

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lana Gordon at 3:30 P.M. on February 5, 2008 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Valdenia Winn- excused  
Broderick Henderson- excused  
Don Hill- excused  
Don Myers- excused

Committee staff present:

Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Ryan Hoffman, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jason Long, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Matt Todd, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Ann Deitcher, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dave Fritchen, Dept. of Architectural Engineering and Construction Science,  
Kansas State University  
Bruce Dallman, Dean, College of Technology, Pittsburg State University  
Steve Porter, Program Director, Hutchinson Community College Technical Program  
Corey Peterson, Associated General Contractors of Kansas, Inc.  
Bob Totten, Public Affairs Director, Kansas Contractors Association, Inc.

The Chair introduced David Fritchen who told of the impact that the engineering and construction industry had on economic development in Kansas as well as the nation. (Attachment 1).

Mr. Fritchen said that the number of engineering and construction graduates is clearly not meeting the industry demand however the current level of funding, facilities and faculty in the Department of Architectural Engineering will not support enrollment growth beyond the current enrollment of almost 800 students.

Questions and answers followed.

Bruce Dallman told the Committee that recent national studies had brought attention to a critical shortage of qualified personnel within the construction industry. (Attachment 2).

Mr. Dallman said that research by the Construction Industry Institute, a consortium of more than 100 leading firms, indicated that these critical shortages will likely worsen unless significant action is taken.

He said that in order to support continued growth and to meet the future needs and challenges of the construction industry, Pittsburg State University proposes to expand the capacity of the construction program in order to significantly increase the number of students served and consequently the number of graduates entering the workforce. He also told the Committee that 73% of the graduates of their School of Technology remain in the state.

Questions and answers followed.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Economic Development and Tourism Committee at 3:30 P.M. on February 5, 2008 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

Next to appear before the Committee was Steve Porter who spoke of the Building Trades Technology program options offered by Hutchinson Community College and Area Vocational School. ([Attachment 3](#)).

Their current workforce development initiative for the Building Trades industry are: Building Trades Technology - Residential, Commercial and Electrical Apprenticeship option; Continuing Education; Strategic Collaboration - Tech Prep as well as with Kansas 4 year colleges and universities.

In summary, Mr. Porter said that his report was reflective of HCC's approach to the delivery of technical education and workforce development to students entering the building trades industry with options for high school students, traditional and non-traditional post-secondary students.

Corey Peterson addressed the Committee saying that his organization fully supported the creation of a school of construction at Pittsburg State University feeling that this program would help fill a void as the industry faces a workforce crisis. ([Attachment 4](#)).

He said that PSU as well as the KSU construction science program have 100% placement of graduating students with starting salaries ranging from \$47,000 to \$53,000. Demand is high not only in Kansas but across the country.

Next on the agenda was Bob Totten who said that his organization, wanted to lend their support to the request from Pittsburg State University regarding workforce development. ([Attachment 5](#)).

Mr. Totten said that, like every other industry, they were struggling to find qualified employees. They rely on the state's regent institutions to help in this regard and PSU is at the forefront when they look for qualified people.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 6, 2008.