

Fueling Our Future

A CONSENSUS AGENDA TO CREATE LASTING GROWTH FOR THE REGION



There are currently over 4,000 open jobs in Cass County.¹



There is near unanimous support for an academy from local business stakeholders. Many go as far as saying this is long overdue.²



Most key companies in the region (85% of survey respondents) want Cass County to play a role in the public support of an academy.²



Nearly all business will be impacted. 90% said an academy would be important to the future of their organization.²



The majority of respondents are in favor of a public/private partnership to support a CWA.²



Most respondents are in favor of Cass County playing the role of public provider of funds for the academy.²

The Challenge

Businesses that have invested in Cass County are having difficulties finding the workers they need. This workforce shortage is hindering economic growth for our area while directly impacting county tax revenues via lost property and sales taxes. Overcoming it will allow the region to grow with more family-wage jobs, incoming businesses and greater entrepreneur opportunities.

Career Workforce Academy

The Career Workforce Academy (CWA) is a public/private partnership initiated by North Dakota State College of Science and the school districts of Central Cass, Fargo, Northern Cass and West Fargo. It will provide K-14 students, the incumbent workforce and new Americans a proven and innovative curriculum to prepare for successful careers in the area.

County-wide Approach

Solving workforce shortage issues needs to be a collaborative effort. The county-wide CWA approach will allow all Cass County students a chance to participate, while delivering education that is more responsive to changing employer and student needs.

\$30 Million Goal

The goal is to raise \$30 million through a 50-50 combination of public and private funding. To date, approximately \$11.3 million has been pledged from private sources. A \$15 million investment (one mill levy annually) from the Cass County capital improvement budget can make this happen and position our community for long-term growth.

¹ Source: Job Service ND 2019 | ² Source: Fueling Our Future Survey Dec. 2019
Note: Respondents represent nearly 12,000 employees in the region.