

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

317 W Main Street, Boise, Idaho 83735-0510

Grant Review Committee Meeting Minutes – July 10, 2018

Council Members: Bobbi-Jo Meuleman, Deni Hoehne, ~~Ken Wiesmore~~, Melinda Smyser, ~~Michelle Stennett~~, Steve Widmyer

Committee Members: Jay Larsen

Guests:

Staff: Paige Nielebeck, Wendi Secrist, William Burt, Matt Thomsen

Called to order at 3:05

Welcome

Review Agenda – no additions

Roll Call – Quorum Met

Approve June 7, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Ms. Smyser to approve the minutes as written. Second by Mr. Widmyer. Motion carried.

Review Workforce Development Training Fund Balance

WDTF Cash Balance 7/05/2018	\$17,863,885.58
Less Active Obligated Balance Employer Grants	\$7,428,222.90
Less Active Obligated Balance Industry Sector Grants	\$889,666.01
Less Active Obligated Balance Micro Grants	\$51,693.44
WDTF Obligated Balance	\$9,494,303.23
Less FY19 WDTF Admin Costs	\$234,371.00
Obligated Balance	\$9,259,932.23
Unobligated Balance	\$8,603,953.35
Proposals before Grant Review Committee	\$579,075.50
Less Potential Proposals	\$1,993,109.00
Obligated Balance if all funded	\$11,832,116.73
Unobligated Balance if all funded	\$6,031,768.85

Employer Grant – Plant Therapy

Plant Therapy answered the questions about the online courses and the transferability of the skills as follows:

The Aromatherapy Certification Program is a 235 hour course with its own curriculum that is approved for Certification by AIA (Alliance of International Aromatherapists) and NAHA (National Association of Holistic Aromatherapists), the two governing bodies of Aromatherapy in the U.S.

You will learn about essential oil chemistry, botany, in-depth study into therapeutic properties of oils, medicinal blending, A&P, case studies and detailed safety information including pregnancy and drug interactions. It's a program designed for professional aromatherapists, encompassing all aspects of Aromatherapy.

When the you complete the course, you will become a Certified Aromatherapist and can also apply for professional membership with AIA and/or NAHA. Certification shows that you have applied yourself and gained the level of training and education approved by these organizations. It's an external validation by other professionals in the field and gives the clients a reference point.

The transfer-ability of an aromatherapist's skill set can be seen in the various employers who employ aromatherapists. These include spas, salons, health care groups, essential oil companies, and aromatherapists may work as consultants as well. Employees can also combine their aromatherapy certification with another profession such as nursing, massage therapy, herbal medicine, yoga instruction, or cosmetology.

This type of work is new to the west. It could be a great opportunity; however not much is known about this field quite yet. It is hard to see that the skills are transferrable, but it is also hard to see the future of this industry.

Ms. Secrist shared that the committee does have the option to fund only the training they are comfortable with.

It was recommended that committee member and/or a WDC staff member tour the Plant Therapy Facility. Mr. Thomsen will reach out to Plant Therapy to request a tour of the facility for a committee member. The Committee will hold off on voting until a site visit has been completed.

Sector Grant – Idaho State University

At the previous Grant Review Committee meeting, members asked this was a duplication of services. ISU provided a market analysis of Education Programs and Benefits: Surveying and Geomatics Outreach Project. Below is a short synopsis of the conclusion ISU came to:

A study by the Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi under the direction of Institute Director Dr. Gary Jeffress compared similar ABET accredited surveying programs throughout the country. Dr. Jeffress' analysis produces a number that he describes as "an indicator of a degree program impact on a state's population." The study's results reveal that the University of Maine and Idaho State University rank first and second respectively on the impact value each program has on their state population." (Complete study is available upon request) This is not surprising as the two programs have close ties and share

similar teaching philosophies. Within the last year, the University of Maine program has transitioned to fully online courses. Likewise, the Idaho State program intends to transition to fully online courses. These will be the only two surveying programs in the country to offer courses fully online. In other words, it can be said that both programs are trendsetters and at the forefront of online surveying education.

There is a concern about demand. It seems like a high number of individuals who are interested in the training.

- They determined that number by a survey they conducted. People marked that they were interested in receiving more information on the training. These interested people were not included in the formal grant. 53 firms were surveyed and over 72% of them said they had employees who would like to advance their education.
- There is going to need to be some recruitment efforts done by ISU for this training.

A big issue for this industry is most of the skilled workers are reaching retirement age. Currently the pipeline is not built to fill the gaps.

Motion by Mr. Larsen to recommend approval of the ISU Sector Grant for \$159,595.50. Second by Bobbi-Jo Meuleman. Motion carried.

Sector Grant – College of Eastern Idaho

College of Eastern Idaho is working on addressing the workforce shortage in welders in Eastern and Southern Idaho. They are running into a common issue of the skilled welders are reaching retirement age and no one can fill the gaps in the workforce. 6 high schools were visited to look at their welding programs. Most of the programs complained that students were unable to complete the welding standards by the time they graduated. CEI would like to put on 6 weeks of training on Saturdays for students to earn SkillStack Welding badges that were developed with their industry partners. The badge will provide evidence that the students have the skills.

The request from CEI is \$250,000.

This is such a great opportunity for everyone. It is a bonus that it takes place on Saturdays.

Is there any duplication around here?

- From a duplication standpoint it lives in the middle of the welding credit programs and the high school programs. CWI is in the same boat in that they have capacity constraints. If their workforce center would leverage the resources that CEI is using it would open up many opportunities.

How will an instructor manage 10 different booths at one time?

- This is probably a normal student teacher ratio that is in the schools. CEI will have instructors available to handle this task.

What if someone comes to the committee asking why the training that was funded for Premier's employer grant was for them to hire unskilled welders and internally train them. This grant allows for Premier employees, other business employees, and general public to come in and sharpen their skills for pay-raises or to gain employment.

Motion by Ms. Meuleman to recommend the approval of the College of Eastern Idaho Sector Grant for \$250,000. Second by Ms. Smyser. Motion carried.

Feedback on Grant Summaries

The way the materials are presented is great. It is easy to read and find information. It is not too detailed, but enough for the committee to make informed decisions. It has been very helpful to be able to gather additional information if the committee is unsure on a decision.

Adjourned at 3:50 PM

Motion by Ms. Smyser to adjourn. Second by Mr. Larsen. Motion carried.