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## **Idaho's Employers Support Training for Hundreds of New, Existing Employees**

### ***Idaho Workforce Development Council awards grants through the Workforce Development Training Fund***

(Boise) – The Idaho Workforce Development Council has approved a series of job training grants to help companies and educational institutions across the state provide existing employees, new hires and students with a variety of new skills and processes.

The grants were awarded to three companies, including The House of Design LLC., Western States Equipment Co., and Idaho Power Company. The universities awarded training money include Boise State University and the University of Idaho-Coeur d'Alene.

Altogether, the WDC awarded more than \$1.5 million to the five recipients to provide workforce training for more than 500 existing employees and 150 new employees. The grant awarded to Boise State will support virtual patient health care training to 480 new nursing graduates and another 525 nurses making the transition to using this technology to serve patients. The University of Idaho Coeur d'Alene will expand its summer internship program in collaboration with local IT businesses.

"Idaho Workforce Development Training Fund grants play a key role in addressing Idaho's skills gap, and assist employer efforts to grow and provide their employees with new skills critical to operations," said Wendi Secrist, executive director of the Idaho Workforce Development Council. "We are also excited to support Boise State University and its efforts to give hundreds of nurses the foundational skills to succeed in Idaho's growing, virtual patient care space."

The awards are part of the WDC's Workforce Development Training Fund, a dedicated fund generated by a 3 percent offset of the Idaho unemployment insurance tax.

The grants and training will target high-paying jobs across the state, with average wages among the recipients ranging from \$30-to-\$45 per hour, Secrist said.

Additional details of each grant award include:

- **Boise State University:** The award of \$292,000 will use new curriculum to prepare 480 nursing graduates and at least 525 nurses pivoting to virtual patient health care.
- **Idaho Power:** The utility was awarded \$49,000 to train 25 employees and two new employees on using new equipment, tools and processes.
- **House of Design LLC.:** The Nampa-based company was awarded \$263,000 to train 88 existing employees and 30 new employees.
- **Western States Equipment Co.:** The company received a grant of \$946,000 to train 431 current staff and 110 new employees in Meridian, Caldwell, Fruitland, Twin Falls, Idaho Falls, Pocatello, Lewiston, and Hayden.
- **University of Idaho-Coeur d'Alene:** Received a \$24,000 grant for its Dig'nIT High School Internship Program. This summer STEM enrichment program is designed to



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grow a creative, well-educated and career-minded network by engaging local businesses to provide meaningful work experience for high school students.

Idaho Workforce Development Council is currently awarding Outreach, Sector, Innovation, and Employer grants. You can find more information on grants available through the Workforce Development Training Fund at: [wdc.idaho.gov](http://wdc.idaho.gov)

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