

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

Wendi Secrist
Executive Director



Deni Hoehne
Chair

Sarah Griffin
Vice Chair

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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

Work-Based Learning Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Committee Members: Marie Price, Elizabeth Hooper, John Russ, Ryan Gravette, Sean Kelly, James Smith, Sean Coletti, Jerry Anhorn, Jeff Hough, Stephanie Pfeifer, Brock Astle, Marty Matney, Morgan Galway, Stephanie Mai, Megan Simila

Staff: Denise Hill, Matthew Thomsen, Chad Lahti, Halle Fultz, Sherawn Reberry, Wendi Secrist

Guests: Stacey LaRoe, St Vincent DePaul; Tina Polishchuk, WDC ST & OPPS Director effective November 10, 2025

Call to Order at 1:02 p.m.

Marie Price, Chair

Welcome

Marie Price, Chair

- Roll Call
- Review Agenda
- ***Review August 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Mr. Hough to approve the August 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes as written. Second by Mr. Russ. Motion carried.

Idaho LAUNCH Update

Dr. Sherawn Reberry

- We make sure Idaho works – student success, communities thrive, state moves ahead
- 2026 Student applications open October 1st, close April 15th
- First round of contingent offers will be made by the end of December per statute
- Final awards will be made by the end of April, first part of May
- Currently 4596 applications submitted
- 1500 more than last year at this time
- Eligibility remains the same
- 3 websites are used through the process
 - Scholarship Idaho – application and contingent awards

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- Next Steps Idaho – Career Pathway Plans
- Appian Cloud, Grant Management System – Final awards and continued management of grant
- Student interview video shared
- Bridging education and workforce together
- Resources for Student LAUNCH are on Next Steps Idaho
- New materials this year, downloadable versions available
- IPTV partnership, creating and sharing videos “Idaho Jobs Explained”

Waypoint Update

Dr. Sherawn Reberry

- Conference this fall for Educators, Industry Waypoint Conference held early summer
- 350 – 375 educators, 40 industry partners
- Great place to get connected
- The discussion regarding waypoint for industry initiated more interest

Educator Extern Funding and Selection Discussion

Halle Fultz

- Requesting committee feedback & opinions on distributing funds
- Stipend amount \$5K for 200 hours
- Covered in full in the past
- Have \$250K set aside
- Asking host sites to share costs this year
- How should we distribute and prioritize cost sharing and distribution of funds
- Externships provide real-world career insights to bring back to the classroom
- Matrix shared
 - Are these the correct categories
 - Industry Alignment, Project Quality, Impact Potential, Cost-Sharing Commitment, Organizational Need
 - Prioritization?
 - Should tie to in-demand matrix
 - Consideration for non-profit or small businesses with limited funds
 - Nonprofits have value and this may be their only option
 - Perhaps set a limit on number
 - Alignment with career needs should remain a priority
 - Industry alignment/ scope of work holds the most wait
 - 102 externs participated in 2025
 - Cost sharing allows us to expand the host sights
 - Should be the quality over quantity of the externship rather than funding
 - Funding of \$250K will remain for 2026 & 2027
 - Need to start identifying how to continue without funding
 - Prepare businesses that the cost may be all on them in the future

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- Have started communication that funding is limited, getting questions on process of determining recipients
- Common model across the US is that businesses fund the full amount
- What's most fair and sustains the program
- Stay with core objective, ideally quantity and quality
- Identify things we can identify that are needed, possibly get financial support from the Council
- WDTF grants are \$250K for Innovation and Industry Sector, so the amount wouldn't seem unreasonable
- Identify sectors of greatest capacity for sustainability
- What's next
 - Applications open January 1
 - Solidify decision before applications open
 - Maintain quality
 - Survey results can be shared and revisited at the next meeting
 - Halle will share out via email

Industry-Driven Skills Training Fund Grant

Wendi Secrist

- US Secretary of Labor visited in early August
- Received USDOL Opportunity Funding of \$8M that day
- Competitive grant funding connecting Workforce Training with the needs of employers
 - Identical to our Employer Grant program
- Our application focused on Advanced Manufacturing, Nuclear Energy and Mineral Extraction
- They have the projections of labor needed in place, conservatively 12K with 9K in construction
- Working with the Tech Hubs & Perpetua on how to make the awards
- Dollars will flow through IDOL and our grant management system
- Discussions to create an on-ramp for employers to come in with the training they are going to do, there is also a LAUNCH component
 - 2 different paths, what they need
- Haven't heard anything additional so far
- Currently working on policies
- Anticipating accepting application beginning in January/ February, can bring all employers in those industries into this opportunity
- Duration is 45 months through June 30th, 2029
- Discussing performance targets this Friday
- Can add training as needed

Future Readiness Project

~~Jessica Barkley~~/ Brock Astle presenting

- High school graduation requirements are changing
 - Senior project changed to Future Readiness Project

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- Post high school goals with a work-based learning component
 - Idaho College & Career Competencies are being finessed
 - Each district has control of execution
 - Being integrated at varied times
- Working on templates and documents for examples
- Work experienced involved
- Required for graduates after January 2028
- Coming quickly what can this committee do to assist or advise our council
 - Utilize Idaho College & Career Competencies
 - Refer to these
- Do students store the information in Next Steps Idaho and do they have access after they graduate for future conversations
 - No not stored in NSI, each district may have a mechanism for this
 - LAUNCH Career Pathway Plan is held on NSI for a period of time, but unsure of length
 - Encourage screenshot of completion

Motion by Mr. Russ to adjourn. Second by Mr. Gravette. Motion carried.

Adjourn 2:02 PM