

**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

### **Outreach Committee Meeting**

**Date:** Wednesday, December 2, 2020

**Time:** 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

**Committee Members:** John Young, Shelli Bardsley, Donna Butler, Dave Hannah, Marie Hattaway, Kate Lenz, Georgia Smith, Sarah Buenrostro, Janelle Culley, Jeff Tucker, ~~Doug Park~~, Linda Clark, Matt Van Vleet, ~~Marilyn Whitney~~, Megan O'Rourke, ~~Janet Pretti~~

**Staff:** Caty Solace, Paige Nielebeck, Amanda Ames, Wendi Secrist, Matthew Thomsen

**Guests:** John McFarlane, Kaitlin Maguire, Sarah Nash, Anna Almerico

**Call to Order at 1:31 p.m.**

**Roll call** - Quorum Met

**Review Agenda** – No changes to the agenda

**\*Approve October 7, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion by Mr. Hannah to approve the October 7, 2020 meeting minutes as written. Second by Mr. Tucker. Motion carried.**

#### ***STEM Externship Project Report and Sustainability Report***

Mr. McFarlane has been the project manager at the STEM Action Center for the externship outreach project the Committee sponsors. The STEM Action Center is applying for a third year of funding. The Committee requested Mr. McFarlane provide a sustainability report to the Committee before reviewing the application.

Mr. McFarlane presented on the STEM Externship Project and provided a sustainability report. Please see attached document.

#### **Discussion:**

The Iowa externship program was used as a model for Idaho's. Iowa averages about 80 externs per year. The STEM Action Center and the WDC decided 60 externs is the maximum for Idaho's program based on staffing capacity. 60 is the maximum staff could handle without having to hire a full-time employee.

From an employer perspective, the externship program is very helpful to both the business and the extern. The externs are all ready to work and eager to learn. STEM has consistently heard from businesses that the externs have exceeded their expectations and brought great value to the business. The teachers have gained exposure to a wide variety of opportunities available to Idaho students.

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Has there been interest in the program outside of the Treasure Valley? What can the Committee do to increase interest outside of the valley?

- Interest from educators has been widespread. Mr. Thomsen and Mr. McFarlane have been able to seek out businesses in rural areas to participate. Generally, there are more educators than businesses.
- Mr. Thomsen is reaching out to industry partners to find business participants.

### ***\*STEM Externship Project***

Externships are a transformative experience for educators and students that can change classroom dynamics and show students potential local career opportunities. Through externships, educators spend time in a workplace to learn through experience about trends, skill requirements and opportunities in industries. In 2019, Idaho STEM Action Center (STEM AC) and Workforce Development Council (WDC) placed 16 K-12 public Idaho educators in externships with local organizations for five weeks during the summer. Educators will return to their classrooms in the fall with new ways to connect classroom content with students' future career interests and will be able to help students develop the needed skills to prepare for being part of Idaho's workforce. The cost of this program is the stipends externs receive for their work and time. As 2019 was the pilot year for this program, the cost was covered by Idaho STEM AC and WDC; however, to move towards a sustainable, cost share model, the program will ask participating organizations to cover or partially cover the stipend fee for the upcoming year. Not all organizations, especially small ones, will be able to cover this fee and therefore, STEM AC is submitting this request to WDC to cover the stipends of externs placed with these smaller organizations, particularly those in rural areas, so we can expand the reach of the program to these underserved populations.

### **WDTF Request: \$52,500**

It is the long-term goal of the Committee that outreach projects become self-sufficient. STEM has included support from WDC in the next 5 years of its plan. Typically, the Committee does not fund multi-year programs.

**Motion by Dr. Clark to approve the STEM Externship Project in the full amount of \$52,500 with the caveat that the STEM Action Center be informed that the WDTF Outreach Projects will not be a continual funding source and the expectation is for the STEM Action Center to find ongoing funding. Second by Ms. Brown. Motion carried.**

Discussion:

Does the outreach project application contain a statement that the funds are used for startup? It might help applicants know upfront that the intent is for startup funding and the expectation is the program to be self-sufficient.

- Currently there is nothing in the application that states this. The intention could be defined more clearly. Some of the programs requesting funding are expansion and new programs. This could be a subject to discuss at the next Committee meeting.

### ***Regional Outreach Support Program Update***

The regional outreach support program proposal was presented to the Council at the October Council meeting, and returned to the committee level without decision. Ms. Solace, Mr. Young, and Ms. Secrist met with Ms.

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Meuleman to discuss the proposal. The Governor's Office is supportive of the concept but not the proposed model. Mr. Young and Ms. Solace worked to create a new concept to present to the Executive Committee. The new proposal is to work with individual regions on a WDTF grant application to support regional outreach.

Ms. Secrist shared the data on the distribution of the WDTF funds. Please see attached slides.

### **Discussion:**

The Committee is in support of moving forward this direction. Ms. Solace will start reaching out to the regions to find out who might be interested in applying for a grant.

### **Idaho Department of Labor Outreach Update**

Ms. Smith shared on the Apprenticeship Idaho Outreach plan and National Apprenticeship week. Please see attached documents.

### **Discussion**

IDOL has done a great job getting this information out and getting all the agencies connected and communicating well. Thank you to IDOL for all the hard work they have put into these projects.

**Motion by Ms. Smith to adjourn. Second by Mr. Tucker. Motion carried.**

**Adjourned at 2:31 p.m.**