

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

Workforce Development Policy Committee Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2026

Committee Members: Hope Morrow, Lori Barber, ~~Tom Kealey~~, ~~Daniel Puga~~, Jani Revier, John Smith, ~~Lt. Governor Scott Bedke~~, Jeff Greene, Representative Sonia Galaviz, Colby Mattila, Kenny Huston

Staff: Sherawn Reberry, Denise Hill, Wendi Secrist, Dee Mooney, Amanda Ames, Tina Polishchuk, Stacy James, Jan Whiting, Alyssa Williams

Guests: Chloe, Congressman's Simpson's Office

Call to Order at 2:32 P.M.

Welcome

Hope Morrow, Chair

- *Roll Call, Introductions*
- *Review Agenda*
- ****Review November 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes***

Motion by Mr. Huston to approve November 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes. Second by Ms. Revier. Motion carried.

****Review WDTF Policy Goals***

- Policy has been updated over the years; goals have been in place since 2018
- Are adjustments needed to the WDTF Policy Goals
 - Discussion ensued and was determined that the goals needed updating
- Can revisit again in February and make recommendations to Council for March meeting
- Are programs meeting these goals
 - 6 goals
 - Increase the economic mobility of Idahoans through training that leads to wage gains and retention.
 - Provide timely assistance to businesses while shifting focus to broader talent pipeline development strategies that serve multiple employers.
 - Support growth of the economy by assisting employers with job creation and integration of technology, specifically through the development of skills in their existing and/or new employees.
 - Provide a return on investment to Idahoans as evidenced by increased wages, job creation, capital investment, retention of Idaho's workforce, credential attainment and/or customer satisfaction (employer and trainee).
 - Promote innovation in talent development.
 - Encourage replication of best practices in talent pipeline development

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

- Initial thoughts
 - What's missing
 - Some of the bullet points feel redundant
 - 5 & 6 needs more definition, what is innovation
 - 1 & 4 seem redundant
 - 1, focused on making sure this was first, to ensure it was helping Idahoans, 75% of funding was going to employer grants
 - 2, have succeeded at this do we still need it? We track this number year by year
 - We support employers through all 3 types of grants
 - Where is Idaho's economy going and how do we support that
 - Nothing in the policy currently speaks to In-Demand careers
 - Pre 2018 focus was on 3-5 industry sectors; through these goals we stepped away from that as it left regions out
 - Focus on jobs rather than industry sectors
 - Lean into language around Idahoans and in demand careers
 - The strategic plan has been modified, strategies are around creating a broader collaborative
 - Do each of the grants hit the goals and touch who they should
 - Some of the grants we provided could have come from STEM but funds were not available
 - iSTEM this year is connected to in demand careers
 - If main goal is to connect individuals to in demand careers in Idaho
 - Start with Connect Idahoans to in demand careers or identified emerging industry
 - First is connection, then innovation
 - Discussion surrounding the goals:
 - Innovation change to emergent
 - Pull #5
 - #6, change development, proof of concept and how it is innovative
 - Training funded by public funds must be replicated at no cost
 - Change "encourage", possibly "demonstrate"
 - Return on investment, specific metrics we are looking at, look at wage increase 1 year later, how many trained, stayed in Idaho, credential attainment
 - Customer satisfaction has been out of reach, unsure how to measure
 - Remove it #4, provider is doing this
 - Main goal is connecting; these become sub bullets
- Industry Sector
 - Meets multi-employers needs
 - Transferable skills
 - Employer is someone who employs people
 - 3% of unemployment insurance that is paid is received by us, that is why the private sector is important

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

- Very diligent in ensuring they are in Idaho
 - Emerging industries component? Not 3 employers, could break tie to rubric points
- Innovation grants
 - Spike in applications after policy changed to have the ability to ask for more than \$25K
 - Could change name to Work-Based Learning Grant
 - Ways to distribute dollars we will receive, align with our goals
 - Pilots here, scale under industry sector
 - Need more industry support to scale
- Employer grant
 - Can be political at times, some want it gone, governor supports this
 - Could make it more narrow
 - Must be expanding and growing
 - In rural Idaho this may be the only option
- The Policy Committee will revisit in February

Motion by Ms. Barber to adjourn. Second by Mr. Huston. Motion carried.

Adjourned 3:29 P.M