presentation on a conference she attended 'Mike Rowe Works'.
 - iii. Adult Education Update, Chris Boxberger - Chris did an overview on Adult Education. Jim spoke about the importance of this program. Chris is currently working on the grant renewal. Beth spoke about some of her current students and what her role is as their Academic Advisor.
- e. Partnerships/Outreach - This will be on the agenda for each meeting, no update today.
- f. Resource Development
 - i. Fundraising (**Attachment 8**) - Jim presented a document from the Greater Manhattan Foundation detailing our funds.
- g. Governance Monitoring Reports (as required) - Each approved separately.
 - i. Budgeting/Financial Planning/Forecasting* (**Attachment 9**) - Cara presented report. David motioned to approve. Heather first, Julie second, 5 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.
 - ii. Financial Condition* (**Attachment 10**) - Cara presented report, Jim discussed KBOR updates on finances, action will be taken once legislature is in session. Leslie questioned course expenses as it is high - Cara explained that number is based on max enrollment and max needs. That number is adjusted based on actual enrollments. Balance sheet was requested from the board. Board has requested we present a financial snapshot each month. Cara will put one together to show at the next board meeting for feedback. David motioned to approve Financial Condition Report. Brett first, Julie second, 5 yes, 0 no. Motion carried
 - iii. Compensation/Benefits* (**Attachment 11**) - Jim presented report. David motioned to approve Compensation/Benefits report. Leslie first, Brett second, 5 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.
 - iv. Achievement of Ends* - Carried into next meeting.
 - 1. This report will be provided at a later date as we are having a new economic impact analysis done (with other technical colleges) to have for the next legislative session.
- h. President's Report (**Attachment 12**) - Jim presented his monthly report. Jim discussed partnership with Manhattan Chamber, as well as the past month's activities. It was mentioned by Brett that Manhattan Chamber had many great things to say about MATC. Jim discussed the Dreamscapes trailer & that it was currently en route.
- i. Other
- 4. Board Process Review - Nothing to report this month, this is an agenda item that we will have on each agenda moving forward.
- 5. Events/Meetings Calendar
 - a. Nov/Dec Board Meeting (Dec 3, 5:30p)
- 6. Adjournment - David adjourned meeting at 6:50p.

	Schedule of President's Monitoring Reports
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To: MATC Board of Directors
 From: Administration
 Re: October Expenditures



December 3, 2024

Category	Costs	%
Payroll, Withholdings and Benefits (200, 230, 590)	\$ 432,890.52	50.27%
Facilities (510)	\$ 208,799.87	24.25%
Student Payments (110)	\$ 83,612.72	9.71%
Program Expenditures	\$ 108,393.19	12.59%
ALC Operating Costs (excludes salary/benefits) (900, 930, 931)	\$ 4,300.00	0.50%
Wamego (excluding salary/benefits)	\$ 2,365.84	0.27%
Other Operating costs	\$ 20,845.31	2.42%
Total October Expenditures	\$ 861,207.45	100%

***Expenditures occurring outside state appropriated funding, tuition/fees income, etc. as allocated for operations are noted

Threshold Expenditures > \$5,000				
Vendor Name	Item(s) Purchased	Cost	Department	Funding
IRS	PR 10.15.24 Payroll deductions	\$ 37,163.30	Institutional	
IRS	PR 10.31.24 Payroll deductions	\$ 39,459.77	Institutional	
KS Dept of Revenue	PR 10.15.24 Payroll deductions	\$ 7,923.94	Institutional	
KS Dept of Revenue	PR 10.31.24 Payroll deductions	\$ 8,261.66	Institutional	
BCBS	Health Insurance Premium	\$ 63,383.43	Institutional	
KPERS	PR 10.15.24 Payroll deductions	\$ 8,951.87	Institutional	
KPERS	PR 10.31.24 Payroll deductions	\$ 9,135.11	Institutional	
Evergy	Evergy- October 2024	\$ 12,618.64	Institutional	
Kenton Brothers	Phase 1 Security Upgrade- Remaining Costs	\$ 25,806.43	Institutional	Capital Outlay
BHS Construction	Front Entry Pay App #3	\$ 22,678.47	Institutional	Capital Outlay
BHS Construction	ATC Pay App #23	\$ 85,843.46	Institutional	
Watts Consulting	Harry Watts September Contract Hours	\$ 5,000.00	Institutional	
Sanity Solutions	Core Switches- Arista	\$ 54,121.95	Institutional	Cyber Security Grant
KS Dept of Revenue	Q3 2024 Sales Tax Payment- Student Tool Kits	\$ 20,906.71	Institutional	
Scenario Learning, LLC	HR Training	\$ 5,576.58	Institutional	
Cengage Learning	Mindcap Textbook Access Codes	\$ 5,472.00	Auto Tech	
ExamSoft Worldwide	Examsoft	\$ 7,200.00	Nursing	Nursing Grant
Trenchant Cyber	Cyber Security Curriculum	\$ 20,000.00	Institutional	Cyber Security Grant
Total October Expenditures Exceeding Threshold		\$ 439,503.32		



MEMORADUM TO: The Board of Directors
FROM: Jim Genandt, President
 Human Resources
DATE: December 3, 2024
SUBJECT: Consent Agenda: Organizational Update

New Hire/Rehires					
Employee Name	Position Title	DOH	Department	Funding Source	Status
Brian Braun	Full-Time Plumbing Instructor	12/2/2024	CEM Faculty	Operating	New Hire
Promotions/Title Changes					
Employee Name	Position Title	DOC	Department	Funding Source	Status
Separations/Retirements					
Employee Name	Position Title	DOS	Department	Funding Source	Status
Emmiley Springfield	RTC Proctoring Generalist	10/30/2024	Testing Center	Operating	Separation
New/Advertised Positions					
Position Title			Department	Funding Source	Status
Adjunct Faculty & Clinical Instructors			Academics & Nursing	Operating	Open
Concurrent Instructors			Academic Partnerships & Outreach	Operating	Open
Proctoring & Business Assistant			Testing Center & Business Office	Operating	Open
Full-Time Associate Degree Nursing Instructor			Nursing Faculty	Operating	Open
Full-Time Admissions Coordinator			Student Services	Operating	Open
Full-Time Plumbing Instructor			CEM Faculty	Operating	Open
Full-Time Electrical Instructor			CEM Faculty	Operating	Open
Full-Time HVAC Instructor			CEM Faculty	Operating	Open
HVAC Program Assistant & Adjunct			Academic Staff	Operating	Open

FACULTY UPDATES BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

December 3, 2024

1. Business, Early Childhood Education, and General Education

- **KCWE Classroom Management and Student Motivation PD:** Chelsea, Matt, and Rachel attended the KCWE Classroom Management and Student Motivation interactive workshop in Emporia on November 1, where they learned strategies to manage face-to-face better, online, and laboratory classroom environments to enhance student learning. This led to Dr. Greg Belcher, the facilitator, agreeing to host the same workshop on our campus during spring in-service.
 - [Check out the Facebook post for more information: Click here](#)
- **Guest Speaker Doug Barrett:** Last week, Mrs. Hansen's Intro to Sociology, had the privilege of hosting Doug Barrett, a renowned local artist whose work has been featured in prestigious publications like Time Magazine and National Geographic. Mr. Barrett is a talented artist and a strong advocate for anti-racism. Through his art and activism, he has given Black Kansas farmers a renewed voice of hope. His visit sparked meaningful conversations and ignited a sense of purpose. This week, the students are presenting their own advocacy projects. Experiences like these enrich the lives of students and raises the bar in education.
 - Here is a link to Doug Barrett's "Ghosts of the Plains":
<https://hawcontemporary.com/exhibition/ghost-of-the-plains>
- **The Early Childhood Education Program:** The Early Childhood Education program has been approved by our PAC and final changes of course numbers have been approved by the Curriculum Committee. We will be moving forward to KBOR. The first course, ECE 115 Infant and Toddler Care and Education, is almost completely built in Canvas. There are twelve courses which should be developed by July 2025.
- **Business Graduates:** Business graduates will be attending the December 14 graduation.

2. Auto Tech, Industrial Tech, Welding, and Cybersecurity

- **MACS:** Jeff recently attended.

3. Construction, EPD, HVAC, Plumbing, and Electrical

- **Plumbing Program:** Brian Braun is the new plumbing instructor and starts December 2.
- **NCCER AGC Skilled Trade Instructor Development:** Ed and Kerri attended on November 7
- **Construction Tech Projects:** Students are building solar panels and signs.
- **EPD Graduates:** Graduates will be attending the December 14 graduation.

4. Nursing (AND/PN), Medical Laboratory Technician, and Healthcare

- **Capstone Simulation:** Second semester ADN students have a capstone simulation Friday November 22nd (Rachel, Chris, Suzy helping with this)
- **ADN Graduation:** 9 ADN students are graduating in December
- **Stormont Vail Flint Hills Campus Clinicals:** PN Students have been attending Stormont Vail Flint Hills Campus for clinical on Tuesdays and Wednesdays this semester. We will be increasing from 4-5 students to 8 students in spring as their patient census is consistently supporting the student needs.

- **Kansas Council of Associate Degree Nursing's Fall Education Forum:** All nursing faculty attended the Kansas Council of Associate Degree Nursing's Fall Education Forum in Wichita in October. **This conference focused on teaching today's nursing students utilizing a variety of methods and self-care strategies for faculty.**

5. Adult Education (ESL and GED)

- **Non-profit coffee shop/global cuisine bistro:** Michelle McCray is working with MART on a unique business concept that offers an opportunity to create meaningful employment that showcases the talents of refugees in our community. The concept includes a morning coffee shop and an evening global bistro. Michelle is deeply committed to serving this community as an adult and ESL educator and will provide more updates as they come.

Flint Hills Siteworks				Bayer Construction		
Pipe Materials	\$18,566.00			mobilization	\$2,000.00	
Pipe Labor	\$8,400.00			remove storm sewer	\$700.00	
Pipe install	\$19,760.00			remove inlet	\$1,390.00	
Concrete Labor	\$3,000.00			remove sidewalk	\$1,015.00	
Concrete Pump	\$2,500.00			construction staking	\$880.00	
Concrete material	\$3,250.00			grass swale	\$505.00	
Concrete Install Cost	\$4,200.00			concrete flume	\$2,996.00	
Tall fescue sod	\$8,230.00			trickle chanel	\$2,600.00	
backfill, material, erosion control	\$12,490.00			8 inch HDPE	\$15,835.50	
Total	\$80,396.00			24 nyoblast	\$4,150.00	
				30 byoplast	\$6,000.00	
BHS				connections	\$1,335.00	
General Conditions	\$2,400.00			donwlsput adapter	\$4,120.00	
General Requirement	\$2,127.00			replace sidewalk	\$2,380.00	
Drainage Improvement	\$27,040.00			raise grade along footings	\$760.00	
Swalke Constructino	\$1,433.00			grading	\$1,100.00	
Seeding	\$900.00			silt fence	\$380.00	
Concrete removal and	\$7,250.00			straw wattle	\$350.00	
insurance	\$1,234.50			seeding	\$1,300.00	
fee	\$4,238.45			traffic control	\$1,880.00	
contigency	\$5,000.00			Total	\$51,676.50	
Total	\$51,622.95					



Dec 2nd 2024

MEMORADUM

TO: FROM:

**MATC Board of Directors
James Genandt, President/CEO
Josh Gfeller, VPO/CISO**

SUBJECT:RTC Drainage Requests for Proposal

Background Information

MATC submitted an RFP per policy 6.2.1 Authorization to Purchase and policy 6.2.2. sealed bid policy. Three proposals were submitted from BHS, Bayer Construction, and Flint Hills Site Works. Based on pricing and timeline Administration recommends the proposal submitted by BHS for \$51,622.95.

Recommendation

The Administration respectfully requests the Board accepts the bid to move forward with RFP submitted by BHS. MATC requests utilization of capital outlay to fund the proposal.

To: MATC Board of Directors				Attachment 6		Estimated Proj. Amount	\$ 16,300,000.00
From: Administration						Appraisal	\$ 15,900,000.00
Re: October BHE 2024 Expenditures						Total Project Budget	\$ 15,540,085.00
						Loan Amount	\$ 11,130,000.00
						Closing Costs	\$ 111,704.00
	Category	Funds	Expended	Remaining			
	BHE Loan (70% of Appraisal)	\$ 11,130,000.00	\$11,130,000.00	\$ -		Total Amount of Contingency Approved	\$ 773,453.00
						Total Amount of Contingency Remaining	-
	ARPA	\$ 1,843,594.00	\$1,843,594.00	\$ -		Total Amount of Owner Contingency	-
	Capital Outlay		\$ -			Total Amount of Allowances Approved	\$ 741,318.00
						Total Amount of Allowances Remaining	-
						Total Project	\$ 15,540,085.00
						Remaining	\$ 2,110,698.40
Expenditures							
Total as of September 30, 2024					\$ 13,927,607.49		
Vendor	Invoice			Invoice Date	Pay Amount		Funding
BHS Construction	BHS Pay App #23			10/24/2024	\$85,843.46		Gen Fund
BBN Architects	Sept Invoice			10/3/2024	\$5,228.63		Donations
Kansas State Bank	September Interest Payment			10/28/2024	\$74,107.25		Donations
	Total October Expenditures				\$ 165,179.34		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2024					\$ 14,092,786.83		

Finance Snapshot

Cash Available as of 11/21/24:

Money Market	\$ 3,538,335.69
Activities Account	\$ 97,680.66
Operational Account	\$ 301,608.22
Faculty Association	\$ 2,163.80
KS State Bank Checking	\$ 180,571.40
CD	\$ 1,000,000.00
GMCF- BHE Fund (Used for BHE/ATC payments)	\$ 782,155.49
Total	<u>\$ 5,902,515.26</u>

Long Term Liabilities*

Roof Lease (KS State Bank)	\$ 475,609.30
<i>Yearly payment of \$108,894 due 5/21/25</i>	
Wamego Lease (Central Tax)	\$ 1,160,630.56
<i>Yearly payment of \$100,969 due 2/27/25</i>	
ATC Lease (KS State Bank)	\$ 11,130,000.00
<i>Monthly payments of \$88,578.93 start 9/15/25</i>	
	<u>\$ 12,766,239.86</u>

*Principal Balance



Cybersecurity Technology Degree Map

AAS Associate of Applied Science

64 Credit Hours

Year 1

34 Credit Hours

Fall Semester

Course Code	Course Title	Certificate	Credits
CYB 100	Applied Computing and Network Technology I	A B C	3
CYB 105	Applied Computing and Network Technology II	A B C	3
CYB 110	Network Technology Applications	A B C	3
CYB 115	Computer Programming Essentials	A B C	3
CYB 120	Cybersecurity Fundamentals	A B C	4
Gen Ed Option	Suggested: Math Option		3

Spring Semester

Course Code	Course Title	Certificate	Credits
CYB 125	Internet of Things (IoT): Implementing Security and Protection	B C	3
CYB 130	Application of Data Analytics and AI to Cybersecurity	B C	3
CYB 135	Cloud Computing Fundamentals	B C	3
CYB 140	Cybersecurity Governance Risk and Compliance	B C	3
Gen Ed Option	Suggested: Comm. Option	B C	3

Year 2

30 Credit Hours

Fall Semester

Course Code	Course Title	Certificate	Credits
CYB 200	Advanced Cybersecurity Applications	C	3
CYB 205	Cybersecurity Programming and Automation	C	3
CYB 210	Advanced Network Security and Intrusion Analysis Skills	C	3
CYB 215	Capstone I	C	3
CYB 220	Occupational Work Experience I		
Gen Ed Elective			3

Spring Semester

Course Code	Course Title	Certificate	Credits
CYB 225	Enterprise Defense Systems and Strategies	C	3
CYB 230	Cybersecurity Operations: Defense and Incident Response	C	3
CYB 235	Capstone II	C	3
CYB 240	Occupational Work Experience II		
Gen Ed Option	Suggested: English Option		3
Gen Ed Elective			3

Elective Options

Math Option

MAT 109	Technical Mathematics II	3
MAT 111	Contemporary Math	3
or higher Math course		

English Option

COM 105	English Composition I	3
COM 110	Technical Writing	3

Communications Option

COM 115	Public Speaking	3
COM 116	Interpersonal Communications	3

Gen Ed Elective Options

6 additional Gen Ed credits.
Full general education elective list is located online: manhattantech.edu/gened

Cert. C Certificate A Requirements

16 Credit Hours

Courses marked with "A"

Cert. C Certificate B Requirements

31 Credit Hours

Courses marked with "B"

Cert. C Certificate C Requirements

52 Credit Hours

Courses marked with "C"



Electrical Technology Degree Map

AAS Associate of Applied Science

66 Credit Hours

Year 1

32 Credit Hours

Fall Semester

•• Online class - must be completed in order to enroll in the second semester.

Course Code	Course Title	Certificate	Credits
ELT 100	OSHA10 ••	B	1
ELT 105	AC/DC Circuits	B	4
ELT 110	National Electrical Code I	B	4
ELT 115	Print Reading	B	2
ELT 120	Residential Wiring I	B	3
Gen Ed Option	Suggested: Math Option		3

Spring Semester

Course Code	Course Title	Certificate	Credits
ELT 125	National Electrical Code II	B	4
ELT 130	Troubleshooting	B	2
ELT 135	Commercial Wiring I	B	4
ELT 140	Motor Controls	B	2
Gen Ed Option	Suggested: English Option		3

Year 2

34 Credit Hours

Fall Semester

Course Code	Course Title	Certificate	Credits
ELT 200	National Electrical Code III	B	4
ELT 205	Motor Controls II	B	2
ELT 210	Troubleshooting II	B	2
ELT 215	Schematics	B	2
Gen Ed Elective			3
Gen Ed Elective			3

Spring Semester

Course Code	Course Title	Certificate	Credits
ELT 220	Programmable Logic Controllers	B	3
ELT 225	Controls & Automation	B	2
ELT 230	NEC IIII- Journeyman's Exam Prep	B	4
ELT 235	Occupational Work Experience	B	5
ELT 240	Forklift Training		1
Gen Ed Elective			3

Elective Options

Math Option

MAT 109	Technical Mathematics II	3
MAT 111	Contemporary Math	3
or higher Math course		

English Option

COM 105	English Composition I	3
COM 110	Technical Writing	3

Gen Ed Elective Options

9 additional Gen Ed credits.
Full general education elective list is located online:
manhattantech.edu/gened

Cert. B Certificate B Requirements

40 Credit Hours

Course Code	Course Title	Credits
Courses marked with - B		34
Gen Ed Option	English Option	3
MAT 101	Technical Mathematics I or higher	3

Updated: 11/04/24 - Program information and requirements subject to change, see website for most updated information

Manhattan Area Technical College is an open institution and does not discriminate. For Manhattan Tech's non-discrimination policy and a full list of regulatory specific contact persons visit: www.manhattantech.edu/hr

Workforce Preparation Credit Hour Fee Proposal

Adult Education has operated in the last 5 years with approximately \$118,000 from “local” funds. The requirement of the grant is that the institution must guarantee a 50% match to the federal award amount each year. In years past, this has been approximately \$120,000, so a minimum of \$60,000 is required.

To help support the Adult Learning Center, and to lessen the strain on MATC’s general fund, we are proposing an increase of \$10 to the credit hour fee and introducing a Workforce Preparation Fee. At an estimate of 8,000 credit hours, this additional fee will provide \$80,000 in additional revenue to help support Adult Education. The Workforce Preparation Fee will allow all students access to Adult Education/GED/ESL courses, and we will also offer more resume and workforce preparation workshops.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 1, 2024



**Contact: Lisa Sederlin Issacson, Executive Director, FHCA/CBI,
Director of Early Childhood Education, MATC
785.320.4435 – lisaisacson@manhattantech.edu**

Groundbreaking Ceremony Held for Childcare Business Initiative Project in Manhattan

Manhattan, KS - The Greater Manhattan Community Foundation (GMCF), in partnership with the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce and Ascension Via Christi, proudly celebrated the groundbreaking of the highly anticipated Childcare Business Initiative Project on October 9, 2024. The ceremony, held at 2423 Kimball Avenue, marked the beginning of a crucial initiative aimed at addressing the local childcare shortage, which has been a significant barrier for workforce re-entry and economic growth in the region.

"It has been both an honor and a pleasure to steer this ship! High quality early care and education are monumentally important not only to the children and families of our communities, but to the future of our workforce," said Lisa Sederlin Issacson, Executive Director, FHCA/CBI and Director of Early Childhood Education, MATC. *"Family childcare that is embedded within our neighborhoods is the answer to sustainable childcare that is beneficial for all. Lest we never forget the African proverb, 'It takes a village to raise a child.' An entire community of people is needed to provide a safe and healthy environment for children. We are very fortunate to live in a community where children and families are valued and prioritized by so many. The immense support we have received for this project is exhilarating!"*

The project, made possible by \$5.6 million in grants from the State of Kansas and land lease from Ascension Via Christi, was designed to tackle the urgent need for additional childcare capacity. Currently, an estimated 1,400 childcare slots are needed in Riley County. The Childcare Business Initiative aims to provide a sustainable solution to this problem by creating a unique space for entrepreneurial childcare providers to start and grow their businesses.

The groundbreaking ceremony featured remarks from key community leaders, including:

- U.S. Senator Jerry Moran
- Sara Bloom, Quality Places Manager, Kansas Department of Commerce, representing Governor Laura Kelly
- Lisa Sederlin Isaacson, M.S., Executive Director, FHCA/CBI, Director of Early Childhood Education, MATC
- Jason Smith, CEcD
President/CEO, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce
- Melissa Bowles, Owner/Director, Happy Hearts Childcare

These community and state leaders emphasized the importance of the initiative for both economic development and family well-being. The event also included a symbolic groundbreaking moment, with children from Happy Hearts Childcare participating alongside the project's key supporters.

"So, we have safe children," said Senator Jerry Moran at the groundbreaking ceremony. "Parents who understand that their children are in good care. We are educating and training new owners of businesses and new workers, and we are creating an environment in which businesses decide they can afford to stay or can come to Manhattan for purposes of doing business. And by that, we mean putting people to work and providing jobs, something we generally call the American Dream. This [Flint Hills Community Accelerator] is a great combination of so many things that matter so much. It is so important that we recognize this accomplishment."

The Childcare Business Initiative Project will operate similarly to a business incubator, helping new childcare providers establish their businesses while offering training, mentorship, and operational support. Over time, these providers will graduate to run independent childcare businesses, either from their homes or at new locations, creating a dynamic flow of new childcare options in the region. The facility will be equipped to launch up to eight new childcare businesses every year, significantly expanding the number of available slots for children in the Manhattan area.

This initiative comes after extensive planning and collaboration between local business leaders, childcare providers, and community organizations. A task force, assembled by the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce in 2021, identified the childcare shortage as a key obstacle for workforce attraction and retention. Surveys conducted by the Chamber revealed that childcare access was one of the top concerns for local employers and employees, with existing childcare facilities only meeting about 50% of the demand in Riley County and 56% in Pottawatomie County.

With the capacity to provide 96 childcare slots, CBI addresses this shortage while fostering a stronger childcare ecosystem. CBI's model ensures each business can thrive within the program and transition smoothly into the broader community after 12-18 months, continuing to alleviate the childcare shortage long term.

The Childcare Business Initiative is part of the larger Flint Hills Community Accelerator (FHCA), a collaborative effort composed of four key partners:

- **Childcare Business Accelerator:** Provides information, training, and support for childcare providers and professionals, helping them establish and grow their businesses.
- **Manhattan Area Technical College (MATC):** Developed a new childcare program with dedicated faculty to provide hands-on training and education for future childcare professionals.

- **KANSASWORKS Manhattan Workforce Center/Heartland Works, Inc.:** Offers space in the Flint Hills area to support individuals seeking employment and education opportunities.
- **Manhattan Free Clinic:** Expands clinical services to the western part of Manhattan, making healthcare more accessible for families in the region.

The Childcare Business Initiative will also support early care and education students through hands-on practicums and training opportunities, fostering the next generation of childcare professionals. In addition, it will collaborate with health and wellness professionals to support families during prenatal and post-natal care, helping to alleviate the financial and workforce stress caused by the lack of affordable childcare.

As part of the project's broader impact, the initiative will engage the business community in training programs supporting employee childcare benefits, while also facilitating workforce recruitment events and outreach to recruit family providers. The project aims to serve as a model for sustainable childcare solutions across Kansas.

The Childcare Business Initiative Project represents a collaborative, innovative approach to addressing Manhattan's childcare crisis, creating long-term benefits for children, families, and the local economy. For more information and future updates, visit our Facebook page, @ChildcareBusinessInitiative or website at childcarebusinessinitiative.org. You can also reach out directly to Lisa Sederlin Isaacson, Director of Early Childhood Education, at lisaisaacson@manhattantech.edu or 785.320.4435.

Patterson Family Foundation Technical College Capacity Grant

Award Amount: \$668,576

Duration: December 2024 – December 2027

Targeted Geographic Areas: Clay, Dickinson, Geary Marshall, Morris, Nemaha, Pottawatomie and Waubensee.

Patterson Family Foundation (PFF): Mission is to “..... help rural communities thrive.” Serves rural counties across Kansas and western Missouri.

Purpose of Technical Capacity Grants: To strengthen key industries identified as, “the backbone of America’s economy and vital to the health and well-being of rural communities.” (PFF) Manhattan Tech has long been a leader in these professions, including Welding, Construction/Carpentry, HVAC-R, Electrical, Automotive Services, and Industrial Machinery Mechanics.

Manhattan Goals and Outcomes:

1. **Enhance the Talent Pipeline in Rural-Critical Fields**: Increased student participation (grades 6-12) in performance-based activities strengthening the talent pipeline.
2. **Build Technological Proficiency**: Students will engage in Augmented and Virtual Reality (AR/VR) active learning modules that will also include integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology, and hands-on learning experiences to develop, build skills and sustain interest in rural-critical fields.
3. **Achieve Credentials and College Credit**: Students will be provided with the opportunity to earn industry recognized credentials and college credits at no cost, leading to certificates and degrees in areas targeted as rural-critical.
4. **Develop Teachers**: Junior and high school teachers will receive training, equipment, and ongoing mentoring to effectively teach hands-on and technology-enabled lessons in rural-critical fields.
5. **Create Community Engagement**: Parents, counselors, and community workforce specialists will participate in sessions to better understand and promote careers in rural-critical fields to area youth.

Impact Approaches:

Student Engagement: Brings MATC to rural school districts through a Mobile Technology Lab. The Tech Lab provides AR/VR tools that build awareness around career options in rural-critical fields. This enhances MATC efforts to provide education and training in these locations to jumpstart participants toward skills courses connected to technical training, college bearing courses and industry-recognized credentials.

Teacher Training: Teachers play a role in shaping students’ career choices. We aim to build the capacity of middle and high school teachers educating them around rural-critical fields and provide reinforcing educational experiences that continue students’ exposure, exploration, and engagement in these areas. This includes teacher training, classroom equipment (Tech Packs), and ongoing support from MATC faculty and staff.

Community Outreach: By engaging key influencers such as parents, caregivers, guidance counselors, community youth leaders and business professionals, we aim to raise awareness of these career fields as desirable professions. This will help sustain student interest and encourage them to pursue training, educational opportunities, and employment in these areas. Additionally, outreach may have a spillover effect, broadening awareness within the community.

Performance Targets/Outcome Measures

Based on data from the Kansas Board of Education, there are 31 high schools and 30 junior high schools in the rural counties focused upon in this grant. Total enrollment of students is 10,660 students based on 2022-23 data. Of this total, 7,021 are high school students and 3,639 are in grades 6-8.

- **Student Engagement**: At least 50% of grades 6-8 students in targeted rural counties served by Manhattan Technical College will participate in at least one facilitated general Career Exploration experience in rural critical fields of focus during the grant period.

- **Impact**: This is anticipated to impact an estimated 1819 student, directly building their awareness of rural-critical fields.

- **Student Engagement**: At least 33% students in grades 6-12 in school districts in the targeted counties will engage in at least two critical area content-specific education experiences either through the Mobile Tech Lab, Tech Paks, or MATC Community Outreach experiences during the grant period.

- **Impact**: This will impact an estimated 3517 students, provided with AV/VR or hands-on experience in a rural critical field.

- **Credential Achievement**: At least one opportunity will be presented to students in grades 6-12 to earn a national recognized, entry-level certificate (i.e. NC3, Industry 4.0 credential) will be made available to a minimum of 200 students in 20 middle and/or senior high schools in the targeted areas with a target of 50% of participating students earning the credential.

- **Impact**: Anticipate 100 students receiving an entry level industry certification during the grant period.

- **Student Engagement**: 20 high school classes each year of the project in our targeted rural counties will engage in teacher-led experiential learning using Tech Pack equipment and materials which focus on a rural critical area field of focus.

- **Impact**: Anticipate 960 students (16-person class size estimate) participating in teacher-led experiential learning.

- **Career Pursuit/Post HS Education**: Of students who have participated in credential achievement programs offered through this grant or have taken MATC CTE-concurrent courses during the grant period, a minimum of 50% will indicate interest in pursuing rural-critical fields of focus employment or continuing education in the area.

- **Impact**: Anticipate a minimum of 272 students indicating interest in pursuing employment or continuing education in the area. (number based on annual CTE enrollment over three years for rural areas of focus- 258 and credential achievement estimate -286)

- **Behavioral Change/Students**: Of students initially indicating a “negative” or “unaware” indication of rural-critical fields of focus, fifty percent will move to a “neutral” or “considering” indication following a grant-based intervention occurring at school or a community or employer activity. We are conservatively only including direct school -based outreach of 5336 students (1819 middle school students and 3517 high school students) hypothesizing that 50% will have a “negative” or “unaware” perception.

- **Impact**: Anticipated that 1334 students would have a shift in opinion, predicated on student participants engaging in an outreach experience.

- **Behavioral Change/Parents, Guidance Counselors and Community Mentors:** 75% percent of parents, guidance counselors and community mentors will become promoters of rural critical careers of focus following participation in parent and community-based experiences for these groups using Tech Lab facilitated AV/VR and hands on experiences. We are conservatively estimating that 25% of parents (assuming one-parent participation) will experience some type of direct grant-based exposure. We will use this estimate to hypothesize the impact number for the behavioral change of the parent/guidance counselor/community mentor population, understanding that a parent may only attend one event and have multiple children.

- **Impact:** An anticipated outreach of 2665 persons (based on 25% one-parent participation, one guidance counselor per school and six community mentors per county) with 1999 persons designating themselves as a promoter of rural critical field of focus.

-**Capacity Building/Teacher Training:** To provide teachers with the resources and training necessary to integrate education around rural-critical fields of focus.

- **Impact:** Our outcome measure is to provide 61 teachers, representing one per school in the service area over the duration of the grant. However, we are committed to providing every interested teacher with the training and resources needed to do so.

-**Community Outreach:** Provide community members and job seekers hands-on and AR/VR exposure and career exploration in conjunction with area employers.

- **Impact:** Manhattan Technical College Tech Lab will attend at least three community and/or employer sponsored events in each county each year of the grant for a total of 81 public events during the grant period. This outreach would provide community members and job seekers with hands-on and AR/VR exposure and Career Exploration in rural critical field of focus areas.

BUDGET (As submitted):

Mobile Lab: 32-foot towable trailer, professionally manufactured and designed to MATC specifications, Mobile Tech Lab, ADA accessible w/all needed computer hardware for Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality (AR/VR), ADA access, electrics, generator, climate controlled. \$101,872.00

Supplies and Equipment:

VR/AR Software: To include unlimited number of subscriptions for software, on-site set-up, configuration for Mobile Lab and participating schools, Train the Trainer Teacher Education services, virtual reality modules and programs in areas to include, but not limited to: Career Explorer modules (K-12), Electric Learning track, Maintenance and Repair, Industrial Machinery Mechanics, Industrial Robotics, Advance Manufacturing, Welding, Automotive, ongoing technology support \$100,000.00

Educational Equipment:

FESTO PLC and Sensors Kit (QTY 1):	\$26,719.00
FESTO Electricity AC/DC Training System (QTY 5)	\$47,025
FESTO MechLab Training System FESTO (QTY 5)	\$64,760
FESTO Bionics 4Education Bionics Kit FESTO (QTY 20)	\$16,500
Robotic Arm FANUC LR Mate 200id 4-axis	\$20,000
3D all in one goggle kit, adjustable strap Oculus (QTY 20)	\$10,000
3D Printer Dremel 3D45	\$2,2000

Personnel:

Mobile Tech Lab Specialist Salary and Benefits (50% of 73K/yr x 3 years/.5) \$109,500

Grades 6-12 Teacher Stipends (for participation in training and ongoing professional development, 20-21 teachers per year to represent each of the schools in district for a total of 61 stipends at 2,000 per teacher)

\$122,000

MATC Faculty Mentor Stipends for ongoing mentoring, and training of junior and high school teachers throughout the project. (For 4 MATC instructors at 2K for each mentor each term for a total of six terms)

\$48,000

Funded Total: \$668,576

In Kind Contributions by Manhattan Technical College (3-yr period)

Tech Lab Specialist Salary and Benefits (50% of 73K/yr x 3/.5) \$109,500

F250 Dual Cab Pick Up Truck (late model used) \$45,000

External Industry Certification (estimate for QTY 100 certificates) \$2000

Scholarship Award (1K scholarship concurrently enrolled HS student in targeted rural area who subsequently enrolls in a Manhattan Tech Program during grant period) \$100,000 (cap)

In-Kind Total: \$256,500

President's Report: November-December 2024

Institutional Performance

Regional Growth Plan with MHK Chamber: MATC is working with Chamber leaders for implementation strategies targeting MATC's workforce capacity and capability. Housing related programs will be the initial component: construction, HVAC, plumbing, and electrician programs. This is a significant opportunity for the College to play a key role in the regional housing issues, as well as reinforcing that skilled workforce for area employers.

Patterson Family Foundation Grant/Project: MATC is receiving \$668,000 grant over 2024 and 2025 for a rural workforce initiative to meet the goals of the Patterson Family Foundation. Pamela, Chris, and Josh will provide an update during our meeting.

Institutional Leadership

10/30 Chris, Brian Koch and I had a Zoom meeting with KBOR Adult Ed staff. We are discussing how we can continue and expand innovation practices developed by our adult education staff, Brian, and KBOR staff to other providers in the state. The Regents are requesting additional new funding for adult education in the state as the funding lags behind what is needed to move more citizens through their high school equivalency as well as more skilled workforce education.

10/31 & 11/21 I participated in TEA meetings for the Kansas Technical Colleges. One of the projects the TEA is pursuing with KBOR staff is to review current course funding practices to ensure that funding is consistent to the institutions through their qualifying courses.

11/1 & 11/22 KTC Presidents meetings have discussed debt financing, grants, collaboration, funding, and issues arising between affiliated and non-affiliated institutions. Our lobbyist is working with state representative Howe on statutory language to be proposed for the base operating grant.

11/12-15 I attended the American Association of Community Colleges fall conference as I serve on their Commission on Small and Rural Colleges. We received updates from their federal staff on likely changes from the election. There are few major projected impacts on higher education at this time (could quickly change). I also visited with staff from USDA and we are looking into some rural development innovation grant programs for possible opportunities to pursue resources.

11/18 Pamela and I participated in a BioScience Workforce Group meeting as K-State and its partners transition from the NSF Engine project. We continue to collaborate with the University and other project partners as well as KC-based organizations to continue to advance workforce education in support of research and economic development opportunities in the region.

11/19 I met with Greg (President of Salina Tech) and Caron (President of Flint Hills Tech) to discuss ways to collaborate, including possible consortium options. We will meet with our lobbyist Steve Kearney in December to develop a few options related to sharing programs, coordinating certain services for potential cost-savings and other efficiencies, etc.

11/20 The November KBOR meeting was at K-State. Neil was able to attend the afternoon session (an experience he may soon forget! 😊). Discussion items with KBOR leadership included efforts to provide tuition/fee-free general education to high school students, the importance of our technical program advisory committee members, and funding.

11/21 I was notified that BioKansas would like me to join their board of directors to help advance bioscience/technology related efforts in our region.

12/2 Jessica Gnad, Director of K-State 105, will visit campus and learn how we can work with that initiative of the University.

12/3 I participated in the MHK Chamber Workforce Committee meeting.

External Relations

10/30 Harry and I met with Kurt Fischer, Regional Market President for Intrust Bank, to thank that organization for their support of the ATC and to discuss other ways to work with each other.

11/1 Harry, Chris, and I attended the EBL meeting and Jason Smith's presentation to that group of the Regional Growth Plan.

11/1 Harry and I met with Mayor Susan Adamchak & City Manager Danielle Dulin in the ATC and shared about MATC and our capacities to assist the city with economic development.

11/6 Kim Davis and I attended a Geary Co. Healthcare Taskforce meeting. In attendance were Bob and Teresa Bramlage, staff of Stormont Vail, USD 475, and Cloud County Community College. We are exploring collaboration to grow the healthcare workforce and credentialed faculty.

11/6 Harry, Chris and I attended the GMCF semi-annual meeting. I provided updates as to how MATC is using resources through GMCF to advance childcare, the ATC, and healthcare capacity.

11/7 I attended the annual meeting of BioNexus KC. I met the new CEO of the Patterson Family Foundation and networked with other bioscience organizations and businesses. MATC was recognized by BioNexus KC for our collaboration.

11/11 I had a 30-minute one-on-one zoom with the executive director of AFIT (Alliance For Innovation and Transformation) discussing ways to provide leadership training in entrepreneurship and innovation for higher education leaders with a certificate of completion.

11/11 Harry, Suzy and I met with Sharla from the Chamber to discuss the levels of MATC sponsorship and engagement with Chamber events.

11/19 I attended the MHK Chamber Board meeting.

12/2 We had a meeting with the Manhattan Director of Stormont Vail (Kim, Harry, Chris) & Andrew Brookens (with Kim D., Harry, and Chris) to make him aware of our healthcare capabilities for workforce.

Budgetary/Fiscal Management (see financial information in this agenda and attachments)

Relations with the Board

(Hope we are ok!)

Accreditation/Continuous Improvement

The unofficial HLC Draft Report of our Institutional Review and Additional Off Campus Locations appears to be well received and a successful review. We are waiting on final action by the Institutional Action Committee of the Higher Learning Commission on the reports.

Technical Righting

With some notable exceptions, four-year institutions overall are struggling to maintain enrollments. That's not remotely the case for technical colleges in Missouri and Kansas.

Nine years. That's the current success metric at State Technical College of Missouri, where the fall semester produced a ninth straight record year of enrollment, hitting 2,415 students. Since the start of that streak, enrollment at the two-year program in Linn, Mo., has nearly doubled, up 90 percent.

With more to come: "Our current projects," says President Shawn Strong, "will help enable our next enrollment milestone of 3,000 students." That's not far in the future if trends since 2018 hold. In that span, enrollment is up 53 percent.

What's happening in Linn matters. "Skilled work force is the greatest problem facing Missouri employers," he said. "We do one thing, and we do it very well: prepare the work force. Employers know when they get a State Tech resume, they are getting a quality employee."

StateTechMo, to borrow from its X account, is by no means alone. To the west, technical colleges in Kansas have enjoyed robust growth as well, shrugging off the early pandemic enrollment pullback to post combined growth of more than 18 percent since 2018.

by Dennis Boone



Driving that is what James Genandt, president and CEO of Manhattan Area Technical College calls “a sea change” in the way members of Gen Z, in particular, are viewing their post-high school options and the way employers—in aviation, advanced manufacturing, IT, health care, applied technologies, culinary and hospitality settings—have expressed their appetite for hiring students with training that can be put to use immediately.

High school graduates today, Genandt says, “might have heard their older brothers, sisters, parents, others discussing student debt, seeing them struggling to find a job with that philosophy degree. There are a lot of folks who would say some of this current generation isn’t as smart. These kids are very smart. It’s a different smart. They don’t want to listen to somebody, but they’ll watch a video, and they’ll practice doing things, and they’ll use gadgets. That’s the way the world works anymore. I think what we’re seeing is a sea change for all of higher education that’s taking a long time for a lot of higher education to grab onto.”

Multiple other factors have conspired to throttle enrollment at traditional four-year and liberal arts institutions. Foremost among them is cost; the average sticker price at a liberal arts college in the U.S. (often steeply discounted for better-qualifying students) topped \$43,500 last year. Compare that to \$5,715 at the Wichita State University’s Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology. Or the \$7,361 at StateTechMo, after scholarships and grants.

Beyond cost, though:

- Demographics have cut deeply into four-year enrollments, with numbers of high school graduates generally in retreat since 2010.

- Armies of liberal arts degree holders have been unable to leverage their credentials into careers in those chosen fields; some studies have shown that more than half of the nation’s college graduates now hold jobs that don’t require a college degree.

- And it hasn’t helped that social is-

ssues driving campus unrest over the past decade—entailing racial division, gender equity, and, most recently, war in the Middle East—have given some parents pause as to whether they want to pay six figures for certain degrees, or risk going that far into debt.

By contrast, technical college programs can provide students a short pathway to high-paying jobs within industries starving for talent, and in many cases, they can begin their careers without significant school loan debt, if any.

“I think there’s a real awakening in terms of the value that’s brought to Kansas and the work force and to the students from the technical colleges and just how relevant and quickly applicable the skills are that they get,” says Steve Kearney, a Topeka lawyer who also serves as director of the Kansas Association of Technical Schools and Colleges.

What’s happening, says President Sheree Utash at the Wichita tech campus, is that “A lot of the landscape of what is needed in knowledge and skills to be employable has probably changed quite a bit over the last several years.”

She cited a study by Deloitte showing that while 30 percent of the jobs available in the United States as of next year will require a four-year degree, some form of post-secondary education will be a must for nearly everyone else working. “The rest of them will require some kind of credential or some kind of technical certificate. “That’s a huge shift ... and there’s certainly a lot more emphasis by employers as they hire on industry credentials, certifications, knowledge, skills—that kind of thing.”

Genandt, Utash and Kearney believe the growth driver for technical colleges is grounded in their ability to respond quickly to employer demand for new programs that address technological changes they are seeing, even in traditional blue-collar job tracks.

That speed-to-classroom factor can’t be overlooked.

“I’m going to stick up for some four-year universities and say, there are a lot of

universities that are doing that,” Utash says. “It’s just not the prevalent piece. There are some two-year community colleges doing it,” but again, “it’s just not the prevalent piece.”

Responding swiftly to business demands—which can be boiled down to “more, faster,” she says—isn’t without some unique challenges, making it incumbent for state funding to remain a legislative priority. “The stress becomes twofold,” she said. “Number One, how do you move somebody from industry through professional development where they become a very good, high-quality faculty, teacher, or instructor? And then, how do you keep them current on these new practices, these new processes, the new technologies?”

After designing the program changes employers want, she says, “then we provide them with that work-ready individual who has the knowledge, the skills, certifications, the credentials, and also the work ethic that they need to be successful. So, at the end of the day, that job placement rate for us is 92 percent and always rocks around 90 to 92 percent. That’s like our report card in my mind because that means that students are getting what they need, and they’re becoming employed, and they’re staying locally.”

That last point is key for Genandt.

Often with tech-school graduates, he says, “We don’t have the out-migration of talent that sometimes others do. Now, in all honesty, there’ll be a group of people having a conversation like this probably 10 or 15 years from now, and the sea change will probably be much different. But for right now, this is the world that we’re living in. And so it is extremely important to make sure that you’re engaged with industry and that you’re producing what they want.”

His message to employers: “Talk to us. What can we do to help you? You need specialized training. You need a new program. You need something that may be only temporary but makes a big impact. We have the ability to do it. So don’t be silent. Come partner with us and watch what we can do together.” ■

Here Comes the Boom

As cost concerns, burdensome debt and the value proposition of some four-year degrees are being assessed, more students are flocking to technical colleges in the bistate region. That’s driving demand for real-world skills that employers can access immediately.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	1-Year	5-Year
Kansas Technical Colleges Totals	9,751	8,834	9,501	10,070	10,941	11,517	+5.30%	+18.10%
State Technical College of Missouri	1,471	1,724	1,927	2,023	2,300	2,415	+3.3%	+53.6%