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, March 13, 2025
Time: 9:00 – 10:30 AM

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

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

Guests:

Call to Order at 9:05 AM

Welcome **Deni Hoehne, Chair**

- Roll Call
- Review Agenda
- ***Approve February 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes***

Unanimous consent motion by Ms. Griffin to approve the February 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes. No objections. Motion carried.

Council Meeting Debrief **All**

- Launch discussion during the Council meeting was great, everyone was very engaged and supportive of the marketing changes
- Update on Launch
  - A new draft of the proposed bill was presented this morning which did not include our requested changes
  - Cathleen will have updated data by end of day today and it appears to be better than anticipated
  - Governor's office press conference on Monday to receive resolutions from student councils from all campuses
  - Perhaps the same is needed from the Idaho School Counselors Association
  - Adjournment date is still not projected
- Afternoon Session
  - The panel discussion was great, unfortunately we lost several members after lunch
  - Should encourage more attention to the speakers and refrain from phone or laptop usage during these presentations

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- Lengthy panel discussions can be difficult when there is no movement or interaction, especially after lunch
- The topic was super interesting, glad ISU was there seems to have a great handle on what is happening, very articulate

- The pull of the office when meeting is in Boise
  - Suggest not having presentations during lunch, give the lunch hour for office check in and phone calls
- Mr. Thomsen's grant explanation was great
- Provide a seating area for lunch away from meeting area

WDTF Grant Approvals **Kelly Kolb, Grant Review Chair**

- **Review Grant Review/Executive Committee Process**
  - The Grant Review Committee completes a deep dive during their review of the grant application, determining if approval is warranted
  - Executive committee review of the approval recommendation should ask the question, does this request align with the policy
  - The Policy and Grant Review committee tend to butt heads
    - Policy committee tends to investigate and ask more questions
    - Grant Review Committee provides the recommendations after their extensive deep dive and discussion
    - Need to consider perception of how supporting various grants may be perceived with an elected official as a part of the Executive Committee, abstaining may be necessary in certain instances
    - Perhaps provide a pre-meeting brief to allow a decision on abstaining if needed
    - What is the level of conversation the Executive Committee should be having; what changes could enhance their review process?
      - Ask questions to ensure policy is validated
      - Do not provide the application but rather a rubric summary
      - Provide the application budget
      - Summary of those reviewed and their scores recommended and declined
      - Provide both packets for the next meeting to compare
  - When this process was first initiated, the applications went directly from the Grant Review Committee to the Council, process was then created to allow the Executive committee to make the final decision
  - Concern regarding paying for safety or federal compliance training
    - Every company must provide safety training, and every company provides it differently
    - Rare exceptions might exist such as a new company

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- Removed from employer grants in 2021
- Concern is around Industry Sector and Innovation grant requests
- Programs involving high school students or those incarcerated may require some safety training for hands on projects
- Safety training is usually paid for and a part of any training even in high school
- Pull safety out, considerations can be given
- OSHA 10 is an industry recognized credential
- No points should be given for including industry recognized credentials
- Allowing safety training that transfers like OSHA 10, the employer is saving the cost of providing it
- Critical safety training for the program is allowable, if not critical for the program, then no
- Care in not over-credentialing, mobility in other parts of the labor market
- Do a general carve out with some flexibility, inquire what the intent was by adding it to the budget
- Review employer grant "Expenditures that are not reimbursable" consider and possibly redefine special circumstances

- ***Elevate Academy East Idaho – Industry Sector Grant**

Elevate Academy East is an alternative charter school serving Idaho Falls, Ammon, and surrounding areas, dedicated to serving at-risk students in grades 6-12. Through hands-on, purpose-driven education, students explore eight different trades, narrowing their focus to two by high school graduation. The Academy will be fully operational by Year 3, adding 11th and 12th grades in Years 2 and 3, respectively. Funding will be used to acquire essential equipment for rigorous, hands-on training across three CTE pathways: welding, construction, and precision machining. As a result, students will graduate with certifications that make them workforce-ready, addressing regional labor shortages and providing a skilled talent pool for local employers. Elevate-East Idaho will serve a total of 488 students during the grant who will engage in each of the programs offered at the Academy. By the end of the grant period, 60 students will complete their training, equipping them with the skills needed to enter the workforce and contribute to local industry needs.
Amount Requested $259,280.00
Discussion:

- OSHA 10 is included
- Cost is for equipment

Motion by MS. Hoehne to approve the Elevate Academy East Idaho Industry Sector Grant in the amount $259,280.00. Second by Ms. Morrow. Motion carried.

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- ***Far and Wise – Innovation Grant**

Through this project, Far and Wise will expand their Trade and Vocational Camps (TVCs) and implement a Pre-Apprenticeship (PA) Work-Based Training Programs to provide hands-on career exploration and skill development for students in the Blaine County School District. With WDC funding, they will grow Their TVC program from 4 camps serving 50 students in 2023 to at least 30 camps serving 180 (with capacity to serve 350) students over the next two years. These camps introduce middle and high school students to various careers through experiential learning, with sessions ranging from short summer camps to longer weekly programs. Additionally, they are launching four new PA programs, combining training with paid internships for 40 high school juniors, seniors, and recent graduates over two years. These programs will focus on hospitality/Mountain Operations, Construction, Senior Care, and Automotive, each pairing structured classes with 10-week internships to equip students with industry-specific skills and connect them with local employers facing workforce shortages. WDC funding will support program administration, TVC contracted services, student stipends, and Virtual Reality equipment for select camps.
Amount Requested: $250,005.00

Motion by MS. Griffin to approve the Far and Wise Innovation Grant in the amount $259,005.00. Second by Mr. Maloney.
Discussion:

- Enough students to fill, yes
- High Hispanic population
- School District change in philosophy to prepare kids for community

Motion carried.

Child Care Expansion Grants **Sarah Griffin, Child Care Chair**

- **Returned funds discussion**
  - De-obligating funds coming for redistribution
    - 2 projects not moving forward
      - United Way of South-Central Idaho
        - $900,000 total award
        - Repayment coming $386,673.72
        - Unspent $513,326.28
        - Building sold
        - 60 seats
      - Mountain Sky Daycare
        - $126,725 total award undisbursed
        - Moving out of state for personal reasons
        - Unable to secure property

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- Possible additional projects may add to total de-obligated balance
- Potential amount $800,254.00

▪ Process for redistribution

- Prioritize all day care versus after school programs
- Smaller providers who received the maximum award can't be considered due to licensing restrictions
- Projects that received awards below the maximum allowed of $15,000- per seat added can be considered for additional funds
- Unfunded applicants cannot be considered according to the ARPA policy and obligation dates

o Regional industry considerations have been made
o April Executive Committee meeting will review recommendations
o Addition of seats is a consideration to offset those lost by discontinued projects

STEM AC Integration – Next Steps **All**

The committee had a general conversation about the document provided during the WDC Council meeting.

Executive Committee Discussion **All**

None

Unanimous consent motion to adjourn by Ms. Morrow. No objections.

Adjourned at 10:45 AM