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### Brown Co to Participate in Student Loan Program

(KNZA)--The Brown County Commission has agreed to participate in a rural economic development program that helps new residents repay their student loans.

The commission Monday unanimously approved a resolution authorizing participation in the program that allows counties designated as a Rural Opportunity Zone to partner with the state to help new residents repay up to \$15,000 in college loans.

Hiawatha Foundation for Economic Development Director Jessica Kisling and Lyle Brown with the Kansas Department of Commerce met with the commission to discuss the program. In addition, representatives of several local businesses were on hand to voice their support for the program.

Kisling said HFED has committed to paying the county's portion of the student loan program and to completing any paperwork that's required. HFED has agreed to provide \$3,000 annually over a five-year period for the sponsorship of two individuals, which the state would match.

With the county's participation in the program, local businesses can also sponsor individuals.

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