

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

Wendi Secrist
Executive Director



Deni Hoehne
Chair

B. J. Swanson
Vice Chair

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

317 West Main Street, Boise, Idaho 83735-0510

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: Wednesday October 13, 2021

Time: 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Council Committee Members: Deni Hoehne, John Young, Joe Maloney, Kelly Kolb, Sarah Griffin

Staff: Wendi Secrist, Paige Nielebeck, Amanda Ames, Caty Solace, Stacy James, Matthew Thomsen, Jeffrey Bacon

Guests:

Call to Order at 2:30 p.m.

Roll Call – Quorum Met

Review Agenda

The budget was presented during the Council meeting so the Committee will skip this item.

****Review September 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes***

Motion by Mr. Maloney to approve the September 9, 2021 meeting minutes as written. Second by Mr. Kolb. Motion carried.

Boise State University Career Services – Innovation Grant

Boise State University (BSU) Career Services provides academic support, workforce readiness and onsite training mentors in a discipline with minimum skill requirements; an estimated 200 students go through the work program. Each students' program length may vary due to required skill training, industry, and employer. The program focuses on education certificates without a direct pathway to industry; an example would be a Political Science degree. A participating student currently receives academic credit(s) for completing the work program, however, the student is paying for the credits. The barrier to limited student participation is no stipend or wage payment. The BSU Provost recognized the programs enhancement and reach by infusing \$20,000 in funds to the program. This innovation grant over two years will pay stipends to students and augment a small portion of staffing cost.

WDTF Request: \$185,000

Discussion:

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The Work-U Program came out of BSU's College of Innovation and Design. The idea is to augment liberal arts programs that are not aligned directly to a career pathway or have opportunities for career experiences.

How much are the participants paid?

- It depends on where the individual works and what projects they work on.

Does BSU have partners for this program?

- BSU has MOU partners as part of the program. The MOUs are from the three entities most consistently used by students. BSU did provide a list of all employers students can select from.

How will the program be sustained?

- The goal is to have employers see the value in the project. BSU is looking to employers to provide the stipends instead of the university. Employers do currently contribute to the stipends, but the goal is to get employers to provide 100% of the stipends.

Motion by Mr. Kolb to approve the Boise State University Career Services Innovation Grant in the full amount of \$185,000. Second by Mr. Maloney. Motion carried.

Idaho Trucking Association (ITA) – Industry Sector Grant

The grant request to fund a trucking simulator has a dual purpose: attract potential candidates to the trucking industry and give high school students exposure to a trucking simulator and industry. Arkansas and Georgia are having success with similar twofold models. Industry benefits with a partnership with ITA in its initiative to attract drivers, reduce accidents, and increase retention through the latest broad-spectrum training modules which provide training simulations ranging from entry level to hazardous conditions. ITA's initiative also includes reaching out to 6,000 students in a three-year period. The grant funding will subsidize the Director's salary up to 50% FTE over three years so they may coordinate industry membership, pay for statewide travel cost, train a new part-time Director, and introduce truck driving and its industry to high school students across Idaho.

WDTF Request: \$242,000

Motion by Mr. Kolb to approve the Idaho Trucking Association Industry Sector Grant in the full amount of \$242,000. Second by Mr. Young.

If ITA can reach 6,000 students over 3-years, this is a great investment.

Motion carried.

Idaho Veteran's Chamber of Commerce – Innovation Grant

The grant funds intended use is to bridge the gap between veterans and employers. Representatives will work with employees on skills transferability and the program would utilize SkillsBridge, a US Department of Defense (DoD) program to connect with civilian employers. The DoD currently pays wages for SkillsBridge participants

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for up to 6 months. This is a statewide level endeavor to match job seekers to employer by matching military experience to civilian needs. Idaho Department of Labor (IDOL) estimates the Idaho Veterans labor force at approximately 44,000 with 3,000 unemployed.

WDTF Request: \$282,753.60

Motion by Mr. Kolb to approve the Idaho Veteran's Chamber of Commerce Innovation Grant in the full amount of \$282,753.60. Second by Mr. Maloney. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report

There is a gap in the Policy Committee with BJ retiring from the Council. Ms. Hoehne will chair the Policy Committee until a new chair is chosen.

At the beginning of COVID, some challenges appeared with the training system around CNA's and the lack of clarity on who oversees the training of CNA's in Idaho between CTE and Idaho Department of Health & Welfare (IDHW). Ms. Secrist is working with the Governor's Office, IDHW, CTE, and Senator Lent on this issue. Senator Lent requested a 24-hour review of the CNA program by Legislative Services. The results came back that Idaho does not have clear statutes on who oversees the CNA program. IDHW oversees part of the program but does not have the statutory authority to do that. Some of these concerns have been going on for a while but came to a head during COVID. Ms. Secrist will continue supporting the efforts to resolve this issue.

Last week, the Outreach Committee approved an outreach project request from Idaho Technology Council (ITC) to fund the White Label for Nepris. The WDC and State Board of Education Executive Committees got to see Nepris during the last joint meeting. This is a great opportunity to get Nepris into Idaho Schools. ITC will be the executive sponsor of the project. The schools will pay, individually, for their Nepris licenses but can work with employers to cover the cost. Small schools pay \$1,500 a year and all other schools pay \$3,500 a year. A few employers have already committed to sponsoring schools. In December, the Council will see a live demo of Nepris. The outreach project funding is for up to \$150,000. This is something that school districts should be very excited about. The WDC will be able to gather a lot of data from Nepris.

Executive Committee Open Discussion

No discussion topics at this time.

Motion by Mr. Young to adjourn. Second by Mr. Maloney. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 3:11 p.m.