



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
For more information contact:
Rep. Bob Kulp (608) 266-0280

August 30, 2016

Speaker's Task Force on Youth Workforce Readiness Report Released

Madison... Rep. Bob Kulp (R-Stratford) released the report from the Speaker's Task Force on Youth Workforce Readiness. The report includes recommendations to help encourage Wisconsin youth to enter careers in the trades, manufacturing industry and technical fields.

"There is a high demand for skilled workers in our state and jobs are going unfilled," said Rep. Kulp. "We need to do a better job of changing the stigma of these positions that have family-supporting wages."

The Task Force on Youth Workforce Readiness had five meetings, which included tours and input from stakeholders, since last September. The task force report includes several recommendations to Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester) and the members of the Wisconsin State Assembly.

- Modify the school report card to value technical education.
- Encourage high school entrepreneurship programs.
- One-time exceptions to levy limits for equipment purchases for technical education programs.
- Integrate math skills in technical education curricula and visa-versa.
- Modify DWD grant criteria and outcome goals.
- Implement a clearinghouse for technical education curricula.

The task force learned about the many barriers to student participation in technical education and training, which ranged from transportation to shortage of qualified instructors.

"We know that attracting more quality workers in these fields is essential to businesses and the economy in our state," said Rep. Kulp. "I'm glad that I had the opportunity to hear about concerns from so many people around the state and I'm pleased we can now explore these recommendations next session."

"I want to thank the members and staff of the task force for their work on this important issue," Rep. Kulp added. "In addition, I want to applaud the innovators who are thinking outside the box and trying to deal with the skilled worker shortage in their respective communities. It's critical that the state plays a larger role in addressing this issue."

###