



State Representative Kirk Schuring
48th District

To: All House Members
From: Representative Kirk Schuring
Date: January 21, 2015
Re: Co – Sponsor Request: Higher Education Workforce Grant Program

I soon will be re-introducing legislation that will establish a higher education workforce grant program.

The program is designed to incentivize students to pursue degrees and/or certificates of education that match the in-demand jobs of Ohio. The career path will benefit both students and employers by providing students with needed state funding to help support workforce development and providing employers with additional qualified employees for the high-demand jobs of today and tomorrow.

The following are some key points of the program:

- Grants will be distributed using a performance based method based on annual maximum award of \$5,000. The grant will be distributed proportionally based on the program duration with 1/3 distributed at the start of the student's studies. The remainder will be distributed proportionally at various milestones in route to attaining a credential or certificate.
- There will be an experiential component to the grant criteria. A student would be encouraged to spend a minimum of three months in a workplace setting that matches the student's degree or certificate. Assistance would be provided in finding an employer for the match.
- The Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services will be used to determine the in-demand jobs. Grants will be coordinated with degrees and/or certificates of education that match the in-demand jobs.
- Rules will be promulgated by the Ohio Board of Regents regarding programmatic components of the Community College Workforce Grants. Soft skills needed by employers will be embedded in curriculum content. Rules also will address counseling

students about the proper management of student loans, which is required of all students on financial aid.

- A 25% tax credit on student loans will be available for students who successfully complete the program and secure the in-demand job.

The bill is supported by the Ohio Association of Community Colleges and the Inter University Council. The following members cosponsored the legislation last session: Representatives Baker, Barborak, Beck, Budish, Cera, Derickson, Hill, Lundy, Romanchuk, Rosenberger.

Please contact my office via email at graham.mccready@ohiohouse.gov or call (614)-752-2438 by Friday January 30, 2015 if you want to be a co-sponsor.