

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

Workforce Development Policy Committee Minutes

Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Committee Members: BJ Swanson, Jason Hudson, Christi Gilchrist, Todd Schwarz, John Smith, Scott Syme, Lori Wolff, Jani Revier, Tom Kealey, Tom Schultz, Clay Long

Staff: Wendi Secrist, Caty Solace, Amanda Ames

Guests:

Call to Order at 2:02pm

Roll Call – Quorum Met

Review Agenda

Ms. Secrist requested the Entrepreneurship Training agenda item be moved up to the beginning of the agenda.

Review February 16, March 16, and April 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Schultz to approve the February 16, March 16, and April 9, 2021 meeting minutes as written. Second by Ms. Revier. Motion carried.

Entrepreneurship Training

Currently there is nothing in WDC policy prohibiting the use of WDTF funds for entrepreneurship training. The Executive Committee and the Governor's Office have discussed this topic, and both were supportive, but would like the thoughts of the Policy Committee.

Discussion

Entrepreneurship training could be supported but should not compete with other institutions or resources and should be folded into existing partnerships with agencies. The institutions are having similar discussions as to what would make up this type of training. If the council decides to go this direction, it is important to think about how the training would be different or unique to what is already being offered in Idaho.

What is the definition of entrepreneurship training?

- Entrepreneurship is very broad, but training would be an advantage to smaller businesses in Idaho. It would be difficult to define it into a specific course.

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The skillset required for someone to be a successful entrepreneur includes writing business plans, marketing, finance, etc. The skillset extends to other areas.

The Committee would like the WDC staff to reach out to the SBDC for ideas on this subject.

Launch Course Approvals

Ms. Solace presented an updated Launch course list. Please see attached document.

Discussion

Should safety trainings be the responsibility of the employer?

- Some of the safety trainings here are job specific.

If the trainings on the Launch Course List do not meet the requested skills gaps, it will be hard to approve them to be paid for by Idaho Launch.

- Some of the courses on the list are a clear match to the skills gap while others offer less of a match for an “in-demand skill.”

Motion by Ms. Revier to approve the list of trainings as presented excluding the trainings marked in yellow. Second by Mr. Smith.

Mr. Schwarz abstains from voting.

Motion carried.

Update on Launch Offerings & Gaps

Training gaps for the Launch skills have been identified. Most gaps have been covered outside of auto mechanic training. In an audit of auto trainings offered in the state it was clear there was a large range of training options. All Auto trainings listed are eligible for federal financial aid.

Discussion

Why are some auto tech programs more expensive than others?

- The difference is between the institution offering the program being a community college versus traditional universities.

Some of the programs have big differences. The one offered at CSI is sponsored by General Motors and has a lot of requirements. There is likely an apprenticeship opportunity here and is something the Committee should explore.

Auto tech is one of CWI’s largest programs and it is not tied to a specific company. CWI offers a lot of ASE certifications.

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There is a workforce problem to solve, and it might be better suited for CTE to work on solving it.

Since Auto tech is the only skills gap in Launch, is this something the Committee would like to pursue adding to the Launch program list?

- The Committee decided this is beyond the scope of Launch.

Work-Based Learning

The WBL Committee is looking at models to see how to scale certain programs in Idaho. The expansion or adaption of Innovation Grant policy could be explored to assist with these projects.

Ms. Secrist would like to discuss this further in future meetings.

Motion by Mr. Long to adjourn. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 2:50pm