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, February 3, 2026
Time: 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

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

Staff: Denise Hill, Chad Lahti, Halle Fultz, Sherawn Reberry, Wendi Secrist, Jan Whiting, Tina Polishchuk

Guests: Justin Glenn, IDOL; Elsa Guillen, IDOL; Dan Caberra, IDOL

Call to Order at 1:00 p.m. — **Marie Price, Chair**

Welcome — **Marie Price, Chair**

- Roll Call
- Review Agenda, accepted
- ***Review November 4, 2025 Meeting Minutes***

Motion by Mr. Smith to approve the November 4, 2025 Meeting Minutes as written. Second by Mr. Russ. Motion carried.

Idaho LAUNCH Update — Dr. Sherawn Reberry

- WDC Partners are Education, Employers, Workforce Programs
- Student LAUNCH applications for 2026 open October 1, 2025 and close April 15, 2026
- 3 rounds of contingent awards are given, one prior to December 31st per statute
- Final awards are made after April 15th
- Steps to participate
  - Apply, accept contingent offer, complete Career Pathway Plan, receive & accept final award, complete tasks to confirm eligibility
- In-demand careers matrix
  - Based on 4 key items
  - Demand 40%, earnings 20%, economics 20%, training 20%
- Student success

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- Students and families recognize the importance of licenses and short-term credentials
- Go-On rate is increasing
- 31% of students are first generation to pursue post-secondary education and training
- Top 5 program areas are educ, Healthcare, Business, Construction, Engineering, and Education
- Every legislative district has participants
- Class of 2024
    - 4545 with funding
    - 570 extensions
    - 349 pending program change
    - 627 closed out
    - 118 in repayment
- Class of 2025
    - 5180 with funding
    - 355 extensions
    - 311 pending program change
    - 3 closed out
- Class of 2026
    - 7,000 contingent offers made
    - 2nd round of contingent offers February 20
    - 3rd round of contingent offers March 20

o Adults since 2020
- 80% up to $3,500
- LAUNCH is a once in a lifetime either Student or Adult
- 39.6% increase in annual wage post training
- Every legislative district is represented by participants

o Questions
- NextSteps.Idaho.gov for students
- Launch.idaho.gov for adults
- Funding
    - Students, legislature sets budget each year
    - Adults. A percentage of the Workforce Training Fund is set aside, additional unused funds from the Student LAUNCH program can be added up to $10M
    - If additional budget requests for more cuts are made, it could affect this year
    - If asked to pull from FY27, it could cause prioritization of awards
    - Adults, no current about turning it off
    - Only if the student LAUNCH budget is cut significantly, the possibility of a funding transfer to the adult program could it be impacted

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Waypoint Update — Dr. Sherawn Reberry

- October 2025
- Great feedback from participants
- Currently planning for Oct 2026
- Waypoint Vision – A student-centered education system that creates opportunities for all Idahoans to improve their quality of life
- Future Readiness Project IDAPA 08.02.03.105
    - Idaho's updated graduation requirements
    - Students beginning with the class of 2028 must complete a future readiness project
- Idaho's College and Career Readiness Competencies
    - Aligns with Work-Based Learning continuum
- Characteristics of high-quality Work-Based Learning include
    - Social Capital - the formation of positive relationships with adults and the expansion of networks through WBL.
    - Career Exposure - placing youth in real workplace settings where they interact with different occupations and adults
    - Work Readiness Skills - hands-on learning experiences in actual work environments that build both technical and employability skills like communication, problem-solving, and teamwork.
    - Opportunities for Reflection
- Strengthening the bridge between education & workforce

Educator Externships Update — Halle Fultz

- Applications for host sites and externs opened February 5th and will close February 22nd
- Currently we have 42 host site applications and 104 extern applications
- Eligibility is K-12 educators, college & career counselors
- WDC Executive Committee approved the move of unused funding from last year to this year's program enabling us to host 85 externs with cost sharing from the host sites

Apprenticeships Update — Elsa Guillen, IDOL

- 282 apprenticeship sponsors in Idaho
- 3,189 current active apprentices
    - Does not include over 500 apprentices at the Interagency Wildland Firefighter program
- Participants are 79.9% male, 16.25% female, and 3.8% did not identify
- 2025
    - 153 occupations
    - 82 new programs
- $21.95 average hourly wage upon completion
- Idaho is ranked #1 in the nation for apprenticeship completion rates at 65.17%
    - National average rate is 45.84%

  - Timeframe October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025
- Questions/ Comments
  - Youth completion rate is above 80%
  - American Manufacturing Apprenticeship through Arkansas
    - Active Awards | Apprenticeship.gov
    - Nation wide
    - Will add to IDOL website

Industry Driven Skills Training Fund Grant — Justin Glenn, IDOL

- Any employer is eligible if they meet the criteria
  - Focused on Advanced Manufacturing (Semiconductors, aerospace, fab components), nuclear energy, domestic mineral extraction, related construction supporting these industries
  - Want career pathways to advance
- Have $8M for these grants
- Employers must apply, no individuals can apply
- Aligned to 2 tech hubs in Idaho
- Will be similar to the WDTF Employer grant process
- 80% up to 25K per employee, $4M per employer to expand Workforce Training
- Must be based in Idaho
- Contracts will be 2 – 3 years in length
- Email labor for information
- Where are we now?
  - Working on system access for applicants
  - Communicating to industry
  - Defining the approval process
- Questions/ comments
  - Costs for some apprenticeship training? Yes, it will be considered with caveats
  - Could be provided in house or through community colleges
  - Contact?
    - Justin, working on a one-page reference sheet

Motion by Ms. Simila to adjourn. Second by Mr. Russ. Motion carried.

Adjourn 1:57 PM