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, February 13, 2025
Time: 2:00 – 3:30 PM

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

Staff: Sherawn Reberry, Matthew Thomsen, Denise Hill, Jenny Hay, Wendi Secrist, Amanda Ames, Isabelle Jenkins, Dee Mooney, Rebecca Watson

Guests:

Call to Order at 2:02 PM

Welcome **Deni Hoehne, Chair**

- Roll Call
- Review Agenda
- ***Approve January 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes***

Unanimous consent motion by Lt. Governor Bedke to approve the January 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes. No objections. Motion carried.

STEM AC Integration **Wendi Secrist & Dee Mooney**

- STEM AC started in 2015
- Created to bring industry and education together
- Overall intents of STEM AC and WDC align
- Perfect time to merge, Governor Little moved STEM AC under direction of WDC in August of 2024
- Integration should not be a "bolt-on" but rather a growth opportunity for new ideas and rethinking of roles and responsibilities
- The current plan is to structure the work in 3 bureaus
    - Strategy and Operations
    - Education and Career
    - Employer
- Some positions will not go forward in new structure, conversations held this week with those affected; 3 at STEM AC and 1 at WDC effective July 1
- 1 position of the 3 at STEM AC is not currently filled
- STEM AC current has 8 positions, 5 will integrate, the other 3 may be used to bring EcosySTEM regional coordinators in-house

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- Individuals affected are being supported with locating new roles
- Teams will operate as one unit with two budgets during FY26
- One budget in FY27 under WDC
- Some programs under STEM AC may be better suited under different organizations
- STEM is still very important, talking point should not be that it is going away, but evolving
- Working on FAQs and talking points
- Questions:
    - Major donors Micron & INL – they are engaged in conversations
    - STEM AC Foundation working on communication, and their direction moving forward
    - STEM AC & WDC budgets are going through JFAC
    - EcosySTEM
        - Collection of people, community organizations and businesses from all regions engaging in STEM activities
        - Hub coordinators are in communities doing the coordination
        - IBE currently acts as "host" for employees
        - Should the Foundation be a stand alone – and take over from IBE?
        - Idaho Business for Education has much larger mission, EcosySTEM is just one program
    - It appears there are new items that haven't been in our wheelhouse
        - Felt there was synergy and that we could bring them together with the additional scope of work
        - The directive of the Governor was to go figure out a path forward
        - Education and Careers bureau should bring new and different things forward
        - Some things may better fit elsewhere – still working on those transitions
    - WDC and LAUNCH are under huge fire, does this add to the fire?
        - Ready to talk about efficiencies, synergies
        - Good if we can explain how dollars are going to go farther by capturing natural efficiencies
    - We are very protective of LAUNCH
        - Be ready to talk about it
        - Best thing we have done
    - Organization chart
        - Ms. Mooney came in to manage STEM AC
            - In FY26 her position will be managing the bulk of the operational integration
            - Deliberate, working through FY26 to finalize integrated budget
        - What about WD training grants
            - It will transition over from Matt to grant team
            - Amanda will take over development through close-out
    - We care and are concerned about going forward with this
        - Lt. Governor Bedke will share concerns with Governor's office

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- Merging isn't the problem, going to make WD more current, integrates STEM, it is one of the coats tails the governor wants to elevate
- Be ready to speak about this as needed

WDC Strategic Plan – Goals & Strategies Update **Wendi Secrist**

- The committee has not convened yet

March Council Meeting Agenda Development **Deni Hoehne**

- Policy committee recommendation on LAUNCH addressing financial need
- Grant committee updates on training fund policy
- One-Stop update on WIOA policy serving in-school youth
- Launch update
  - Is it making a difference? Yes
  - Community colleges have great examples, possibly bring them in
- Strategic plan, if ready
- STEM AC
- WDTF Grant Reports
- Interactive – ahead of the meeting, contact local schools collect stories, share them
  - Create enthusiasm
  - Let them know we will be calling on them
- Energy Industry Deep Dive
  - Channel 7, INL and 3 university president's story
  - Innovation conference information, continue finding a way to show energy, technology
  - In initial planning stages of host energy summit at INL
- Healthcare update re: WWAMI? Another thing being worked on is HB176 moving away from UW to Utah, creating a rural medical network, Utah wants to mimic our rural medical
- Project with Blue Cross Foundation preceptorships

Executive Director Report **Wendi Secrist**

- Launch update
  - Public school numbers only, private in process
    - 32% immediate fall go on rate – 13% increase
    - 5.6% increase in resident enrollment
    - 23% of those that went on had lower than 2.7 GPA, the cut off for opportunity scholarship
  - Getting private school data will shine a light on the program and show accountability
  - Stanford Hoover Institute is doing a research project on LAUNCH, they are funding it
    - They want the whole picture
    - Independent research
  - Be mindful, incremental increases are good, making sure vulnerable populations are going on

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- Expectation is not that the percentage will continue to go up year over year

Executive Committee Discussion **Deni Hoehne**

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

Adjourned at 3:30 PM