

History of Workforce Training: An Integral Component of the North Dakota University System

North Dakota's four workforce training regions (TrainND) are based at Williston State College, Lake Region State College, the North Dakota State College of Science, and Bismarck State College. These regions were created through House Bill 1443, enacted in 1999, as a result of recommendations from a statewide task force on workforce development and training. The primary purpose of this legislation was to develop a world-class workforce training system in North Dakota "to serve the work force needs of business and industry and to serve as a broker in arranging the delivery of training." The legislative expectation was that the training be "time sensitive and results oriented" and meet "the training needs of business and industry." Other key components of House Bill 1443 included the establishment of advisory boards for the workforce training regions; financial support from a combination of state funds, local/regional funds, institution support and training fees; and the development of collaborative relationships.