

South Dakota Department of Health MOU Executive Summary

Purpose of Report: To inform the School Board that Southeast Technical College is entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the SD Department of Health for a CDC COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant

¹Southeast Technical College has been asked by the Community Health Worked Collaborative of South Dakota and the SD Department of Health (SD DOH) to enter into a partnership to provide academic training and development for Community Health Workers in South Dakota.

A Community Health Worker (CHW) is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member and has an unusually close understanding of the community they are serving. This trusted relationship enables the CHW to serve as a liaison, link, and intermediary between both the healthcare community and the social service community. In addition, the CHW assists with facilitating access to services that improve service delivery quality and cultural competencies for individuals.

Through a grant provided by the Center for Disease Control, the SD DOH has approved for funding to establish a Community Health Worker program to serve the needs of the citizens of South Dakota. The SD DOH was awarded the grant in June 2021.

The grant allows the SD DOS to work with STC in creating a CHW certificate program to provide academic training and development for individuals. STC has been awarded \$140,000 from the grant to cover curriculum development, project coordination with SD DOH, marketing, travel expenses, and CHW program standards. Over the next two fiscal years, with the academic program starting August 2022.

Administrative Recommendation to School Board: Acknowledge the collaborative initiative with the SD DOH and approve the signing of an MOU for the amount of \$140,000.