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## **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

514 W Jefferson St, Ste 131, Boise, Idaho 83702

### **Grant Review Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023

**Time:** 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

**Committee Members:** Kelly Kolb, Brian Cox, Jake Reynolds, Jay Larsen, Jeff Greene, Jenni Bradford, Jøe Maloney, Rico Barrera

**Staff:** Matthew Thomsen, Amanda Ames, Jeffrey Bacon, Jenny Hay

**Guests:** Carlie Foster

**Called to order at 3:01 p.m.**

**Welcome**

**Roll Call** – Quorum met

**Review Agenda** – No changes

### **Review March 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion by Mr. Cox to approve the March 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes as written. Second by Mr. Green. Motion carried.**

### **Boise State University Industry Sector Grant**

Mr. Kolb and Mr. Thomsen gave an overview of Boise State's industry sector grant application. BSU is creating a Semiconductor for All program in response to the need for skilled workforce in the semiconductor industry. The program will target 9-12 grade students, non-traditional students, non-degree seeking students, and tradition students seeking an undergraduate, graduate, or advanced degree in a semiconductor related field. Programs will be provided online/remoted, in-person, and in mobile labs. Hands-on activities and summer camps will help engage youth interested in the industry. Students will be able to take dual credit courses. BSU is also working with IDLA to make content available online. Programs will also provide well-defined pathways for advanced degree and career possibilities. The Semiconductor for All program is designed to benefit non-traditional students by offering multiple on-ramps and off-ramps depending on the individual's needs. A standalone semiconductor certification will be offered that will allow non-traditional students to sign up for certificates without enrolling in a full degree program.

**WDTF Request: \$4,996,474.36**

Mr. Thomsen discussed that he worked with Dr. Sin Ming Loo from Boise State University after his work on the WDC Cybersecurity Industry Sector grant and the success of that program. The model for the semiconductor grant is based on the success of the previous grant and feedback from industry partners.

Discussion:

- Mr. Reynolds asks if the money for this grant is coming from a different bucket of money as the Workforce Development Training Fund has been depleted for the fiscal year and grant funding for industry sector grants has been temporarily suspended.
  - Mr. Thomsen explained that the WDC Executive Committee did suspend funding for industry sector, innovation, and employer grants. However, the Executive Committee had exempted applications that support the semiconductor industry.
- The Committee is in favor of the proposal as it encompasses a large group of potential trainees, will have broad exposure, and the timeline is appropriate.
- The Committee noted that this grant application scored very high on the rubric.

**Motion by Mr. Reynolds to recommend approval of the Boise State University Semiconductor for All industry sector grant in the full amount of \$4,996,474.36 to the Executive Committee. Second by Ms. Bradford. Motion carried.**

***College of Western Idaho Industry Sector Grant***

The College of Western Idaho application intends to expand the number of trained technicians and meet the needs of the growing semiconductor industry in Idaho. Funding will be used to double the size of CWI's established Associates of Applied Science program in Advanced Mechatronics Engineering Technician (AMET). The program aligns with industry partners' needs for mechanical, electrical, problem-solving, and professional skills. CWI will use the funds to add faculty, staff, and equipment needed to double enrollment in Advanced Mechatronics, Engineering Technician (AMET) from 20 new students a semester to 40 new students starting in Fall 2023. A total of 240 students enrolled in the grant period.

**WDTF Request: \$4,194,931.13**

Discussion:

- Mr. Reynolds commented that the grant application is well written.
- The Committee would like some clarification as to how this grant is different from the Industry Sector Grant application from Boise State University.
  - Mr. Thomsen provided clarification, discussing that while both grants are similar and serve the same industry, this one focused on the Mechatronics Program expansion, filling a specific need more quickly.
  - Whereas the Boise State grant would be a longer-term program goal and focused on outreach to a larger population of people and is potentially a model to serve all of Idaho

in numerous different jobs. Across the industry, both grants would serve many employers and Idahoans.

- The Committee noted that the cost per person for this project is expensive, but the equipment is valuable and worthwhile.
- The Committee inquired about the longer-term sustainability of the program. The Committee is interested in the longevity of the equipment specifically.
  - Mr. Thomsen shared that between CWI and industry partners, with input from other educational institutions, there is a committee and an MOU in place that discusses the types and quality of equipment needed by industry and what would be the most effective for such a program for employers and for industry standard.
- The Committee felt that the industry will keep growing.
  - If there is concern about sustainability in the long term, there is a real need right now and this is a great opportunity to begin filling workforce gaps in a meaningful way.

**Motion by Mr. Larson to recommend approval of the College of Western Idaho Industry Sector Grant for the full amount of \$4,194,931.13 to the Executive Committee. Second by Ms. Bradford.**

Discussion:

- Mr. Cox asked if there is any recourse if there isn't enough funding for both grants as recommended by this Committee.
  - Mr. Thomsen assured the Committee that the WDC staff would not bring any potential applications to the Committee if there was not an opportunity for funding.
  - He clarified that there are potential allocations from appropriated WDC funding that would be a good fit for these projects.
- Mr. Reynolds requested an updated budget report at the next meeting to see where funding streams are for the WDC. This would be helpful for the Committee's work.

**Motion carried.**

**Motion by Mr. Reynolds to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Green  
Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.**