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: Tuesday, October 9, 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, Wendi Secrist, Kimberly Gardner, Dee Mooney, Ellen Upton, Alyssa Williams, Jenny Hay, Amanda Ames, Stacy James

Guests:

Call to Order at 2:04 PM

Welcome **Deni Hoehne, Chair**

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

Unanimous consent motion by Mr. Kolb to approve the September 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes as written. Second by Ms. Morrow. Motion carried.

Budget Review — Wendi Secrist

- Slightly higher spend
- Grant reimbursement
  - Micron submitted first reimbursement request
  - Using to train for startup of new plant
  - Some for building out of Idaho training facility
- Training fund $27M, revenue& interest
  - $20M obligated
  - If awarded balance remaining $5.5M
- WIOA
  - Council expenditures coming through
  - LAUNCH, In-demand
    - $4M for personnel & OPEX, $2.8M annually
    - Close to having all LAUNCH ARPA funds expended
      - If not used by December 2026, funds go back in to transition to someone new

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- Childcare
    - $23M expended of $30M

Grant Approvals

- ***Global Talent Innovation Grant** Matthew Thomsen

  Description: This project addresses Idaho's workforce shortage by empowering highly skilled immigrants to overcome employment barriers and enter professional fields. Focused on high-demand sectors such as Engineering, Finance, Accounting, IT, Economics, Graphic Design, Public Administration, Business, Health Care, and more, the initiative includes four core components: a paid internship program providing 22 participants with 200-hour work-based learning experiences; expansion of a partner network to connect employers and service providers; employer education through a new training curriculum; and tailored career coaching. The project will support 120 individuals—80 Global Talent participants and 40 employer partner staff—through internships, coaching, and collaborative engagement. Funding will cover stipends, staff time, and shared resources.

  Requested Amount: $250,000
    - Revisiting per September meeting
    - Letter of explanation provided
        - Open to all individuals, veterans

Motion by Mr. Kolb to approve the Global Talent Innovation Grant in the amount of $250,000.00. Second by Mr. Maloney.

Discussion:

- Was the language in application adjusted? No, it would need to rerun to GRC only did clarification through letter and that becomes part of the application package
- Letter verifies our request to open it up

Motion carried.

- ***Tiny Tots Learning Center LLC – project update** Amanda Ames
    - Progress is being made
    - Project was extended in July for 6 months
    - Language requested for update
        - $41K allotted for upfront payment
        - $31K on invoice work completed by contractor, remainder to be completed over the next month
        - Inspector identified new items to be addressed
            - Need additional time to complete
        - Things are on track, full enrollment and waitlist in place
        - Comfortable with extending until the end of January
        - Tribe is very supportive

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Motion by Ms. Morrow to approve the requested extension of Tiny Tots Learning Center to January 31, 2026. Second by Mr. Maloney.

Motion carried.

Additional Child Care Grant Information

- Jenny looking at additional risks with remaining grants
  - United Way of Southcentral Idaho
    - Terminated, reimbursing us
      - 25% end of October, 50% in January, 25% in June
    - Reallocating $360K
  - Whole Child Rexburg unlikely to complete
  - Huckleberry Montessori Sandpoint, has until the end of March to find a property
  - Treasure Valley YMCA, purchasing property, not a risk
  - Worst case scenario, $2.3M to reallocate
    - $635K unspent by Whole Child with $400K coming in
    - Project that could take more
    - Work needed to find reallocation for about $300K
  - More discussion in December
  - Timeline to spend
    - All money out the door by December 2026, setting September 2026 as our deadline
    - Most likely $1M to reallocate, $700K easily remaining $300K to be determined
    - Possibility is Boys & Girls clubs as they did not get fully funded, but would be giving after contract ends
    - May have to involve DAG if it comes to that due to the discretion clause
  - Look at to distinct actions
    - Next month review policy and possible changes, then make funding decisions

Idaho LAUNCH/Waypoint Update — Sherawn Reberry

- Waypoint successful
- Mathew Baldsa joined and presented with IPTV
- Thank you notes being sent to the legislature by some districts
  - JFAC presentation in November
- 5630 2025 students utilizing funds right now
- Applications for 2026 opened last week
- Partnering with state board and next steps
  - 2 parent night webinar in October
  - Office hours 12 – 1 Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in October, additional in spring

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- Video shared
- New branding, Find Your Thing
- Next Steps website is updated for 2026
- Updated counselor and parent playbooks
- New posters going out to schools with Counselor packages
- IBE meetings feedback from institution presidents was very positive
- Calendar on next steps https://nextsteps.idaho.gov/calendar

Executive Directors Report — Wendi Secrist

- November JFAC Presentation
  - Nov 5th
  - Fall tour in treasure valley
  - Afternoon focused on Workforce Development
  - Agenda
    - BSU 1:2wendi first 30 – 45 mins live stream launch update

12:15 p.m.- 1:15p.m.	Working Lunch with presentation(s) from BSU Athletics
1:15 p.m. - 1:25p.m.	*Break*
1:25 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Idaho Launch Update, Workforce Development Council (livestreamed)
2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	E-Verify Update – Idaho Department of Labor (livestreamed)
2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Changes in Federal Financial Aid Policy Towards Professional Graduate Degrees and Impact on Workforce, Kevin Campbell (livestreamed)
2:30 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.	College of Eastern Idaho Zero-Based Budgeting Efforts – President Lori Barber and Interim Vice President of Finance and Administration Penny Lyon, CEI (livestreamed)
2:50 p.m. – 3:05 p.m.	*Break*
3:05 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Campus Tour Focusing on Workforce Development, Technology, and Innovation
5:15 p.m. - TBD	Hosted Dinner with interim BSU President Shinn

    - Tours: Each time we walk in make sure GDP is included along with all the information, collective information of graduates to occupations
    - Students can talk about how they engage with the employers
    - BSU working out which facilities
    - 50 participants, maybe 5 groups
    - Have independent tour hosts, may ask for committee participation
    - Wendi's LAUNCH presentation
      - Cultural shift, concerns about "4 yr" programs
      - How matrix works
      - Adult LAUNCH
      - 2024 class tie back to demand for occupations
      - Progress class of 2024
      - Data sharing in a graphic that is visually how kids move through the process
      - The numbers and what we are doing to improve process
      - Number making progress

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- Thoughts
  - Not meeting SAP? Must repay and are meeting SAP, could reuse launch but must also meet institution standards
  - Show that they can re-enter
  - How many went to 4-year, 2-year, trades; yes, will be showing that as well
  - Data driving decisions
  - Ms. Morrow to provide talking points

- December Council Meeting Options
  - Plan is virtual
  - 3.5 hours
- Industry Driven Skills Training Fund Grant
  - IDOL & WDC received grant for $8M for advanced manufacturing over 45 months
  - Employer grant policy as guide
  - Quantitative funding model
  - 60 days for final SOW
  - Amplifund will be used
  - Does not run through GRC
  - We will help with design and administration of funds
  - Administrative costs will be low
- Ellen Upton, our WDC Fellow, has received a job with the National Science Foundation to work on Biomedical grants. She will be leaving at the end of October
  - End of Oct

Executive Committee Members – Open Discussion All

- Tech hub applications are open
- How are things going with LAUNCH & Legislature?
  - Not much new lately
  - Timing of communication in process
  - Pre-meeting with media before JFAC
  - LSO, agrees with keeping it in tact and in place
  - Lobbyists are holding the line
  - FY27 budget is good, in process

Unanimous consent motion by Ms. Morrow to adjourn. No objections.
Adjourned at 3:21 PM