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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

317 W Main Street, Boise, Idaho 83735-0510

Grant Review Committee Meeting Minutes – September 28, 2021

Committee Members: Brian Cox, Jake Reynolds, Jay Larsen, Jeff Greene, Jenni Bradford, Joe Maloney, Kelly Kolb, Rico Barrera, ~~Sarah Griffin~~

Staff: Jeffrey Bacon, Matthew Thomsen, Paige Nielebeck, Stacy James

Guests: Tony Prka

Called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Welcome

Roll Call – Quorum met

Review Agenda – No changes to the agenda

Review August 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Kolb asked that this item be moved to the next meeting.

Elevate Academy - Industry Sector Grant

Elevate Academy is building a new facility in Post Falls. The grant request is specific to the new Post Falls site and seeks funding for equipment and personnel for the career technical education school. The mission is to make connections between education and career opportunities for participating students (targeting 6th-12th grade students meeting the states at-risk qualifications). The Post Falls center will focus on manufacturing, welding, construction, healthcare, technology, and hospitality demands. In as early as three years the Post Falls center will have a graduating class.

WDTF Request: \$869,956

Discussion:

Does the Post Falls school have employer partnerships in the community?

- Community partners and employers include industries from Construction, Welding/Manufacturing, Business/Marketing, Health Professions, Culinary Arts, Drones/Technology, and potentially Aerospace.
- JA & Kathryn Albertson Foundation contributed a \$1.4 million match.
- The Idaho Community Excellence Charter Program provided a startup contribution of \$800,000.

- Elevate Academy bridges the gap between education and career opportunities through three engagement channels: youth apprenticeships, career education outreach on available careers, and employers to partner as mentors.

Is there a foreseen need within the community?

- The facility analysis scored the program need “Well” overall.
- The sector contributors are numerous and substantive.

Did the Caldwell school have employer partnerships?

- JA & Kathryn Albertson Foundation funded a \$1 million in cash match for the Caldwell location and their vetting process is commonly known to be rigid.

Has the Caldwell academy met its metrics?

- Ms. Bradford visited the Caldwell location last year and at that time it was noted continued growth of faculty and programs.

Does this grant spur new grant request from Idaho school districts to fund salary gaps?

- The proposed salary funding is a one-time request; subsequent years salary will be funded by tuition and standardized state education funding.
- The committee recognizes the proposed funding request meets current policies and eligibility for approval. The committee notes the increased demand for funds and wants to assess its impact.

What will opening a 3rd location in Post Falls in 2023 impact?

- Its focus on at-risk youth will support, not compete with public and public chartered schools. Elevate Academy intentionally supports existing schools by focusing on at-risk students and not taking a seat away from public and public chartered schools.
- Mr. Thomson will report out later if Elevate Academy intends to request a separate grant for the Idaho Falls location.

Mr. Kolb recommended each committee member to complete the Evaluation Rubric individually and review the Elevate Academy industry sector grant again at the next meeting.

Boise State University Career Services – Innovation Grant

Boise State University (BSU) Career Services provides academic support, workforce readiness and onsite training mentors in a discipline with minimum skill requirements; an estimated 200 students go through the work program. Each students’ program length may vary due to required skill training, industry, and employer. The program focuses on education certificates without a direct pathway to industry; an example would be a Political Science degree. A participating student currently receives academic credit(s) for completing the work program, however, the student is paying for the credits. The barrier to limited student participation is no stipend or wage payment. The BSU Provost recognized the programs enhancement and reach by infusing \$20,000 in funds to the program. This innovation grant over two years will pay stipends to students and augment a small portion of staffing cost.

WDTF Request: \$185,000 (changed from \$182,000)

Discussion:

How will employers be selected for the program?

- The BSU MOU provides guidelines to BSU as to acceptable employer partnerships.
- BSU has previously received grants in the years 2019, 2020 and 2021 and in each instance has agreed to and followed the guidelines.

Motion by Ms. Bradford to recommend approval of the Boise State University Career Center Innovation Grant in the full amount of \$185,000 to the Executive Committee. Second by Mr. Maloney. Motion carried.

Idaho Trucking Association (ITA)– Industry Sector Grant

The grant request to fund a trucking simulator has a dual purpose: attract potential candidates to the trucking industry and give high school students exposure to a trucking simulator and industry. Arkansas and Georgia are having success with similar twofold models. Industry benefits with a partnership with ITA in its initiative to attract drivers, reduce accidents, and increase retention through the latest broad-spectrum training modules which provide training simulations ranging from entry level to hazardous conditions. ITA's initiative also includes reaching out to 6,000 students in a three-year period. Thus, the grant funding will subsidize the Director's salary up to 50% FTE over three years so they may coordinate industry membership, pay for statewide travel cost, train a new part-time Director, and introduce truck driving and its industry to high school students across Idaho.

Industry employers have immediate expansion needs alongside retention needs. The following employers are actively interested in partnering, through membership, with ITA: Doug Andrus Trucking, Lighthouse, ROG Rock Trucking, Simplot, and Idaho Logging Trucking company. ITA has already received \$103,000 in contributions.

CWI currently has a truck and simulator; the simulator software is outdated making the simulator unusable. ITA, in readiness for future upgrades, will direct fees from memberships to purchase a new vehicle and simulator. A simulator cost is approximately \$150,000 and a permanent full-time Director is \$72,000.

WDTF Request: \$242,000

Discussion:

- There is a consensus within the industry to enhance accessibility and attract and retain Idaho-based truck drivers.
- A pipeline needs to be built to facilitate outreach within the high schools. Truck drivers currently are eligible to drive intrastate at 18 years old and interstate at 21 years old.

Motion by Mr. Larson to recommend approval of the Idaho Trucking Association Industry Sector Grant in the full amount of \$242,000 to the Executive Committee. Second by Ms. Bradford. Motion carried.

Idaho Veteran's Chamber of Commerce – Innovation Grant

The grant funds intended use is to bridge the gap between veterans and employers. Representatives will work with employees on skills transferability and the program would utilize SkillsBridge, US Department of Defense (DoD) to connect with civilian employers. The DoD currently pays for the SkillsBridge access for 6 months. This is a statewide level endeavor to match job seekers to employer by matching military experience to civilian needs. Idaho Department of Labor (IDOL) estimates the Idaho Veterans labor force at approximately 44,000 with 3,000 unemployed.

WDTF Request: \$282,753.60

Discussion:

How many Veterans have migrated to Idaho recently?

- IdahoWorks estimates 562 Veterans have relocated to Idaho

What is the breakdown of the funding dollars requested and sustainability?

- 69% for salaries, 12% for contract services, and the remainder for travel and minimal staff.
- The program is currently 100% volunteers, after 2 years of expanding employer engagement and implementing new protocols, the program will revert to 100% volunteer staff.

Motion by Mr. Reynolds to recommend approval of the Idaho Veterans Chamber of Commerce Innovation Grant in the full amount of \$282,753.60 to the Executive Committee. Second by Mr. Larsen. Motion carried.

Artisan Labs – Employer Grant

This item will be moved to next meeting due to time constraints.

Motion by Mr. Cox to adjourn. Second by Mr. Maloney. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m.