

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

Wendi Secrist
Executive Director



Deni Hoehne
Chair

Sarah Griffin
Vice Chair

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: Thursday, November 21, 2024

Time: 2:00 – 2:45 PM

Council Committee Members: Deni Hoehne, Joe Maloney, Kelly Kolb, Sarah Griffin, Scott Bedke, Hope Morrow

Staff: Sherawn Reberry, Matthew Thomsen, Amanda Ames, Denise Hill

Guests:

Call to Order at 2:02 PM

Welcome

- Roll Call
- Review Agenda
- ***Review September 27, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Deni Hoehne, Chair

Unanimous consent motion by Mr. Maloney to approve the September 27, 2024 Meeting Minutes as presented. No objection, minutes approved.

***WDTF Grants for Approval**

**Kelly Kolb,
Grant Review Committee Chair**

Soda Springs Innovation Grant

Soda Springs High School is planning to use their existing expertise in work-based learning to launch three new CTE pathways: auto mechanics, bench carpentry, and construction trades. Strongly supported by community organizations and regional employers, the project has leveraged \$681,860 in donations from half a dozen partners, and training has been developed in close partnership with local employers. Industry professionals have been contracted to teach courses and are expected to provide dual value of real-world skills and industry connections for students. The project will train a minimum of 150 students, including 130 high school students and 20 adults who will participate in woodworking/carpentry classes.

- Amount Requested \$262,684.00

Motion by Mr. Bedke to approve the Soda Springs Innovation Grant proposal in the amount of \$262,684.00. Second by Mr. Kolb.

- Discussion:
 - Grant Review Committee Rubric Score 74
 - Fume and dust mitigation equipment being paid for by grant, items seem timeless

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- Lifts paid for by in-kind donations
- No instructors time being paid from WDTF

Motion carried.

BSU Empowering Educators Industry Sector Grant

Through this project, Boise State University will train pre-service and in-service (focusing mainly on 6-12 grades) educators to leverage AI technologies to foster critical thinking, problem solving, and generate interest in STEM related fields in their students thus creating a workforce that is ready to engage in the industry they choose to enter upon high school or college graduation. BSU is building onto its existing pre-service and in-service educational programs by offering courses that cover GenAI foundations, history, and ethical use. Additionally, the program engages teachers in AI content generation, individualized learning plans, AI STEM problem solving, and Problem Based Learning content creation in which students learn from real life problems such as animal migration due to human population growth. Educators will receive a Graduate Gen AI Certificate upon completion of the training. A portion of the funds will go towards stipends for educators attending the AI/STEM Career Day and AI/STEM Innovation Day events that are part of the proposal. In total, BSU will serve 312 educators during the grant. BSU has partnered with Caldwell School District, Middleton School District, and Idaho Digital Learning Alliance. The intent is to work with these three partners during the first year of the grant and expand each year, inviting a minimum of three new districts each year.

- Amount Requested: \$262,671.20

Motion by Mr. Bedke to approve the BSU Empowering Educators industry Sector Grant proposal in the amount of \$262,671.20. Second by Mr. Maloney.

- Discussion
 - Grant Committee Rubric Score 68
 - Stipend amount \$1000 for each in-service teacher – 3 workshops total
 - In-service and pre-service participants
 - \$1K for 30 in service teachers for Innovation Day & Career Exploration Day
 - \$100 for 40 pre-service teachers for Innovation Day
 - \$100 for 40 pre-service teachers for Career Exploration Day
 - \$1K for 45 in-service teachers for Fall Coaching Program
 - \$165 for 135 in-service teachers for registration Online Professional Development
 - Training is happening outside contract hours
 - Grant Review Committee noted that a report on this project would be beneficial for the full Council
 - 312 total served
 - Research from Cornell shows the need for AI training is necessary for curriculum development, and as an additional tool to develop an AI literate workforce.

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Substitute motion by Mr. Bedke to postpone the BSU Empowering Educators Industry Sector Grant to next Executive Committee meeting to allow further research on the stipends. Vote postponed.

LCSC Healthcare Industry Sector Grant

Lewis-Clark State College will provide hands-on learning opportunities for students in radiography, nursing, medical assistant, and other similar pathways through the Healthcare Immersive Learning Laboratory (HILL). By using the Anatomage table, VR headsets, and wearable simulators to provide several layers of learning and practice, the program will deliver advanced skills using cutting-edge technology. Simulations can supplement preceptorships by counting toward a student's total hours in a preceptorship, thus reducing the pressure on preceptors while maintaining thorough education and training for students. All equipment requested is mobile, and LCSC plans to maximize the use of their purchases by leveraging them for continuing education and recruiting purposes. Equipment will therefore benefit current students, prospective students, and working professionals.

- Amount Requested: \$234,267.00

Motion by Mr. Bedke to approve the LCSC Healthcare Industry Sector Grant proposal in the amount of \$234,267.00. Second by Mr. Kolb.

- Discussion:
 - 426 trained
 - Grant Committee Rubric Score 81

Motion carried.

LEAP Housing Innovation Grant

LEAP Housing is proposing a project to connect communities across all six regions of Idaho through a statewide workforce housing training. This initiative will provide technical assistance to economic development officers, elected officials, business owners, community leaders, and other stakeholders to identify and implement effective workforce housing solutions tailored to their community's needs. The program will deploy experts to deliver a year-long training course, offering various tracks focused on assessing needs, building partnerships, leveraging resources, acquiring technical knowledge, and enhancing leadership skills. By equipping participants with the necessary tools and support, this project seeks to address the workforce housing shortage that hinders economic development and employee recruitment. LEAP Housing will provide training to 150 participants over the 12-month project period.

- Amount Requested \$149,592.30

Motion by Mr. Kolb to approve the LEAP Housing Innovation Grant proposal in the amount of \$149,592.30. Second by Mr. Maloney.

- Discussion

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- 150 participants
- Highly recommended, multiple letters of support
- Grant Review Committee Rubric Score 62
- Recommended partnering with TPM where employers can be at the table
- Does this violate WDTF tenant, that no other sources of funding are available
- This would not be supplanting, no duplication of existing funds
- Organization uses donated funds and or gifts to acquire land, housing is then developed
- Would the grant go to coordinating the effort across the state? Partly, it is sharing of knowledge so that other communities can address their housing issues
- What are the resources spoken to in the language? Providing the knowledge of how to bring county, state, and federal partners together to implement the projects
- Are we being asked to fund their marketing effort? This concern was not voiced during the Grant Committee review and discussion, focus surrounded the need and support in rural areas to gain knowledge of how to proceed

Motion did not carry with 2 votes approving and 2 votes objecting.

Staff members will provide additional information, and the grant will be revisited at next meeting.

Unanimous consent motion by Mr. Maloney to adjourn. No objections.

Adjourned 2:48 PM