



**VISIONEERING
WICHITA**

**Visioneering Unified Legislative Alliance
2006 Legislative Agenda**

- State financial support to maintain and expand low cost commercial air service from Mid-Continent Airport
- Continued state investments in aviation research at the National Institute for Aviation Research at Wichita State University
- State support for 25% expansion in the capacity of nursing programs in existing post-secondary public education institutions in South Central Kansas
- Support for a new system and facility for technical education and training in the area through the Sedgwick County Technical Education and Training Authority



Issue:

State financial support to maintain and expand low cost commercial air service from Mid-Continent Airport

Kansas is not naturally competitive on airfares. Wichita has historically had some of the highest airfares in the country because Kansas cannot compete with Oklahoma and Missouri due to the lower population. Because Kansas has limited flights and less competition for air fares to destinations, this creates the opportunity for the airline industry to set higher prices than the national average and Kansans lose.

The current program, developed over the last few years, has worked. Air fares have dropped significantly, passenger travel is up by 24% and we have less passenger “leakage” to other states.

The Fair Fare\$ program has resulted in more than \$300 million in savings for businesses and citizens flying out of Mid-Continent over the past four years.

If we do nothing, the State loses \$8.7 million in direct tax revenues out of the general fund, while Kansans lose airfare savings and business recruitment and retention suffers.

Economic development, tourism, and families are all affected by air fares.

To do nothing is to cede air service to Oklahoma and Missouri.

Mid-Continent Airport is the air service portal for 2/3 of the state.

The Visonneering Unified Agenda seeks a financial commitment from the State of Kansas for \$5 million per year for 5 years. This would be used as in an 80% state match to the 20% committed locally.



Issue:

Continued state investments in aviation research at the National Institute for Aviation Research at Wichita State University

The aviation industry is a major contributor to the economic vitality of Kansas and has the potential for significant growth as a cluster of innovation. Our industry must be able to compete in a global economic environment, far different than our past.

During the 2002 legislative session, the legislature approved \$13 million in bonds to initiate and complete capital improvement projects for the acquisition and installation of laboratories and equipment for icing and wind tunnels, crash testing, and advanced manufacturing at the WSU National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR).

Since that time, the legislature and governor have approved a total of \$5 million for 2003, 2004, and 2005 for aviation related research to support future products.

Every 1,000 Kansas aircraft manufacturing jobs create an additional 2,300 jobs, generating \$9 million in state and local taxes annually. The continued support for research and development by the state helps the Kansas Congressional Delegation leverage federal funding for NIAR.

Research and development funding is critical to ensure we retain and grow the 30,000 jobs among the five aviation companies. Without strong research and development infrastructure to develop new products and services, we can't maintain our market leadership and the jobs that are retained and created.

The Visonering Unified Legislative Agenda supports a \$2 million appropriation for NIAR to support research and technical support in the areas of icing, manufacturing, design, and crashworthiness.



Issue:

State support for 25% expansion in the capacity of nursing programs in existing post-secondary public education institutions in South Central Kansas

While south-central Kansas, like the nation, suffers a shortage of nurses in the workforce, the demand for new nurses is projected to increase dramatically. The nursing workforce plays a critical role in the economic health of south-central Kansas because the region's economy is more dependent on the health care sector than the state or nation as a whole. Yet, nursing jobs remain unfilled because nursing programs are at capacity and are unable to graduate the number of nurses the region needs.

Statewide, Kansas is projected to increase nursing jobs by 31.3%, adding 6,920 new nurses by 2010. Adjusting for workforce retirement, an additional 4,470 replacement nurses will be needed, bringing the total number to 11,390.

Although nursing jobs remain unfilled in south-central Kansas, regional education institutions are forced to turn away hundreds of qualified applicants to nursing programs because those programs are at capacity.

In the Fall of 2004:

- Butler County Community College had 184 qualified applicants, but could accept only 45
- WSU could accept only 50 of 140 qualified applicants
- Hutchinson Community College turned away 113 of the 153 qualified applicants

The Visioneering Unified Legislative Agenda supports funding to expand nursing education capacity by 25% at WSU, Butler Community College, Hutchinson Community College, and the licensed practical nursing (LPN) program at Wichita Area Technical College. Total cost to the state is \$472,000 per year of continuous funding.



Issue:

Support for a technical education and training facility for south-central Kansas, guided by the Sedgwick County Technical Education and Training Authority.

To attract and retain high skill manufacturing jobs and higher wage service sector jobs, technical training systems in the region must be restructured.

The system and facility envisioned will create a clear, viable and exciting means for young adults and all citizens to pursue technical careers. The system will encourage collaboration among high schools, community and technical colleges and universities and will provide for smooth and efficient articulation among training and education providers.

Key education providers for the new facilities will include Wichita Area Technical College, Butler Community College, Hutchinson Community College and Cowley Community College. Others will be considered as well where strong business and industry demand matches the competencies of the institutions.

The Visonneering Unified Legislative Agenda supports a collaborative local, state, federal and private sector investment of \$50 million+ to ensure the technical education and training facility and system are developed to world class standards. Specific funding needs are being planned and will not be available for the 2006 Legislative session, but will be presented to future legislatures.