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development and listing these other areas. We talked about, as I mentioned earlier in opening today, that these funds are to improve the quality of the programs. They are broad-scoped programs. They enhance the academic skills that are being taught in our schools today, but giving an opportunity for these students then to apply those skills in different life situations and through different experiences through the courses that are offered. And there is a listing of those courses from some of the handouts that you have been given in ag education, business education, family and consumer sciences, industrial technology, marketing, health occupations, and other diversified occupations. These programs cannot compare to a regular classroom programs of English or even other electives--art and music. These are high-cost programs. Changes are quite evident. All of us know that technology changes our lives, not only our personal lives but also workplace, and the strains on budgets to continue to maintain and improve these programs are continually increasing. They are an educational investment in human capital. They are knowledge plus skills. They also do help to encourage development of skills needed to develop and operate small businesses. I remember taking a housing class a number of years ago and having to look into the future, and what we were looking at was actually what's happening today. Technology has invaded every portion of our lives and we need skills. There will be more people throughout our state that will be entering and operating businesses of their own. That is the backbone of our economy. It will also provide some additional quality and access to those students who want to obtain advance degrees, and that is the primary purpose, is to encourage our students to continue their education in community colleges, and then possibly if they, after working, many students cannot afford to go directly into a four-year university, but every student does need work skills.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR STUHR: They need skills that would help them, to enable them to continue their education. So I am...I'm asking for your continued support. I believe that this...these grant funds will be an investment, not only in students but also the future of our state. Thank you.