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## **Idaho Employer Grants Awarded to Training for New Hires, Education Programs**

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

(Boise) – A series of grants awarded by the Idaho Workforce Development Council will help businesses and universities train new and existing employees.

This round of WDC grants, totaling more than \$2.2 million, have been awarded to Hearthside Foods in Boise, North Idaho Community College, Lewis-Clark State College, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and the Idaho Department of Education.

The grants will help train 60 new hires and more than 180 incumbent employees at Hearthside Foods, a Boise-based company responding to increased customer demand for its snack bars and fresh and frozen foods.

The money will also be used to inject more dental assistants and hygienists into the workforce in north and eastern Idaho.

“These grants will support employers and those seeking employment throughout the entire state,” said Wendi Secrist, executive director of the Idaho Workforce Development Council. “In particular, these projects showcase the variety of collaborations happening throughout Idaho to support workforce development needs statewide.”

The money for these training grants comes from the WDC’s Workforce Development Training Fund, which is a dedicated fund replenished by a 3 percent offset to the state’s unemployment insurance tax.

The grants, training and education programs will also help increase wages for participants across the state, Secrist said.

Specific details of the five grants include:

- **Hearthside Foods:** The award of \$151,000 will train 60 new hires and 186 incumbents at the company, which has recently added two new production lines at its east Boise facility.
- **Lewis-Clark State College:** The grant of \$1.28 million will help the public college in Lewiston expand its collision repair, diesel, welding, and allied health programs. The money will be used to buy new equipment to increase program capacity. The program expects to serve 942 participants.
- **Shoshone-Bannock Tribes:** The grant provides \$200,000 to the tribes to support implementation of certified nursing assistant, dental assistant, and engineering technician in a training partnership with Idaho State University and the Idaho National Laboratory. The programs will train tribal member high school students and adults, and funding will be used to purchasing equipment essential to starting up the programs.
- **North Idaho Community College:** The grant of \$554,000 will be used to buy new equipment and renovate a new location on the NIC campus that will create more space to

accommodate an increase in participants. The dental hygienist program will add 10 new students annually, and two additional seats in the dental assistant program.

- **State Department of Education:** The grant of \$9,800 will be used to support a year-long career readiness training opportunity for educators. The educators who take part in industry tours, monthly webinars, and interaction with content experts take part with the intent of bringing information back to the 14,000 students they serve.

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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