

A



**Please Support HB 25-1221**

**Sponsored by Reps. Hamrick & Garcia Sander, Sens. Bridges & Lundeen**

**Authorization of Emily Griffith Technical College to Offer an Associate of Applied Science Degree**

**Concept**

Emily Griffith Technical College (EGTC) seeks legislative authority to offer and confer an Associate Degrees of Applied Science for students participating in qualified Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs).

**The Issue**

Over the past decade, the Colorado higher education ecosystem has expanded its ability to meet students' needs through adjustments to role and mission and by creating innovative solutions to workforce training and education. These include building stackable credentials in coordinated career pathways, expansion of credit for prior learning to include workforce certifications, and the expansion of apprenticeship opportunities. Currently, Emily Griffith Technical College does not have the ability to offer an associate's degree and is limited in the scope of credentials they can offer. This creates roadblocks for students who wish to pursue an associate's degree while participating in an apprenticeship and it hinders employers' ability to grow their own workforce through educational incentives and promotions.

**Summary**

Allowing Emily Griffith Technical College to offer an Associate's Degree of Applied Science will benefit students and the workforce in the following ways:

- **Provide Greater Access:** Expands access to college degrees for learners who are not on a traditional higher education path by meeting them where they are in apprenticeship programs. As a result, more students will benefit from a degree without having to transition among higher education institutions thereby lifting their career/life trajectory opportunities, benefiting families and communities, and the greater economy of Colorado.

---

For further information, please contact the lobbyists for the Area Technical Colleges:

Ed Bowditch, [ed.bowditch@bcpublicaffairs.com](mailto:ed.bowditch@bcpublicaffairs.com), (303) 489-8680

Hannah Johnson, [hannah.johnson@bcpublicaffairs.com](mailto:hannah.johnson@bcpublicaffairs.com), (303) 704-6560

- Increase functionality: Expands and elevates the function and mobility in an apprenticeship, as well as clarifies the role of Emily Griffith Technical College as workforce development specialists in higher education.
- Service to the Workforce: Ensures that Emily Griffith Technical College's postsecondary programs are aligned with the workforce needs of the state and to that end helps ensure that there will be aligned jobs upon graduation.

As Colorado continues to solve for the Colorado Paradox and provide an educated workforce to support its growing economy, grapple with supporting its student population, students need increased access to affordable education options and seamless transitions to additional higher education opportunities – allowing EGTC to provide associate's degrees provides this.

### Questions about Proposal

**1. How will this be paid for?**

Students at Emily Griffith are not eligible for the College Opportunity Fund stipend program. The funding for Emily Griffith is part of a single line item for all three Area Technical Colleges.

**2. How many students are estimated to participate?**

Emily Griffith currently serves approximately 5300 students in apprenticeship programs. Current feedback indicates that potentially 3 percent of apprenticeship students are interested in to receiving an associate's degree. With today's enrollment numbers, that is 160 students.

**3. Will students who receive this degree be able to transfer credits to a Bachelor's Degree?**

Yes, as long as those pathways are articulated into an articulated baccalaureate option. Additionally, as long as courses in the pathway are a part of the CCCS common course numbering system, they will be eligible for transfer to relevant degree programs.

**4. How will quality be assured?** Emily Griffith Technical College is currently accredited through the Council on Occupational Education. Additionally, Emily Griffith receives program approval through the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education. All Associate's of Applied Science programs in Colorado are accredited.

**5. Why is this of value to a student?**

A USDOL registered apprenticeship is a valuable work-based learning experience where skills are overseen by Emily Griffith Technical College and conferred in both an employer and training setting. Combining these opportunities with additional education that stacks into a degree further promotes additional wage growth over time and continued higher educational opportunities.