

**Manhattan Area Technical College
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
December 9, 2025/MATC Advanced Technology Center/5:30pm (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-

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, Vice President of Operations
Kerri Bellamy, Dean, Advanced Technologies
Kim Davis, Dean, Nursing Ed & Health
Peter Vopata, Coordinator, Human Resources
Brian Koch, Faculty, Chair, Faculty Senate

Pam Imperato, Special Advisor to President
Chris Boxberger, Vice President, Education & Engagement
Cara Prichard, Chief Financial Officer
Neil Ross, Dean, Institutional Effectiveness, CSSO
Kim Withroder, Director, Institutional Research/Effectiveness
Suzy Baker, Senior Executive Officer, Board Clerk

Agenda (*items require Board action)

1. Call to Order
 - a. Introductions (if necessary)
 - b. Agenda revisions (if necessary) *
2. Consent Agenda*
 - a. Previous board minutes (**Attachment 1**) *
 - b. Previous month check register and related financial information (**Attachment 2.1 Oct, 2.2 Nov**) *
 - c. Organizational update (**Attachment 3**) *
3. General Agenda (*items that may require Board action)
 - a. Partnerships/Outreach
 - i. Update report (**Attachment 4**)
 - b. Faculty Senate
 - i. Plumbing Update (**Attachment 5**)
 - c. Operations
 - i. Facilities update
 - d. Finance
 - i. Updates as required
 - e. Academics
 - i. No updates
 - f. Policies
 - i. 4.2.6 Field Trips (Removal) (**Attachment 6**)
 - g. Student Services
 - i. No updates
 - h. Resource Development
 - i. No updates
 - i. Governance Monitoring Reports (as required)
 - i. No requirements this month

- j. President's Report
 - i. Monthly update report (**Attachment 7**)
- k. Executive Session (10 min)
 - i. Finance
- l. Executive Session (10 min)
 - i. Personnel
- 4. Events/Meetings Calendar
 - a. December Commencement (December 13, 2025)
 - b. End of Semester Celebration (December 15, 2025, 10a-12p)
 - c. Winter Break – Campus Closed (December 22-January 4)
- 5. Adjournment

	Schedule of President's Monitoring Reports
Monthly Through BOD Meetings Written Report in December	<p>1. GENERAL EXECUTIVE CONSTRAINT</p> <p>a) The President shall not cause or allow any practice, activity, decision or organizational circumstance which is illegal, imprudent, or unethical</p>
June	<p>2. TREATMENT OF PEOPLE</p> <p>a) With respect to treatment of students, staff, volunteers and the community, dealings shall not be inhumane, unfair, or undignified.</p>
October	<p>3. BUDGETING/FINANCIAL PLANNING/FORECASTING</p> <p>a) Budgeting shall not deviate significantly from board priorities, or risk fiscal jeopardy.</p>
Quarterly (Reports to Include Both MATC Operating Financials as Well as MATC Foundation Impact)	<p>4. FINANCIAL CONDITION</p> <p>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.</p> <p>b) July – September</p> <p>c) October - December January – March</p> <p>d) April – June</p>
Ongoing	<p>5. INFORMATION AND ADVICE</p> <p>a) With respect to providing information and counsel to the board, the President shall not permit the board to be uninformed.</p>
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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 Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2025/MATC Advanced Technology Center/5:30pm (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.

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Julie Crimmins (Clay)
Dan Strom (Pottawatomie)
Leslie Goodwin (Geary)

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Suzy Baker, Senior Executive Officer, Board Clerk

Agenda (*items require Board action)

1. Call to Order **Tim called the meeting to order at 5:30p.**
 - a. Introductions (if necessary)
 - b. Agenda revisions (if necessary) *
2. Consent Agenda* **Tim asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda as is. Dan 1st, Stephanie 2nd 8 yes, 0 no. Motion approved.**
 - 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. Partnerships/Outreach
 - i. Progress Update (Attachment 4) **Chris:**

Started this month with providing a report each meeting with the month's outreach efforts. Industry Partnerships: Ongoing conversations with local companies like for program support and equipment training. Early discussions about paid internships and training opportunities for students. Partnerships aim to supplement electrical programs and provide hands-on experience. Discussion of block licensing and alignment with industry standards. Outreach and Collaboration with Other Institutions: Flint Hills Tech reached out for program support and alignment. Plans to collaborate with Wamego High School and possibly Fort Riley. Efforts to align curriculum with state requirements and share best practices across institutions.

- b. Faculty Senate
 - i. Update Report (Attachment 5) **Brian:**

Discussed Adult Ed Ft Riley. Brian has been working with the state to go over regulations. Wamego HS – Brian is still doing courses there, very impressed with the leadership at WHS. All programs are doing well as much as Brian has heard.

c. Operations

i. Facilities update **Josh:**

Tax exemption issue from last year – all is good to go now. Josh presented report on furniture needs (especially for nursing dept) Tim asked for a motion to approve furniture purchase not to exceed \$75,000. David 1st, Stephanie 2nd. 8 yes, 0 no. Motion approved.

d. Finance (as required)

i. Financial Dashboard & Q1 Financials/Actuals (Attachment 6) **Cara:**

Review of purchasing policies, especially regarding sole-source justification and capital outlay. Discussion about confusion over thresholds for bids and capital improvements. Tuition and credit hour income discussed. Recent audit started and is progressing well. Bank affiliations and reconciliation processes reviewed. Plan for dual review of audit entries for accuracy.

e. Academics

i. Computer Support Specialist Degree Map (Attachment 7) * **Kerri:**

Presented final degree map. Program is aligned with KBOR requirements. Tim asked for motion to approve the Computer Support Specialist Degree Map. Dan 1st, Stephanie 2nd. 8 yes, 0 no. Motion approved.

ii. ELT Degree Map (Attachment 8) * **Kerri:**

Presented final degree map. Program is aligned with KBOR requirements. Electrical Technology program condensed to a one-year format with Cert B and associate's degree. Discussion on alignment with pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs, including OSHA requirements. Local contractors are willing to provide on-the-job experience for students. Tim asked for a motion to approve the ELT Degree map. Stephanie 1st, Dan 2nd. 8 yes, 0 no. Motion approved.

Program Updates: Kerri & Kim:

Kerri reported on Matthew Asbury's professional development. Matthew received NC3 instructor certification for mechatronics. Industrial Maintenance Technology program is progressing well and now offers nationally recognized certifications. Kim: Nursing faculty achievements in national certifications highlighted.

iii. Adult Education Update (Attachment 9) **Rachel:**

Was not able to be at the meeting, her report was added to the packet.

f. Policies

i. No Updates

g. Student Services

i. No Updates

h. Resource Development

i. No Updates

i. Governance Monitoring Reports (as required) **Tim asked for a motion to approve all monitoring reports. David 1st, Dan 2nd. 8 yes, 0 no. Motion approved.**

- i. Asset Protection (Attachment 10)* **Cara:**
- ii. Budgeting/Financial Planning/Forecasting (Attachment 11)* **Cara:**
- iii. Compensation & Benefits (Attachment 12)* **Jim:**
- iv. Achievement of Ends (Attachment 13)* **Kim W:**

All mentioned above presented reports attached in packet.

- j. President's Report
 - i. Monthly Update Report (Attachment 14) **Jim:**

Presented report attached in packet.

- ii. JDG Response for State Senator Starnes (Attachment 15)
 - iii. Congressional Record for the Senate (Attachment 16)
4. Events/Meetings Calendar
- a. Red Cross Blood Drive (October 30, 2025)
 - b. Thanksgiving Break – Campus Closed (November 24-28, 2025)
 - c. November/December Board Meeting (December 9, 2025, 5:30p)
 - d. Nursing Pinning Ceremony (December 12, 2025)
 - e. December Commencement (December 13, 2025)
 - f. End of Semester Celebration (December 15, 2025, 10a-12p)
 - g. Winter Break – Campus Closed (December 22-January 4)
5. Adjournment **Tim asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Julie 1st, Dan 2nd. 8 yes, 0 no. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:40p.**

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To: MATC Board of Directors
 From: Administration
 Re: October Expenditures

December 9, 2025

Category	Costs	%
Payroll, Withholdings and Benefits (200, 230, 590)	\$ 461,452.06	55.13%
Facilities (510)	\$ 139,867.41	16.71%
Student Payments (110)	\$ 61,849.82	7.39%
Program Expenditures	\$ 143,014.98	17.09%
ALC Operating Costs (excludes salary/benefits) (900, 930, 931)	\$ -	0.00%
Wamego (excluding salary/benefits)	\$ 2,242.26	0.27%
Other Operating costs	\$ 28,578.64	3.41%
Total October Expenditures	\$ 837,005.17	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	Category	Funding
IRS	PR 10.15.25 Payroll deductions	\$ 39,833.79	Payroll	
IRS	PR 10.31.25 Payroll deductions	\$ 40,003.97	Payroll	
KS Dept of Revenue	PR 10.15.25 Payroll deductions	\$ 8,624.04	Payroll	
KS Dept of Revenue	PR 10.31.25 Payroll deductions	\$ 8,769.41	Payroll	
BCBS	October Health Insurance Premium	\$ 72,534.61	Payroll	
KPERS	PR 10.15.25 Payroll deductions	\$ 9,505.60	Payroll	
KPERS	PR 10.31.25 Payroll deductions	\$ 9,479.38	Payroll	
Evergy	Evergy- October 2025	\$ 10,367.60	Facilities	
KS State Bank	ATC October Interest Payment	\$ 74,107.25	Facilities	Donations
Kansas Fencing	Fencing	\$ 11,815.35	Facilities	
Schwicker's Teca America	Welding and EPD Roof Repair	\$ 21,920.00	Facilities	Capital Outlay
Scenario Learning, LLC	Vector Solutions Training Renewal 25-26	\$ 5,568.40	Operating	
Solarwind	Solarwinds Renewal	\$ 9,599.28	Program	
Watermark Insights, LLS	Watermark 25-26 Annual Contract	\$ 6,853.15	Program	
Interplay Learning	Interplay Achieve license	\$ 8,376.00	Program	
EZ-Spot-UR	Pole attachment #2	\$ 5,000.00	Program	
Stanion Wholesale Electric	Electrical Tools-Stanion	\$ 10,431.13	Program	
John A Marshall CO	Classroom and lab furniture- Chairs	\$ 24,564.45	Program	Capital Outlay
Total October Expenditures Exceeding Threshold		\$ 377,353.41		



MEMORADUM TO: The Board of Directors
FROM: Jim Genandt, President
 Human Resources
DATE: December 9, 2025
SUBJECT: Consent Agenda: Organizational Update

New Hire/Rehires					
Employee Name	Position Title	DOH	Department	Funding Source	Status
Jaden Cady	IT Support Specialist	11/10/2025	IT	Operating	New Hire
Louisa Asbury	PN Faculty	12/1/2025	Nursing & Health Education	Operating	New Hire
Ashley Rickard	ADN Faculty	12/1/2025	Nursing & Health Education	Operating	New Hire
Travis Pittenger	HVAC Faculty	1/8/2025	Advanced Tech 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
Allen Sangwin	HVAC Instructor	11/4/2025	Advanced Tech Faculty	Operating	Separation
Jessica Ash	Student Account Specialist	12/5/2025	Business Office	Operating	Resignation
Cara Prichard	Chief Financial Officer	1/2/2026	Business Office	Operating	Resignation
New/Advertised Positions					
Position Title			Department	Funding Source	Status
Adjunct Faculty & Clinical Instructors			Nursing & Health Education	Operating	Open
Concurrent Instructors			Academic Partnerships	Operating	Open
Chief Financial Officer			Business office	Operating	Open
Full-Time Associate Degree Nursing Instructor			Nursing & Health Education	Operating	Open
Full-Time Welding Instructor			Advanced Tech Faculty	Operating	Open
Studdent Account Specialist			Business Office	Operating	Open
HVAC Program Assistant & Adjunct			Advanced Tech Staff	Operating	Open

Monthly Outreach and Partnership Report

Period: November 2025

Prepared by: Chris Boxberger & David Umanzor

This report outlines outreach visits, partnership development, and key engagement activities that have strengthened relationships with community, business, education, and government stakeholders during the past month.

Community and Economic Development

- **Manhattan Transition Council:** Delivered comprehensive presentation on December 2nd about the college and accommodations for students with disabilities to multiple providers and community partners focused on bridging the high school to employment gap for individuals with disabilities.
- **Westloop/Westside Business Association (WWBA):** Attended meeting to strengthen community business engagement and partnership opportunities.
- **Manhattan Chamber:** Met twice with prospective business relocating to the area to discuss how MATC can support their workforce development and training needs.
- **Clay County Coalition:** Participated in meetings with this community development coalition to explore collaborative opportunities and align college initiatives with county priorities.
- **Marysville VR Trailer Event:** Engaged with Marysville High School staff/faculty, Rotary Club, Marshall County Partnership for Growth, Valley Heights Superintendent and board member, and participating employers including **Landoll** and **Blue Valley Technologies** to promote career and technical education pathways.
- **Flint Hills Area Builders Association:** Hosting their Christmas party and attending to strengthen relationships with local home builders and construction professionals.

Business and Industry Engagement

- **Charlson & Wilson Insurance:** Met with Travis Say to secure sponsorship for the OSHA 30 class in January.
- **Florence Corporation:** Completed second engagement—Jason York successfully delivered Excel training through Workforce Solutions with high enthusiasm from both employees and administration. Additionally, met to schedule ELL (English Language Learner) classes for spring semester.
- **Footlocker:** Met with national and local HR teams, engineer, and VP of Supply Chain to discuss partnership and training opportunities. Company expressed interest in training technicians, administrative staff, and sponsoring the entire Employability Week (March 23-25). Next steps include detailed discussion of maintenance tech training needs, facility tour, and comprehensive workforce development package proposal. Follow-up meeting scheduled for December 4th.

- **Solar Turbines:** Met to discuss workforce needs. Short-term focus on attracting graduates from welding, HVAC, and Auto Tech programs. Long-term interest in creating customized onboarding training.
- **Smithfield:** David Umanson, Josh, Eric, and Matthew conducted a facility visit to survey machinery expected to be donated within the next few months (by April 2026).
- **BHS Construction:** Met with Nathan Redeker to discuss partnership in their new apprenticeship program launching in spring. Company plans to hire two current MATC graduates to lead the first cohort. Open to developing non-credit learning pathway aligned with apprenticeship if pilot succeeds.
- **Everygy:** Met to discuss workforce needs for their relay team, which handles automation for facilities.
- **US Engineering:** Building relationships with colleges to expand workforce draw for building fabrication, facilities maintenance, and metal worker subsidiaries.
- **Welding PAC Meeting:** VP of Manufacturing for Cimarron provided outstanding endorsement, stating that MATC is "the best tech college he's worked with across Kansas and Oklahoma," and that our graduates are the best workers from all institutions they recruit from.
- **Blue Valley:** Discussed expanding integration of MATC programs with more cohesive pathways and strategies to increase CTE program enrollment.

Education and Government Collaboration

- **Fort Riley:** Follow-up meeting with Colonel Hill regarding Signal University partnership and alignment of MATC programs, specifically in Computer Support Specialist.
- **Junction City High School:** Attended CTE advisory meeting to discuss career pathway development and high school partnerships.
- **Rock Creek:** Met with new superintendent to discuss partnership opportunities. Strong interest expressed in welding programs MATC can offer.
- **Flint Hills Tech:** Met with Director of Adult Education to address their need to bridge reading and math skills gaps for students in technical programs. This discussion opened the door for partnership through MATC's **Tech+** program to fill this critical need.

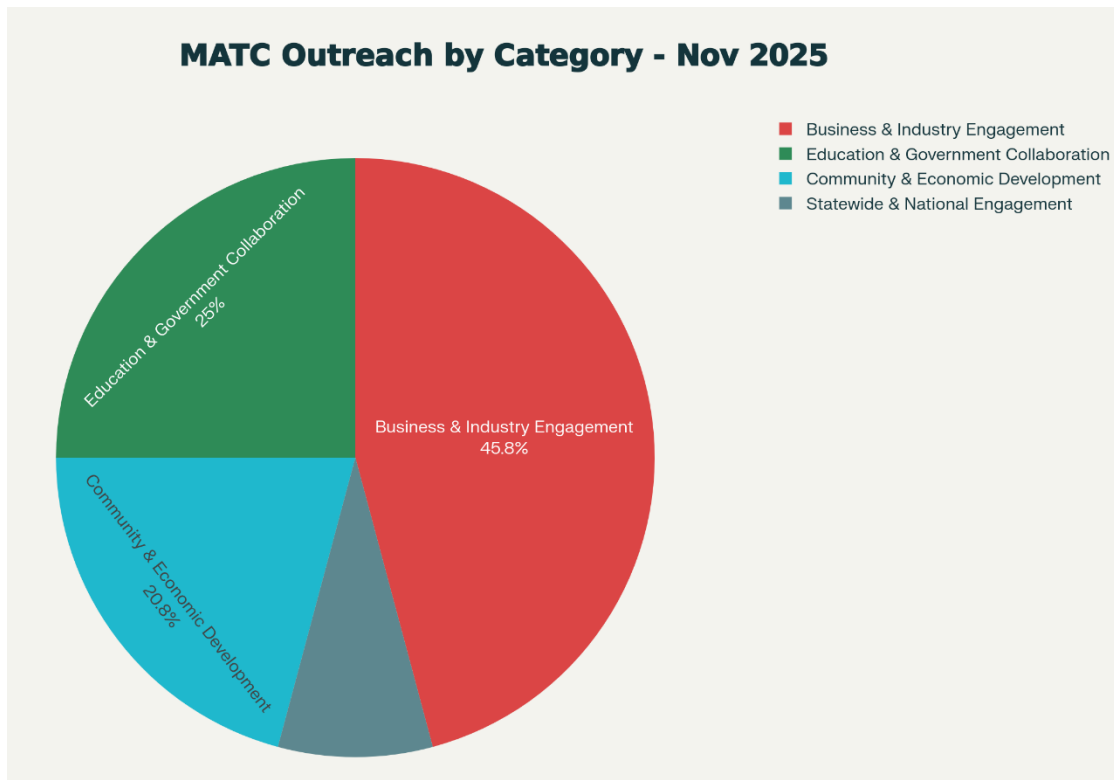
Statewide and National Engagement

- **NACCE:** Met with program team to discuss the **Everyday Entrepreneur program**, which provides funding to host a business pitch competition and covers prize winnings. Considering hosting Manhattan Career Hunt competition in March 2026.
- **Hire Paths:** Met to plan for the **Manhattan Career Hunt in March**, connecting job seekers with local employers through a dynamic recruitment event.

Key Accomplishments and Outcomes

- Secured **Charlson & Wilson Insurance sponsorship** for January OSHA 30 training course
- **Jason York completed Excel training** for Florence Corporation through Workforce Solutions with exceptional results
- **Footlocker partnership** positioned for significant expansion with potential sponsorship of entire Employability Week and multi-level training initiatives

- **BHS Construction apprenticeship** will hire two MATC graduates in spring, with potential for scalable non-credit training pathway
- **Welding PAC endorsement** from Cimarron VP demonstrates quality and reputation of MATC graduates in industry
- **Tech+ partnership opportunity** with Flint Hills Tech addresses regional need for foundational skills development
- **Smith old machinery donation** (expected April 2026) will enhance hands-on technical training capabilities



Plumbing Technology Program Update

We're excited to share some great news from the Plumbing Technology class! All **17 students** have successfully completed this semester and are ready to advance to the next level.

This term has been packed with hands-on learning, including our partnership with **Habitat for Humanity**. The class contributed to the Ogden Habitat house project, and we're proud to announce that the **ground rough-in is now complete**.

Our students have demonstrated outstanding commitment and skill, and this real-world experience has been invaluable in preparing them for their future careers in the plumbing industry.

Stay tuned for more updates as we continue building strong foundations—both in plumbing and in our community!

**Manhattan Area Technical College
Institutional Policy and Procedure Manual**

Policy No. 4.2.6

Title: Field Trips	
Originated by: Dr. Linda Hertz, VPIS	
Signature	Date
Approved by:	
Signature	Date
Reviewed on:	Revised on:

Policy Statement: When an instructor plans a field trip for a class, the field trip is to be reported at least one week in advance to the instructor's direct supervisor via the Field Trip Notification form.

Rationale: The purpose of the notification is twofold. 1) Insurance and liability issues and 2) Communication issues, i.e. in case a student forgot about the trip location or someone needs to contact the student or instructor during the field trip.

Procedure:

1. Complete the Field Trip Notification form available in the copy room.
2. Submit the form at least one week in advance to the instructor's direct supervisor.
3. The supervisor will forward the form to the office of the VPIS.
4. The office of the VPIS or the division chair will notify the receptionist in the administrative office with following information: course, instructor, date, time, and, location of field trip.

President's Report: November-December 2025

President's Report: November-December 2025

Institutional Performance

- I posted this on my FB and LinkdIn areas last week, a quick summary of where MATC stands:

Manhattan Area Technical College (KS) is a public, accredited technical college, emphasizing workforce development meeting high wage/high demand and/or critical need occupations in north central Kansas that require less than a baccalaureate degree. Tech colleges often are looked down upon by their academic colleagues at universities and colleges. However, our accreditation is the same as those institutions, and our local impact for business and industry is rapid and direct. Approximately 87% of our graduates remain in Kansas, mostly in our service area. They are employees, taxpayers, and consumers! They keep our communities going in healthcare, construction and manufacturing, and as technicians for a wide range of companies.

How effective is MATC? Pretty doggone effective:

MATC named in the top 200 two-year colleges by the Aspen Institute in 2019 and 2025.

MATC ranked by WalletHub annually for cost and student outcomes (graduation and job rates and earnings). Check this out:

Ranked #1 two-year college in Kansas 2018-2025! Ranked nationally in the top 5 since 2022, including being #1 in 2024! Georgetown University's Center for Education and Workforce analyzes all US colleges and universities for their basic return on investment: career earnings of graduates. Among all Kansas public colleges and universities here is how MATC has ranked in career earnings at 10-, 15-, 20-, 30-, and 40-year intervals"

2019: #2 at 10, 15, and 20-year marks, #3 at 30, #4 at 40-years.

2025: #3 at the 10, 20, 30, and 40-year marks, #2 at 15.

MATC has no local taxing authority (such as provided to community colleges and public school districts). Resources are always tight. But our faculty, staff, board members, donors, and business/industry partners all concentrate on the success of our students in learning skills that lead to HIRE education. Nobody is better with the resources and results than MATC!

And for that I am thankful.

President's Report: November-December 2025

- MATC is in the 2025 Aspen Institute Top 200 Two-Year Colleges (we also made the list in 2019). We are providing a submission to them as they award cash prizes to institutions that provide the requested information and come through that competition in high order. We may not make the money, but we are trying. Top prize: \$1,000,000!

Institutional Leadership

- The technical college president and our lobbyist, Steve Kearney, had a Zoom meeting with State Senator Starnes (at his request) on 12-4. We discussed the restoration of funds that were cut last session, as well as new ways to look at obtaining resources such as the results-funding approach.
- We have several folks working with our Lumina Adult Learner Project coaches as we design marketing structures to get the attention of those persons and how MATC can provide them opportunities. Two campaigns will be tested in 2026.
- The KBOR budget ask for the 2027 state legislative session does nothing to help the technical colleges except to remain at level funding (at best!). Our group had submitted on time to the KBOR staff the request to restore the budget cuts from the 2026 session, but they did not put that into their report. So, we will be fighting more on our own with the legislature than ever.

External Relations

- I participated in the Ad Astra BIO/BioKS Joint Board meeting 11-5. These groups continue to advocate for the bioscience and technology industry in the state and the KC area. While we have not had the need/demand for the related education courses and programs, we keep working with groups like this in anticipation of future prospects locating in this area.
- I attended the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Fall Meeting, November 11-14, in DC. I am on the Commission on Small and Rural Colleges, and in addition to our meeting we had a joint meeting with the economic and workforce development commission. While the federal funding and oversight components are still unsure and fuzzy, the association as a whole and these two commissions are touting the performance of two-year colleges, and are getting support for enhancing the resilience capacity to navigate the next several years.
- I participated with the Greater Manhattan Economic Partnership board meeting 11-17 and the Manhattan Chamber Economic Development Committee meeting 12-3. These connections help us help these organizations support existing and new related industries with workforce, and MATC has been a significant reason for PTMW, Torgeson Electric, and Solar Turbine projects in 2025.

President's Report: November-December 2025

- I met with Kent Glasscock, Interim Director of the Flint Hills Regional Development Council and am working on a potential project along with Flint Hills Technical College on reviewing unfilled skilled labor jobs in our area and the economic impact of those positions vs. if they were filled. This may provide a larger concept for the technical colleges.
- MATC will be a member of the AFIT (Alliance For Innovation & Transformation) Financial Prosperity Pilot Project during 2026. We will join 6 other two-year college AFIT members and collectively contract with McAlister & Quinn, one of DC's top firms assisting organizations find possible grants, donors, and/or federal projects for funding and support. More details to come!
- Harry, Chris, Josh, and I met with representatives of Intrust Bank 12-2, and presented several potential projects for their consideration of support through the bank. (A copy of the document will be shared at the board meeting.)
- Two Chamber events coming up in 2026:
 - Regional Growth Summit Jan 23 KSU Alumni Center
 - Inter-Region Visit April 15-17, NC

Budgetary/Fiscal Management (see financial information in the agenda packet)

Accreditation/Continuous Improvement (No current reporting requirements.)

Bonus information!—

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-11-21/americans-with-four-year-degrees-now-comprise-a-record-25-of-unemployed-workers?srnd=homepage-americas&embedded-checkout=true>

Americans With Four-Year Degrees Now Comprise a Record 25% of Unemployed Workers

Thursday's BLS figures showed young Americans are bearing the brunt of the recent rise in joblessness.

By [Matthew Boesler](#)

November 21, 2025 at 10:19 AM CST

- Americans with four-year college degrees comprise a record portion of total unemployment, underscoring a sharp slowdown in white-collar hiring this year.

- The unemployment rate for bachelor's degree-holders rose to 2.8% in September, up a half-percentage point from a year earlier, with more than 1.9 million Americans aged 25 and over with at least a bachelor's degree who were unemployed.
- Rising unemployment among the college-educated "should further fuel AI-related job loss fears," according to Michael Feroli, the chief US economist at JPMorgan Chase & Co.

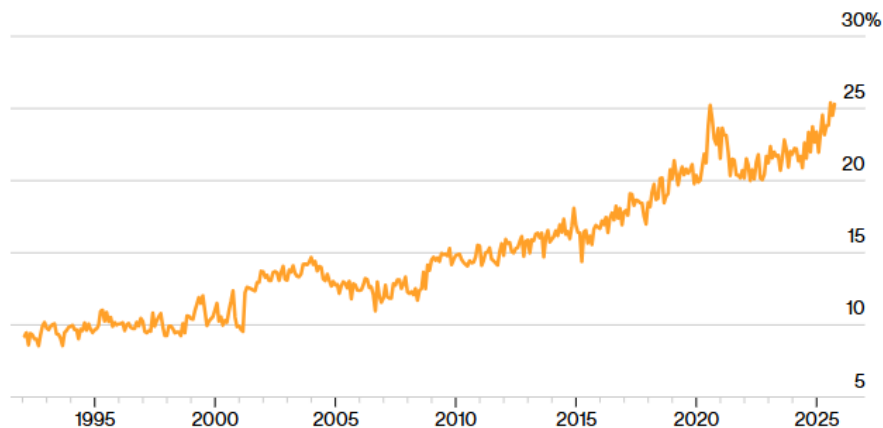
Americans with four-year college degrees now comprise a record 25% of total unemployment, underscoring a sharp slowdown in white-collar hiring this year.

Government-shutdown delayed monthly [figures published Thursday](#) by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics showed the unemployment rate for bachelor's degree-holders rose to [2.8%](#) in September, up a half-percentage point from a year earlier. Other levels of education, by contrast, registered little or no increase over the same period.

College-Educated Job Loss Rises

White-collar slowdown hits four-year degrees

Share of US unemployed with four-year degrees



Sources: Department of Labor, Bloomberg

There were more than 1.9 million Americans aged 25 and over with at least a bachelor's degree who were unemployed in September — one in four of the total number of unemployed. Before 2025, the ratio never reached such a high in data going back to 1992. Younger, recent college grads have also been struggling to find work.

Rising unemployment among the college-educated “should further fuel AI-related job loss fears,” Michael Feroli, the chief US economist at JPMorgan Chase & Co., said Thursday in a note following the release.

The milestone [comes amid a raft](#) of high-profile layoff announcements from major corporations including [Amazon.com](#), [Target Corp.](#) and [Starbucks Corp.](#) A recent report by the outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas indicated job-cut announcements last month [were the highest for any](#) October in more than 20 years, fueled by plans to replace positions with artificial intelligence.

[Verizon Communications Inc.](#) on Thursday became the latest to [announce wide-ranging cuts](#), saying it would let go of more than 13,000 employees in a bid to shrink its non-union workforce by as much as 20%.

“For the new graduates from college, they they did get hit by a bit of a perfect storm,” Federal Reserve Bank of New York President John Williams said Friday. Normally, “college graduates are being swept into the labor market as they get out of college, and that has not happened as much this year,” he said in answering questions after a speech in Santiago, Chile.

Thursday's BLS figures showed young Americans are bearing the brunt of the recent rise in joblessness. The unemployment rate for those between the ages of 20 and 24 was [9.2%](#) in September, up 2.2 percentage points from a year earlier — an increase of a magnitude not seen historically outside recessions.

Unemployment rates for older Americans, meanwhile, remain below 4% and have seen smaller increases in recent months.

The report also revealed just two sectors — health care and social assistance and leisure and hospitality — [have accounted for more than 100%](#) of US job growth so far in 2025. They've added a combined 690,000 positions this year, while excluding those two, national employment has declined by about 6,000.

The [professional and technical services](#) sector — which includes industries like [computer systems design](#), [management and technical consulting](#) and [scientific research and development](#) — also registered an outright decline in headcount over the first nine months of the year.

<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/weekly-education/2025/12/01/why-americans-say-college-isnt-worth-the-cost-00671162>

POLITICO Weekly Education, Juan Perez, 12-1-25

OPPORTUNITY COST: Americans are anxious about their economic prospects, but most of them do not see a college degree as the solution.

Broad majorities of Americans say college simply costs too much and doesn't provide enough benefits to be worth the effort — regardless of their political affiliation, age, and ethnicity.

Those attitudes are reflected in [the latest survey](#) on U.S. residents' concerns about affordability and the cost of living from POLITICO and London-based independent pollster [Public First](#). The online poll, conducted Nov. 14 to 17 in the wake of major electoral victories by Democrats who centered their campaigns on voters' economic

concerns, underscore some sobering (and perhaps surprising) takeaways for education leaders.

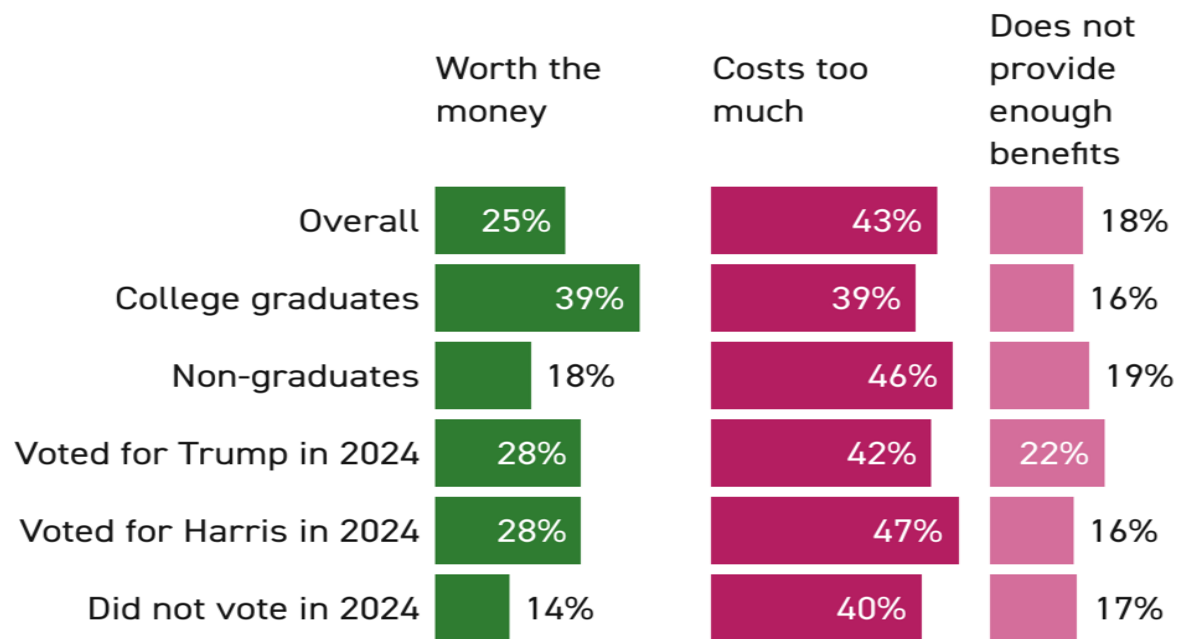
Americans carry nuanced views about the value and usefulness of higher education. Though the results include familiar splits between liberals and conservatives, they also feature bipartisan agreement on higher education's connection to economic matters — not political culture wars.

Downcast attitudes about the value of college have still defined [recent public opinion](#). And of course, the second Trump administration has further ensnared colleges and universities with attacks on their credibility and federal funding as part of a broader federal crackdown on diversity, equity, inclusion and “wokeness.” But it's the economy, not conservative fixations on campus wokeness, that appears to be the problem.

Only a quarter of Americans think college is worth the money. Overall, 62 percent of Americans said college isn't worth it because it either costs too much or doesn't provide enough benefits — a belief supported most by 18- to 24-year-olds and those aged 65 and up. That idea also carries bipartisan appeal with similar shares of voters who supported Donald Trump or Kamala Harris in last year's election.

Only a quarter of Americans say college is worth the money

How Americans feel about higher education in the U.S., percentage



The POLITICO Poll was conducted from Nov. 14 to 17, surveying 2,098 U.S. adults online. Results were weighted by age, race, gender, geography and educational attainment and have an overall margin of sampling error of ± 2 percentage points. Smaller subgroups have higher margins of error. Respondents who answered "do not know" are not shown.

Source: POLITICO/Public First polling

Juan Perez Jr./POLITICO

Perhaps most damning is the proportion of college graduates who feel this way: More than half of graduates supported the idea that college is either too expensive or not sufficiently useful.

People who say education costs are difficult or very difficult to afford tend to spread the blame around. Roughly 42 percent of people who both voted for Trump last year and said student loans are hard to afford blame colleges for the perceived high expenses. Meanwhile, approximately 40 percent blamed state governments.

To be sure, a college education is a major economic differentiator in the United States.

The income gap between Americans with college degrees and those with high school degrees [widened over the last two decades](#). Recent research from the U.S. Census Bureau found the median income of households headed by someone with a bachelor's degree or higher last year was more than double the median income of those with householders with a high school degree but no college.

Methodology: This edition of The POLITICO Poll was conducted from Nov. 14 to 17, surveying 2,098 U.S. adults online. Results were weighted by age, race, gender, geography and educational attainment and have an overall margin of sampling error of ± 2 percentage points. Smaller subgroups have higher margins of error.



December 5, 2025

Joint Committee the Budget
 300 SW 10th Street
 Topeka, KS, 66612

Dear Senators and Representatives,

The Kansas Association of Technical College (KTC) appreciates the opportunity to provide input in the state’s budget process. KTC requests that you include \$10.5 million in the budget to fund the Technical College Operating Grant *as it was funded* in FY24 and FY25. KTC also requests that you restore funding in the FY27 budget to the amounts appropriated in FY26 including: \$14.3 million for Two-year Colleges’ Apprenticeships/Business Partnerships, \$10.5 million for Two-year Colleges’ Student Success Initiatives, and \$5 million for Capital Outlay State Aid to Colleges.

The seven technical colleges have provided the most significant return on taxpayers’ funding by continually providing affordable higher education that produces the highest rates of graduation and job placement in the Kansas economy. According to a March 2025 Lightcast study KTC members bring a \$1.60 added tax revenue for each \$1.00 of taxpayers’ support and \$9.50 added income and social savings.

The Aspen Institute recently named five of the seven technical colleges Aspen 200 colleges, meaning they stand for excellence even among their peer institutions in the country. Moreover, the Kansas Technical Colleges often rank among the best in the country in affordability, graduation, and job placement rates. All these accolades are valuable, but the greatest value comes from being the lowest burden to Kansas taxpayers.

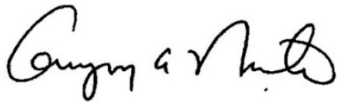
Source: KBOR – Community College Databook and Technical College Databook

Institution	State Tax\$ per FTE FY2023	Total Tax\$ per FTE FY2023	% State Funding Earned Tiered FY2023
Allen Community College	\$ 3,132.83	\$ 5,988.63	14.2%
Independence Community College	\$ 2,180.98	\$ 13,474.84	19.9%
Barton Community College	\$ 2,949.95	\$ 6,197.40	23.3%
Highland Community College	\$ 3,498.19	\$ 5,010.74	26.1%
Butler Community College	\$ 4,111.54	\$ 7,386.03	29.7%
Cloud County Community College	\$ 4,033.80	\$ 8,053.73	30.4%
Johnson County Community College	\$ 2,715.80	\$ 15,695.20	34.5%
Garden City Community College	\$ 2,402.59	\$ 12,355.12	36.3%
Coffeyville Community College	\$ 2,080.33	\$ 10,422.52	37.5%
Dodge City Community College	\$ 2,081.23	\$ 12,659.23	37.6%
Labette Community College	\$ 3,328.00	\$ 10,294.36	38.3%
Fort Scott Community College	\$ 2,781.49	\$ 6,352.92	38.8%
Seward County Community College	\$ 2,361.09	\$ 12,374.45	40.4%
Cowley Community College	\$ 3,013.50	\$ 7,303.76	40.5%
Neosho County Community College	\$ 3,251.64	\$ 9,106.56	42.4%
Pratt Community College	\$ 2,958.70	\$ 11,212.36	42.6%
Kansas City Kansas Community College	\$ 3,127.84	\$ 21,095.53	43.7%
Colby Community College	\$ 3,253.65	\$ 9,778.32	47.3%
Hutchinson Community College	\$ 3,688.07	\$ 8,585.17	48.0%
Average Community College	\$ 2,997.43	\$ 10,176.15	35.3%
Salina Area Technical College	\$ 5,258.10	\$ 5,258.10	65.7%
Flint Hills Technical College	\$ 3,992.00	\$ 3,992.00	66.3%
FHT NW Technical College	\$ 5,285.50	\$ 5,285.50	68.0%
Manhattan Area Technical College	\$ 5,330.93	\$ 5,330.93	68.0%
WSU Tech Technical College	\$ 5,063.25	\$ 5,063.25	68.3%
FHT NC Technical College	\$ 6,596.86	\$ 6,596.86	78.2%
Washburn Institute Technology	\$ 3,999.38	\$ 3,999.38	91.2%
Average Technical College	\$ 5,075.14	\$ 5,075.14	72.2%

Latest figures from KBOR indicated the taxpayers spent **\$5,075 per FTE** to educate technical college students (see table above). The right column indicates the percentage of tiered courses – technical in nature requiring higher per student costs. By comparison, each community college levied over \$2 million in FY23 with nearly all of them collecting more than \$3.5 million annually. In context, the average taxpayer spent **\$10,176 per FTE** to educate community college students.

Even among significant growth and industry support, KTC realizes significant resource limitations stifling our potential. The Kansas legislature heard the concerns in the past and responded with overwhelming support for the Kansas Technical College Operating Grant. Beginning in FY24, KTC member colleges received the Technical College Operating Grant which was \$10.5 million which amounts to \$1.5 million per college in FY24 and FY25 and \$1 million in FY26. The KTC members respectfully ask the legislature to appropriate \$10.5 million into the budget to fund the Technical College Operating Grant line and stabilize the most efficient economic drivers of jobs in Kansas, the Kansas Technical Colleges. KTC is one of the most valuable assets poised to meet the state goals of workforce development and economic prosperity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory A. Nichols". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Gregory A. Nichols, DBA

President - Kansas Association of Technical Colleges