

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 weight
 - 102 externs participated in 2025
 - Cost sharing allows us to expand the host sites
 - 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