

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, January 19, 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, Paige Nielebeck, Caty Solace, Jeffrey Bacon, Amanda Ames, Matthew Thomsen

Guests:

Call to Order at 2:02 p.m.

Roll Call – Quorum Met

Review Agenda

The New Course Approvals agenda item should be marked as an action item.

Review December 15, 2020 and January 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Kealey to approve the December 15, 2020 and January 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Second by Mr. Schultz. Motion carried.

Launch

New Course Approvals

Launch courses were presented for approval. Please see attached document.

Discussion:

Is the Welding 2 course in-person?

- Both welding courses are in-person.

Motion by Mr. Long to approve adding the two Welding trainings to Idaho Launch as presented. Second by Mr. Kealey. Motion carried.

For-Credit Programs

Currently, Launch is supporting Workforce Training Programs and not-for-credit programs. There are many for-credit programs Idaho institutions are offering that connect to in-demand careers. Should Launch funding

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extend beyond not-for-credit programs to help pay for for-credit, in-demand programs? The for-credit programs have a more arduous registration process, but Online Idaho is going to help streamline that process. Most for-credit programs are also eligible for financial aid.

For instance, there is no short-term training to move someone towards a career as an auto tech. If the Committee wants to offer training on programs like auto tech, then the Committee will need to explore offering for-credit programs through Launch. Every program in Launch is approved by the Committee so everything is being carefully selected.

Discussion:

It is important to keep the Provosts in the loop if the Committee decides to move this direction.

There will be a shift in consumer choice once the CARES Act funding is gone and the WDC is no longer able to provide reimbursement for 100% of the training. The Committee can look at trainings currently being funded through the WDTF to get an idea of what training people might seek when the switch is made.

If the Committee supports for-credit programs, will there be an expectation that an individual exhaust all other funding and financial aid opportunities before using Launch?

- Yes. The Committee will need to bring in financial aid experts to help through this process.

The Committee is interested in a presentation with more data about which courses participants are choosing for Launch, and some information from financial aid professionals.

WDTF Policy – Apprenticeship Reimbursement

In August, the Committee discussed creating a streamlined employer grant application process for employers who are starting or hiring Registered Apprenticeships. These applications would qualify for reimbursement without going through the whole employer grant application process and review by the Grant Review Committee. Since the programs are Registered Apprenticeships, the program has already gone through many checks and balances.

The Committee reviewed the discussion from the August meeting. Please see attached document.

Launch was not available when this discussion was started. Launch is another way the WDC can support apprentices if the related instruction is being supported through Launch. This would provide two pathways for the employer and the apprentice to receive funding for the same position.

The Committee reviewed examples of what the program might look like. Please see attached document.

The Executive Committee discussed this topic, and they were in full support of being able to utilize both the WDTF and Launch. They were a little more supportive of a model that did not pay the funding up front.

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Discussion:

It is concerning that the policy could allow funds to be concentrated to a few individuals. Is it a concern that by allowing funds to flow on both the employer and apprentice side that it is going to enhance the concentration of where WDTF funds end up?

- This will help open the program. Smaller employers will have a more streamlined process to help establish apprenticeships. There are also currently three apprenticeship grants in Idaho and the entities of those grants will be able to share this with employers statewide.

The Committee needs to decide what amount of funding would incentivize employers. It would be easiest to have a flat amount available for the duration of the apprenticeship.

A draft policy will be presented at the next meeting.

Motion by Mr. Kealey to adjourn. Second by Mr. Hudson. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 2:44 p.m.