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GOVERNOR



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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

317 W Main Street, Boise, Idaho 83735-0510

Grant Review Committee Meeting Minutes – May 28, 2019

Committee Members: Deni Hoehne, Jay Larsen, Michelle Stennett, Justin Touchstone, Steve Widmyer, Ken Wiesmore, Jani Revier, Jeff Greene, Tom Kealey, **Joe Maloney**, Brian Cox

Staff: Wendi Secrist, Matt Thomsen, Caty Solace, Amanda Ames

Called to order at 2:01

Welcome

Roll Call

Review Agenda

Approve April 23, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes by Ken Wiesmore. Second by Jani Revier. Motion carried

Financial Summary

Ms. Secrist reviewed the financial summary. Revenues are now integrated into the report. A question was asked whether there is an amount that we don't want to go below?

- We're working towards having enough information to make those kind of strategic decisions but don't quite have a full year of actual information yet.

Annually, we will provide an additional review of revenue and expenditures of the fund that the committee can provide input to. The committee could also look at developing operating guidance specifically for the committee.

University of Idaho Co-op

Matt Thomsen provided a brief description of the U of I grant. The University of Idaho is requesting \$419,622.50 for an industry sector grant that will help fund a co-op program for the College of Engineering. The program will train 50-60 unique students during 80 separate on-the-job training experiences over the three-year grant period. The College would hire one person to run the Co-op which would allocate about 37% of the budget towards personnel. The co-op program will be made sustainable through fees paid by students in the program. The first year of the co-op fee will be subsidized then phased out. After the grant period has ended the student will be paying \$400 to participate in the co-op.

Ms. Revier asked why are the co-op fees subsidized?

Those subsidizations fall off in the later years as they are building the program. They are also working on how the timing of specific courses will work for the student experience – and will use funds to pay instructors until there are enough students in the co-op program to support through regular tuition.

Ms. Revier asked if we would see other requests from the other colleges within UI or other institutions. Staff instructed U of I that they needed to consider this as start-up funding for the program across the entire institution and that we will want them to share their model with other institutions. However, we could see applications from other institutions like ISU, BSU, LCSC.

The program originated through a collaboration between Coeur d'Alene employers and University of Idaho's computer science program and is a great example of what we want to encourage. At the April meeting when this application was first reviewed the question came up as to whether the co-op program accelerated student's abilities to gain employment? No one in Idaho is doing the Co-op experience. At the last meeting the question was asked as to why students were not getting credit for the experience. Students will receive a credit for an elective prep class. They may also receive 3-6 credits for an independent study class that is taken on top of the co-op program. Then came the bigger question, can the university do anything a bit better to help students graduate school faster. The university is on board to work towards work-based learning experience that lead to credits. The Council and staff would be happy to assist with working through any barriers that they might that would further the programs ability to turn work-based learning into a college credit. The Chief Academic officer for the Office of the State Board of Education has also stated he would assist with working through this issue.

Mr. Wiesmore felt they did a good job of answering the questions.

Mr. Wiesmore made a motion that the University of Idaho Co-op Industry Sector Grant be recommended for approval of the full amount of \$419,622.50. The motion was second by Ms. Revier. Motion passed.

WDC Strategic Plan – Input on Strategies Survey

Staff sent out a link to a survey to have each committee start thinking about objectives. During June meetings we will go through each of our objectives. Ms. Hoehne encouraged everyone to please go through and fill out their thoughts. You can put anything in that you are inspired to.

Mr. Wiesmore asked why grants are made for 2 and 3 years, rather than asking for one-year budgets and asking for a reapplication for the next year. This is something the committee can discuss next month.

Ms. Hoene mentioned an article from the ID Press, she read a quote from Cecil Andrus: *“We don't believe in existing business subsidizing new business. When you come to Idaho you become a citizen, and we all play by the same rules. A few years down the line and you'll be an old-timer. Do you want to subsidize the next guy who comes along?”* The committee agreed it's important to focus on education and training that strategically makes sense.

Justin Touchstone moved to adjourn. The motion was second by Jani Revier.

Adjourned at 2:35