

**BRAD LITTLE**  
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**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, March 14, 2024

**Time:** 2:00 – 3:30 PM

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

**Guests:** Emmy Power IRC

**Staff:** Wendi Secrist, Denise Hill, Sherawn Reberry, Stacy James, Rebecca Watson, Matthew Thomsen

**Call to Order at 2:02 PM**

#### **Welcome**

**Deni Hoehne, Chair**

- Roll Call
- Review Agenda

#### **\*Review February 22, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

**A unanimous consent motion by Mr. Joe Maloney to approve the February 22, 2024 Meeting Minutes as written. No objection, motion carried.**

**Budget Report**

Wendi Secrist

- WDC Budget trailer bill not yet printed.

#### **\*WDTF Grants**

Matthew Thomsen

- **\*Idaho State University Semiconductor Industry Sector Grant**

The Idaho State University Industry Sector Grant Proposal will establish a Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology program at ISU's College of Technology. With support from industry partners, ISU will build curriculum, develop stackable credentials and instructional design, and create learning materials and content for online learning platforms that will reach students in rural Idaho. The program outcome will be based on industry need and either lead to intermediate technical certificate or an associate of applied science degree. Training will be provided at ISU's Pocatello campus with a hybrid option offered online. During the course of the project ISU will train 40 students.

- \$994,471.72 requested from ARPA funds
- 3-year grant period
- Grant Review Committee returned with questions in November
- Micron supported, ARPA funds

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**Motion by Ms. Sarah Griffin to approve the ISU Semiconductor Industry Sector Grant for \$994,471.72.  
Second by Mr. John Young.**

- Discussion:
  - Each grant request seems similar but is different in detail
  - CWI expanding existing program, CEI request is for a new project
  - BSU Advanced Manufacturing is not semiconductor specific

**Motion passed.**

- **\*Foster Care Furniture Innovation Grant**

Foster Care Furniture will work with the Maker Shop and the College of Western Idaho to offer program participants a 12-week class in woodworking and cabinetry/furniture making. The program will be designed and delivered as a Pre-Apprenticeship Program that will prepare participants to enter available Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP). The Maker Shop will work with CWI to develop a Carpentry and Cabinetry Registered Apprenticeship Programs with CWI as the sponsor and Maker Shop as the related instruction provider. The course will be offered at the Maker Shop, in Boise, ID. The pre-apprenticeship program will develop skills for individuals in areas that include, but are not limited to, safely operating in a shop environment, project planning, furniture design, marking & measuring, cabinetry, woodworking, hand tools, power tools, and basic carpentry skills. Foster Care Furniture will work with partners to train 32 participants during the 24 months of the grant.

- \$49,610.00 total funding request from WDTF
- Original request was \$198K
- Worked with CWI to revise original request
- Grant requests in January 2024 totaled \$3.8M with \$1.5M available
- GRC used rubrics during February meeting to evaluate the revised submissions
- Original request was a pre-apprenticeship, currently working on a registered apprenticeship
- Training 8 individuals over 12 months

**Motion by Ms. Sarah Griffin to approve the Foster Care Furniture Innovation Grant for \$49,610.00.  
Second by Mr. Joe Maloney. Motion passed.**

- **\*Industry Training Associates Industry Sector Grant**

Industry Training Associates (ITA) is seeking grant funds to expand its current course offerings to employers in the manufacturing industry. ITA will work with industry partners to identify skills needed by industry and provide training that will primarily focus on basic electrical (both AC and DC), electrical safety training, advanced electrical diagnosis and repair, automation and controls training - including PLC training. Training will serve employers in the mining, heavy equipment industry, and manufacturing industries. Provided training will be customized based on the

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employers' and industry's needs. Funding will be used to update current training aids and materials, purchase and develop new training aids, assist with travel costs to remote on-site employer locations, and to develop and produce training materials. ITA will train 460 participants during the grant's performance period

- \$130,000 funding for 1 year from WDTF
- Grant Review Committee returned with questions in January
- Original request was for 3 years
- Funding is predominantly equipment cost
- 130 individuals to be trained over 12 months
- GRC will review progress after 1 year, applicant can then submit for the second and third year

**Motion by Mr. John Young to approve the Industry Training Associates Industry Sector Grant for \$130,000.00. Second by Ms. Sarah Griffin.**

- Discussion:
  - Funding is predominantly equipment cost, but training will continue
  - The contract will reflect final training numbers
  - ITA is private training provider made up of 2 brothers from industry with 45 years combined experience, working with industry to provide customized training to align precisely with needs
  - Partners: High Dessert, Helgar Creek, Hilex Poly

**Motion carried.**

- **\*Boise State University Advanced Manufacturing Industry Sector Grant**

Boise State University, through its advanced manufacturing workforce development initiative, "Make Idaho", will develop a training pathway to prepare individuals for the advanced manufacturing (AM) industry. The program will support four main objectives including: infrastructure improvements, education and professional development opportunities, robust public-private partnerships and increased collaboration between Idaho institutions. The new infrastructure will complement our established AM efforts which further helps to diversify the AM workforce, specifically targeting three key areas: AM of next-generation materials, AM in the biomedical field, and AM for extreme environments. This initiative will create courses that provide foundational AM knowledge for employees and employers, expose non-technical professionals to processes specific to additive manufacturing and materials development, and expand student's knowledge of AM in various industries. Specific skills training is focused through short courses and workshops in healthcare, next-generation materials, AM and extreme environments, and cross cutting short courses in finite element methods and patterning. Short courses offering skills badges will be integrated into an AM, and undergraduate courses will incorporate hands on experience and demonstrations of

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instrumentation in AM technologies. As part of the pathway initiative, introductory lessons will be held for k-12 students participating in Aerospace Days.

- \$585,000.00 funding for 1 year from the WDTF
- Original request was just under \$1M
- Revised, with options, and requires report at end to reapply for year 2
- BSU has been working with us for 3 years on this
- 300 K-12 participants, 50+ short courses, and full development of 1 credit course

**Motion by Ms. Sarah Griffin to approve the Boise State University Advanced Manufacturing Industry Sector Grant for \$585,000.00 for 1 year. Second by Mr. Joe Maloney.**

- Discussion:
  - Not semiconductor focused, benefits broader group
  - This advanced manufacturing training will help the AM of next-generation materials, AM in the biomedical field, and AM for extreme environments all with industry in Idaho
  - Funding for this is from current funds available
  - Appreciate BSU making the training available in several ways, certificate, BA, Masters

**Motion carried.**

- **\*Idaho State University Health Care Industry Sector Grant**

Idaho State University's College of Health is proposing an expansion of its comprehensive patient simulation and virtual training center. The expansion will allow ISU to increase its nursing, medical, and allied health programs by 35%. The expansion will impact students located in Idaho Falls, Pocatello, Meridian, and Coeur d'Alene. This project will add a new simulator center in Pocatello and upgrade equipment at current locations in Idaho Falls, Meridian, and Coeur d'Alene. During the grant period ISU will serve 400 individuals with 380 completing various programs under the College of Health. The expansion serves program completers earning professional degrees in healthcare including: Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Doctor of Nursing Practice, Registered Occupational Therapist, Physician Assistant, Registered Dental Hygienist licensed medical laboratory scientist and radiological technician.

- \$751,003.00 total funding from WDTF
- ISU did not move forward with their previous request (AARP – covid related)
- Original request was \$1.8M
- Good industry support
- Expanding Pocatello location, receiving \$800K in contributions

**Motion by Mr. John Young to the Idaho State University Health Care Industry Sector Grant for \$751,003.00. Second by Ms. Sarah Griffin. Motion carried.**

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- **\*Boise State University Veterans Outreach Industry Sector Grant**

Through outreach, training, and connection, the BSU Vet Program will ensure that Idaho's veterans are both aware of career opportunities in the state and prepared to take advantage of them. The project will create professional development and academic pathways through BSU that connect veterans to Idaho employers. By developing veteran-specific education pathways to best assist active-duty service members to transition into the civilian workforce, DoD and other funding will be used to help veterans pay for industry-recognized certifications and credentials. This training method will be facilitated through the Skillbridge program, which connects active-duty service members with civilian education and training before they separate from the military, providing a more seamless transition to civilian life.

- \$400,000 Full Amount from WDTF – STEM related funds
- No adjustments from original request
- No hard data on the number of Veterans who participate in SkillBridge and job placement, Veterans Chamber of Commerce says it is successful

**Motion by Ms. Sarah Griffin to approve the Boise State University Veterans Outreach Industry Sector Grant for \$400,000.00. Second by Mr. Joe Maloney.**

- Discussion
  - Topic seems familiar, BSU received \$11,000.00 previously for an Outreach grant
  - Idaho Veterans Chamber of Commerce partnership is the key to expanding SkillBridge
  - Continues to create opportunities for Veterans

**Motion carried.**

- **\*University of Idaho ASAI Industry Sector Grant Budget Request**

- Request has been rescinded to rework budget

Executive Director's Report

Wendi Secrist

- HB500 passed Senate
  - Applicants cannot receive both LAUNCH and the Opportunity Scholarship
  - Effective July 1, 2024
  - Will use this for current awards
- S1390 Bill
  - May be in House tomorrow or next week
  - Addresses the In-Demand Career List and how it is built – would be similar to Quantitative Funding model
  - Careers that have a positive economic output for the state and increase economic mobility
    - Number of job openings
    - Rate of growth

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- Transferability of skills
- Length of training program
- Wage potential
- Masters degree or higher not included
- No data source currently for value of credential or economic output
- Working with the Burning Glass Institute
  - Have a proposal to help and deliver a framework for both
  - \$185K, would come from LAUNCH startup funding already in hand
  - Project would be 12 weeks
  - Partner with SBOE and CTE to ensure it would work for all
- Thoughts:
  - Benefit to have independent body to assist with entire process
  - Is the investment worth it? Likely yes, we cannot do this on our own, especially within timeframe that we need the tools
  - Will be vetted with the Gov's office & others
  - The tools being discussed are exciting and would be cutting edge
  - Most things that exist are qualitative, this is quantitative

Executive Committee Open Discussion

All

- Next mtg in April
  - 2 grants will be on agenda for approval
  - CCEG small providers coming along
  - Beth Oppenheimer's replacement will be conducted through a national search
  - Caty Solace resigned today from the STEM AC

***Adjourn 3:11 PM***