



The TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
MANHATTAN AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: MATC Alumni and Friends

RE: Weekend Memo

DATE: March 9, 2007

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1. It's been a very busy week at the Capitol between giving testimony Tuesday on HB 2014 to extend the Governor's Commission two more years, meeting with legislators on Wednesday to drum up support, testifying on Thursday on HB 2556 to create the Technical Education Authority, and today meeting with the House Education folks as they deliberated HB 2556. The great news is that the House Ed committee approved HB 2556 in an almost unanimous vote. Of course that is only Step 1 of about six steps. The Bill now goes to the House floor for debate and vote, hopefully on Monday. If/when it passes it then goes to the Senate and if there are no changes then it goes on to the Governor. Otherwise, it may bounce back and forth a couple of times. I/we are very optimistic especially after hearing from so many cheerleaders in the House today. I guess it's easier to get behind something when it's obviously a good thing, but what an enthusiastic group of lawmakers we have pulling for us! The work is not finished. There is still more "stumping" to do to get those who have not heard our testimony to understand the gravity of these two Bills. If you haven't taken the opportunity to write to your Representatives, Senator, or the Governor it's not too late and, in fact, is the perfect time.
2. Funding for next year for MATC and the other technical institutions will be addressed in the Omnibus Bill later in the session. At this point we are looking at a 4% increase over last year and the Board of Regents has requested that it be a 5% increase. I am confident that this will go through without any opposition. Funding for the new initiatives such as the Tech Ed Authority Director and staff and incentive programs for growth will also be discussed during Omnibus. We are seeking up to \$41 million but doubt that much will be available this year. We do hope and pray that we receive at least enough funding to get the Authority going and to provide some money for a tiered funding formula that provides better funding for high cost, high demand programs. It is never too early to encourage our lawmakers to keep an eye on this issue too and do what they can to provide this needed boost.
3. No birthdays that I know of next week but there is a lot on the schedule:

- a. Daylight savings time starts this weekend. Set your clocks ahead Saturday night.
- b. KBOR will be here to talk with our Nursing staff Monday.
- c. The Kansas Association of Technical Schools and Colleges will be holding their monthly meeting here on Tuesday.
- d. Board of Directors meeting in Wamego on Tuesday.
- e. KSU Architecture Chair will be here to talk about a senior class project where they create some concept drawings of new buildings for the campus and we judge their work.
- f. KBOR meetings Wednesday and Thursday.
- g. Legislative reception in Topeka Wednesday evening.
- h. Spring Break: March 19 – 23.

We are going to need that Spring break. Whew

Have a great weekend.

Rob