

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

Wendi Secrist
Executive Director



Deni Hoehne
Chair

John Young
Vice Chair

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: Thursday, October 18, 2023

Time: 8:00 – 9:30 AM

Council Committee Members: Deni Hoehne, John Young, Joe Maloney, Kelly Kolb, ~~Sarah Griffin, Lt. Governor~~
~~Scott Bedke~~

Guests: Peyton Nunes

Staff: Wendi Secrist, Amanda Ames, Matthew Thomsen, Elaine Zabriskie, Jenny Hay, Sherawn Reberry

Call to Order at 8:04 AM by John Young, Vice-chair

Roll Call – Quorum Met

Review Agenda – No changes to the agenda

Review August 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion for unanimous consent by Mr. Kelly Kolb to approve the August 10, 2023 meeting minutes as written. Second by Mr. Joe Maloney. Motion carried.

Budget Report

Wendi Secrist

No monthly report LUMA issues continue.

FY25 Budget - revisions are due by Friday, October 20th.

- Revisions submitted based on status of negotiations for Launch grant management platform.
 - Add 3 personnel to process LAUNCH grants, possibly financial specialists.
 - Cost less than utilizing vendors.
 - LUMA maturity should bring automation.
 - Some grant payments can be batched; however, transactions are individual and have to be applied to the awardees account.
- Adjustment to the request for personnel funds for 2 ARPA positions based on LSO's input.
- Partnership with OEMR applying for DOE grant – to train energy efficiency workforce.
 - Support training for apprentices in HVAC, electrical, energy auditors and home performance contractors.
 - Adding 675K for the next 2 years to be distributed through LAUNCH.

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WDTF Grants – Status Update

**Kelly Kolb/
Matthew Thomsen**

****STEM Action Center i-STEM Industry Sector Grant***

This project seeks to expand educator and student knowledge of employment opportunities in their region that require STEM skills such as design thinking, critical thinking, inquiry skills, and collaboration. Expansion of both the classroom kits available through professional development and the i-STEM library educational materials will encourage students to see themselves in STEM jobs that they might not otherwise know about. The i-STEM Summer Institutes, held in June regionally across the state at six locations (NIC, LCSC, CWI, CSI, ISU, and CEI), with a choice of up to 30 topic strands, allows educators to gain in-depth topic instruction that can be effectively implemented in their classroom in the fall. The primary goal of i-STEM Summer Institutes is to provide professional development opportunities in STEM for rural and underserved communities, build capacity to engage students in vital topics, and build skills relevant to Idaho's future STEM workforce needs. This project seeks to expand i-STEM to incorporate more opportunities for educators and students to explore workforce opportunities in their communities.

- WDTF Request: \$586,500
 - \$130K support coordinator
 - \$340K for training materials.
 - The remaining will go to other project needs.
- Funded out of Semiconductor/ STEM investments.

**Motion by Mr. John Young to approve the STEM Action Center i-STEM Industry Sector Grant as presented.
Second by Mr. Kelly Kolb. Motion carried.**

****Idaho STEM EcosySTEM Industry Sector Grant***

The Idaho STEM Ecosystem (EcosySTEM), which moved from Idaho STEM Action Center to Idaho Business for Education in July 2023, promotes STEM experiences for Idahoans. This grant will expand awareness of Idaho STEM careers by providing resources to educators and facilitating employer engagement with schools throughout the state through the addition of staff and programs. A full-time Ecosystem program coordinator will establish more contacts with like-minded STEM advocates from industry, out of school programs, non-profits, and education in the state. STEM Discovery workshops will be delivered to provide on-demand, on-site experience with entire teams of teachers from a school or small district. The purpose is to build collaborative relationships while imparting knowledge that will create an authentic and engaging environment for students. Workshops will be offered in each region and provide educators, working with students, training and resources that will assist with creating a passion and interest for STEM fields that leads to STEM careers. Regional meetings will facilitate discussion and ideas sharing between educators, employers, and STEM advocates. A statewide convening will also be held each year. This will help share best practices from across the state. During the grant the Idaho STEM EcosySTEM will engage in strategic development to determine long and short-term goals that will support the growth of the program.

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- WDTF request: \$706,255
 - \$238K Project coordinator
 - \$25K Travel and fringe benefits
- Funded out of Semiconductor/ STEM investments.
- STEM EcosyStem fits better as a project than being managed internally by STEMAC.
 - Funding is not reduced, true growth.
- Difference between 2 grants
 - I-STEM professional development
 - EcosySTEM serves students directly, broader reach than just teachers.
 - 3rd grant request coming from Idaho Out-of-School-Network to expand Think Make Create trailers and create pre-apprenticeship program.
- All Grants are one-time monies for expansion.

Motion by Mr. Joe Maloney to approve the Idaho STEM EcosySTEM Industry Sector Grant. Second by Mr. John Young. Motion carried.

Child Care Expansion Grants - FY23 Project Modifications

Amanda Ames

****Baby Bee (American Falls)***

- \$360K approved.
 - \$350K for building
 - Actual cost coming in at \$300K based on landlord not making repairs.
 - Request to use \$50K for repairs on building.
 - Match remains same.

Motion by Mr. John Kelly to approve the project modification request for Busy Bee Child Care. Second by Mr. Kelly Kolb. Motion carried.

****Cookies and Milk (Chubbuck)***

- \$351,500 approved.
 - The remaining \$26,268.94 was slated for paving the parking lot.
 - County process is creating delay.
 - Overall, the project is done.
 - Request to move paving dollars to personnel.
 - Will utilize match funding for paving once the permit is approved.

Motion by Mr. Kelly Kolb to approve the Cookies and Milk budget reallocation as presented. Second by Mr. John Young. Motion carried.

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***Chita's Preschool, LLC (Nampa)**

- Request to use remaining funding to purchase van, adding to scope of work.
 - Does contract state van is dedicated to business?
 - Verify additional licensing.
 - Both will be done in contract amendment.

Motion by Mr. Kelly Kolb to approve Chita's Preschool request for movement of funds and addition to scope of work as presented. Second by Mr. John Young. Motion carried.

Idaho Launch

Wendi Secrist

***Additional Transfer from WDTF**

- Current funding will deplete mid-November.
- The Policy Committee meets October 23rd and will evaluate WDTF grants against Launch, providing a recommendation to Council in December on the use of remaining funds.
- \$3,785,500 remains, \$914,500 obligated.

Options:

- Turn off fund Nov 1 – Jan 1.
 - Requires 2 – 3 weeks to clear in process requests.
- Move to shift up to \$1M until December Council Decision
 - This lessens funds available for other requests.
 - The Grant Committee has \$483,749.52 WDTF in requests for October.

Discussion:

- Past data shows LAUNCH for Adults changes income.
- Project funding going into institutions seems to be long lasting and builds the infrastructure.
- Media for LAUNCH 2.0 is driving folks to adult LAUNCH.
- Post secondary funding from the state takes 18 months on average, from us 90 days.
- Moving \$1M leaves 2.8M until June.
- The Policy Committee may recommend a cap on industry grants.
- Policy Committee may need to institute prioritization for Adult Launch

Motion by Mr. John Young to allocate up to \$1M from the WDTF for continued funding until the Workforce Development Council meeting in December. Second by Mr. Joe Maloney. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report

Wendi Secrist

- Child care Expansion Grants
 - Wonderschool payment plan
 - 1st \$287,300 for start-up
 - 2nd after 25 graduate \$281,200

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- Final payment after 50 graduates \$381,200

- Launch 2.0
 - Next Steps Idaho review
 - DOL website – new tabs for Launch occupations and programs
 - Working on CIP/SOC consistency

The chair adjourned the meeting at 9:27 a.m.