

**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 Hooper, 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> round of contingent offers February 20
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> round of contingent offers March 20
- 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
- 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 5<sup>th</sup> and will close February 22<sup>nd</sup>
- 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%

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- 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**