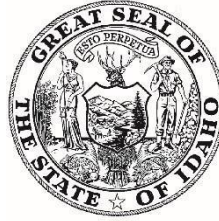


BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

Wendi Secrist
Executive Director



Deni Hoehne
Chair

Sarah Griffin
Vice Chair

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

514 W. Jefferson St. Boise, ID 83702

Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2026
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Mountain Time)
Location: Micron Technology
8000 W Federal Way
Boise, Idaho 83716

Council Member Attendees: Amanda Logan, ~~Anna Almerico~~, *Raine Simplot proxy for Anna Almerico*, Ben Davidson, Bill Reagan, Brandon Dansie, Senator Carrie Semmelroth, ~~Daniel Puga~~, ~~Debbie Critchfield~~, *Allison Duman proxy for Debbie Critchfield*, Deni Hoehne, ~~Donna Butler~~, Hope Morrow, ~~Isaac Belden~~, James Smith, Jani Revier, *Kristyn Carr proxy for Jani Revier*, Jeff Greene, Jeff Hough, Jeret Whitescarver, Jody Hendrickx, Joe Maloney, ~~Representative Josh Tanner~~, Judy Taylor, Kelly Kolb, Lori Barber, Marie Price, Martha Luna, Miren Unsworth, ~~Pete Risse~~, *Tia Davis proxy for Pete Risse*, ~~Russell Barron~~, Sarah Griffin, ~~Lt. Governor Scott Bedke~~, Sergio Mendoza, ~~Shawn Keough~~, Stephanie Pfeifer, Todd Putren, Tom Kealey, Trevor Chadwick

Staff: Wendi Secrist, Sherawn Reberry, Denise Hill, Tina Polishchuk, Chad Lahti, Amanda Ames, Theresa Peabody, Alyssa Williams, Kami Korsen, Dee Mooney, Halle Fultz, Branzell Porchia, Amanda Paterson, Jan Whiting

Call to order at 8:30 a.m.

Deni Hoehne, Chair

Welcome

Roll Call/Introductions – Quorum met.

***Review/Approve Agenda**

A unanimous consent motion was made by Mr. Greene to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Ms. Logan. There were no objections.

A unanimous consent motion was made by Mr. Chadwick to approve the December 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes as presented. Second by Mr. Kealey. There were no objections.

Budget Updates

Wendi Secrist, Executive Director

- **FY26 Budget Reports – WDC & STEM AC**
 - No deficiencies found in the FY22, 23, & 24 audits
 - Reporting period July 1, 2025 -January 31, 2026
 - Government Overhead & Insurance, 137%, will be made up in other costs

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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
 Fiscal Year 2026 Budget
 For the Period July 1, 2025 - January 31, 2026

WDTF				
State Expenditure Category	Budget	Actual	Under/(Over)	Actual %
Salary & Benefits	\$ 543,700	\$ 311,052	\$ 232,648	57%
Personnel	\$ 543,700	\$ 311,052	\$ 232,648	57%
Administrative Services & Supplies	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,505	\$ 4,495	55%
Communication Costs	8,000	6,559	1,441	82%
Computer Services & Supplies	25,000	17,490	7,510	70%
Contracts, Events & Other Council Activities	321,621	209,218	112,403	65%
Employee Development, Memberships & Subscriptions	6,400	3,792	2,608	59%
Employee Travel Costs	25,000	10,547	14,453	42%
Government Overhead & Insurance	25,300	34,763	(9,463)	137%
Rentals & Operating Leases	25,079	24,276	803	97%
Operating Budget	\$ 446,400	\$ 312,149	\$ 134,251	70%
Grand Total	\$ 990,100	\$ 623,201	\$ 366,899	63%

Trustee and Benefits	
Grant Reimbursement Spending Authority	\$ 15,814,467
Innovation	2,136,224
Launch	18,213
Outreach	-
Employer	151,007
Industry Sector	2,171,898
TPM	227,356
Ending Balance	\$ 11,109,769

WDTF Financial Summary	
WDTF Cash Balance 1/1/2026	\$ 25,973,708
Revenue	433,262
Interest	88,878
Payments	603,179
WDTF Cash Balance 1/31/2026	\$ 25,892,668
Obligated Employer Grants	800,035
Obligated Industry Sector Grants	7,789,408
Obligated Innovation Grants	2,548,834
Obligated TPM Contracts	322,644
Obligated Outreach Projects	250,000
Obligated STEM Externs	750,000
Obligated Preceptorship	-
*LAUNCH	8,690,557
FY26 WDTF Admin Costs	366,899
Obligated Balance	\$ 21,518,376
Unobligated Balance	\$ 4,374,292
Proposals Under Review	448,600
Unobligated Balance if all funded	\$ 3,925,692

WDTF Revenue			
Month	Transfer In	Interest	Collection Cost
July	\$ 682,041	\$ 91,639	\$ 9,875
August	826,786	92,126	9,954
September	7,930	95,514	20,132
October	547,114	91,192	13,095
November	701,449	91,800	19,709
December	14,602	88,416	18,974
January	433,262	88,878	-
February			
March			
April			
May			
June			
FY26 Totals	\$ 3,213,184	\$ 639,564	\$ 91,739

*Includes all Launch funding made available for FY22 - FY25.

- WDTF Cash balance \$25.9M
 - Revenue is 3% of unemployment tax & interest.
- Obligated balance \$21.5M
- Unobligated balance \$4.3M, \$450K under review

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
 Fiscal Year 2026 Budget
 For the Period July 1, 2025 - January 31, 2026

WIOA				
State Expenditure Category	Budget	Actual	Under/(Over)	Actual %
Salary & Benefits	\$ 132,000	\$ 47,671	\$ 84,329	36%
Personnel	\$ 132,000	\$ 47,671	\$ 84,329	36%
Administrative Services & Supplies	\$ 1,000	\$ 773	\$ 227	77%
Communication Costs	-	-	-	0%
Computer Services & Supplies	-	-	-	0%
Contracts, Events & Other Council Activities	31,425	15,156	16,269	48%
Employee Development, Memberships & Subscriptions	16,880	3,675	13,205	22%
Employee Travel Costs	695	695	-	100%
Government Overhead & Insurance	-	-	-	0%
Rentals & Operating Leases	-	-	-	0%
Operating Budget	\$ 50,000	\$ 20,299	\$ 29,701	41%
Grand Total	\$ 182,000	\$ 67,970	\$ 114,030	37%

- Personnel costs will be fully expended by year end.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
 Fiscal Year 2026 Budget
 For the Period July 1, 2025 - January 31, 2026

In Demand Careers				
State Expenditure Category	Budget	Actual	Under/(Over)	Actual %
Salary & Benefits	\$ 659,763	\$ 329,179	\$ 330,584	50%
Personnel	\$ 659,763	\$ 329,179	\$ 330,584	50%
Administrative Services & Supplies	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,099	\$ 401	73%
Communication Costs	125,927	10,119	115,808	8%
Computer Services & Supplies	35,900	20,098	15,802	56%
Contracts, Events & Other Council Activities	1,902,081	1,030,915	871,166	54%
Employee Development, Memberships & Subscriptions	12,500	12,500	-	100%
Employee Travel Costs	17,500	6,163	11,337	35%
Government Overhead & Insurance	30,300	35,379	(5,079)	117%
Rentals & Operating Leases	75,079	34,218	40,861	46%
Operating Budget	\$ 2,200,787	\$ 1,150,491	\$ 1,050,297	52%
Grand Total	\$ 2,860,550	\$ 1,479,670	\$ 1,380,881	52%

Trustee and Benefits			
Grant Reimbursement Spending Authority	\$71,985,150		Expenditures \$ 22,668,086

Other Transactions		
Month	Transfer In (Out)	Interest
July	\$ 20,000,000	\$ 219,898
August	-	226,428
September	(288,400)	292,148
October	20,000,000	275,905
November	(5,000,000)	264,649
December	-	274,880
January	20,000,000	265,229
February	-	-
March	-	-
Apr	-	-
May	-	-
June	-	-
FY26 Totals	\$ 54,711,600	\$ 1,819,139

- \$72M in spending authority to pay for grants.

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- Revenue is \$20M per quarter from in-demand career fund. CTE is appropriated \$5M per year and Office of State Board receives just under \$300K for college and career access coordinators.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Fiscal Year 2023 - 2026 Budget
For the Period July 1, 2025 - January 31, 2026

ARPA WFDT				
Category & Grantee	Obligated	Disbursements	Under/Over	Actual %
Idaho Launch	\$ 20,660,295	\$ 20,541,527	\$ 118,768	99%
Talent Pipeline Management (TPM) – Region Coordinators				
<i>1 Percent Consulting</i>	\$ 290,138	\$ 290,138	\$ -	100%
<i>Center for Advanced Energy Studies</i>	550,000	550,000	-	100%
<i>Clearwater Economic Development Association</i>	168,325	168,325	-	100%
<i>Coeur d'Alene Area Economic Development</i>	198,528	198,528	-	100%
<i>College Southern Idaho</i>	247,106	247,106	-	100%
<i>Idaho Associated General Contractors</i>	286,156	286,156	-	100%
<i>Idaho Manufacturing Alliance</i>	248,998	245,801	3,196	99%
<i>TPM Training & Lightcast Licenses</i>	171,750	171,750	-	100%
Reserved for CHIPS Act Projects*				
<i>Boise School District - DTEC Welding ISG</i>	\$ 325,972	\$ 325,972	\$ -	100%
<i>BSU Semiconductor Cleanroom ISG</i>	1,759,972	162,055	1,597,917	9%
<i>CEI Mechatronics ISG</i>	499,999	499,999	-	100%
<i>CSI Mechatronics/Engineering ISG</i>	1,414,605	373,419	1,041,186	26%
<i>CWI Mechatronics (AMET) ISG</i>	4,194,931	2,584,672	1,610,260	62%
<i>ISU Semiconductor Technician ISG</i>	994,472	225,122	769,350	23%
<i>Micron Employer Grant</i>	13,498,100	874,830	12,623,270	6%
<i>NIC Mechatronics ISG</i>	734,896	544,032	190,864	74%
<i>UI ASAI (NGEM) ISG</i>	1,039,557	144,699	894,858	14%
<i>UI Semiconductor Cleanroom ISG</i>	1,100,000	-	1,100,000	0%
Next Steps Idaho Investments	\$ 110,758	\$ 110,758	\$ -	100%
Idaho Launch Website & Marketing	\$ 497,542	\$ 497,542	\$ -	100%
Salary	\$ 691,600	\$ 357,225	\$ 334,375	52%
Operating	\$ 316,300	\$ 125,530	\$ 190,770	40%
Grand Total	\$ 50,000,000	\$ 29,525,186	\$ 20,474,814	59%

*ISG = Industry Sector Grant

- TPM is now being funding from WDTF, no longer in ARPA
- \$47M in CHIPS Act/semiconductor-related investments - \$32M from ARPA, \$15M from a General Fund transfer to the WDTF in FY23.
- 60% spent to date, all funds have to be expended by December 31, 2026.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Fiscal Year 2023 - 202,5 Budget
F,or the Pe,riod July 1, 2025 - January 31, 2026

ARPA Child Care				
Category & Grantee	Obliga ted	Disbursements	Unde,/Over	Actual%
Child Care Grants with Disbursements Open				
<i>Bilingual Adventures Academy</i>	\$ 180,000	\$ 113,265	\$ 66,735	63%
<i>Castleford Joint School District</i>	270,000	229,844	40,156	85%
<i>County of Unco/n</i>	450,000	356,593	93,407	79%
<i>Creative Corner Learning Center LLC</i>	180,000	57,886	122,114	32%
<i>Future Leaders Academy 2 LLC</i>	238,619		238,619	1%
<i>Gem Kids Infant and Toddler Center LLC</i>	180,000	82,307	97,693	46%
<i>Genesee Jairt School District #282</i>	284,962	134,093	150,869	47%
<i>Giraffe Laugh</i>	1, & 23,947	1,686,148	137,800	92%
<i>Huckleberry Montessori</i>	176,635		176,635	1%
<i>Idaho Falls Family YMCA</i>	204,500	146,641	57,860	72%
<i>Jellybeans PlayCare Center</i>	179,957	105,8&9	74,068	59%
<i>Lilypod Childcare LLC</i>	160,000	157,038	2,962	98%
<i>Magic Stars Spanish Preschoal</i>	180,000	169,0&5	10,915	94%
<i>Nampa Sdtool District</i>	571,495	466,6&5	104,810	82%
<i>Notional Law Enforcement Foundation</i>	2,962,475	812,123	2,150,352	27%
<i>Tirry Tots Learning Center</i>	235,620	194,175	41,445	82%
<i>Whole Child</i>	378,455	257,695	120,760	68%
<i>YMCA Treasure Valley</i>	1,069,985		1,069,985	1%
Child Care Gr.ants with Disbursements Closed				
<i>ABC Above and Beyond the Classroom</i>	\$ 72,318	\$ 72,318	\$	100%
<i>Acuare/aLLC</i>	120,000	120,000		100%
<i>Apples and Oranges</i>	90,000	90,000		100%
<i>Armbruster Kids LLC</i>	138,547	138,547		100%
<i>As/rley's Daywre & Montessori</i>	152,665	152,665		100%
<i>Baby Bee Daycare</i>	360,000	360,000		100%
<i>Bamko Childcare</i>	60,000	60,000		100%
<i>Boise State Children's Center</i>	393,705	393,705		100%
<i>Boys & Girls Club Ada County (Kuna)</i>	1,404,000	1,404,000		100%
<i>Boys & Girls Club lewis Clark Volley</i>	1,680,000	1,680,000		100%
<i>Boys & Girls Club Magic Valley (Rupert)</i>	600,000	600,000		100%
<i>Bright Stars Childcare</i>	150,000	150,000		100%
<i>Bruneau, Grand View School District</i>	165,000	165,000		100%
<i>Care House Learning Center</i>	88,860	88,860		100%
<i>Chita's Kids Preschool</i>	94,756	94,756		100%
<i>Oty of New Meadows</i>	600,000	600,000		100%
<i>Cookies N Milk Daycore</i>	351,500	351,500		100%
<i>Ducks In A Row Child Core HC</i>	180,000	180,000		100%
<i>Ignite Idaho Family Resource Center</i>	96,449	96,449		100%
<i>Jabbers Kids LLC</i>	180,000	180,000		100%
<i>Kaniksu Community Health Clinic</i>	375,000	375,000		100%

Child Care Grants with Disbursements Closed				
<i>Kreative Kids Academy TF LLC</i>	1,288,988	1,288,988	-	100%
<i>Kuna Joint School District #003</i>	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ -	100%
<i>Little Me with Daycare</i>	67,090	67,090	-	100%
<i>Lollipop Land llc</i>	1,022,456	1,022,456	-	100%
<i>Loly's Daycare LLC</i>	400,000	400,000	-	100%
<i>Lost Rivers Medical Center</i>	270,000	270,000	-	100%
<i>Lucky Duck Preschool</i>	2,198,900	2,198,900	-	100%
<i>Mayra's Spanish Preschool and Daycare</i>	195,000	195,000	-	100%
<i>McCall-Donnelly Joint School District</i>	452,000	452,000	-	100%
<i>Micron Technology Inc</i>	100,000	100,000	-	100%
<i>Our Future Society LLC</i>	177,100	177,100	-	100%
<i>Saggy Britches LLC dba the Barnyard Daycare</i>	179,068	179,068	-	100%
<i>Storybook Adventure</i>	2,250,000	2,250,000	-	100%
<i>Tamarack Resort</i>	166,724	166,724	-	100%
<i>Teton Regional Economic Coalition</i>	1,170,000	1,170,000	-	100%
<i>The Advocates</i>	455,000	455,000	-	100%
<i>The Little Red Roost Child Care</i>	101,671	101,671	-	100%
<i>Tiny Town</i>	616,950	616,950	-	100%
<i>Treasure Valley Waldorf LLC DBA Wildflowers</i>	180,000	180,000	-	100%
<i>United Way of South Central Idaho (E-Street)</i>	-	-	-	100%
<i>Wonderschool</i>	849,700	849,700	-	100%
Salary*	\$ 644,904	\$ 615,808	\$ 29,096	95%
Operating Budget	\$ 60,000	\$ 52,014	\$ 7,986	87%
Grand Total	\$ 30,000,000	\$ 25,205,733	\$ 4,794,267	84%

* Includes expenditures FY22

- 84% spent to date, all funds have to be expended by December 31, 2026
- Child Care grantees have been given until September 30th to submit for reimbursement

- **FY27 Budget – Legislative Actions**

- Senate Bill 1332 requires 2 cash transfers from LAUNCH, currently with the Governor
- FY26 transfer of \$10M includes unobligated funds, recapture of grants and operational savings from the Class of 2024 and 2025 appropriations
- Transfer was made to general fund to address budget issues, statute says unobligated funds should be used to expand postsecondary programs for in-demand careers
- Additional (unanticipated) transfer will be made from FY27, \$10M in January 2027
- Will impact awards for Class of 2026, anticipating a maximum of 9K grants
- Discussion
 - 75% of students who are offered LAUNCH award accept
 - If less than 25% don't follow through, it will impact ability to transfer to Adult LAUNCH
 - Student applications are higher this year than in the past, follow-through will determine \$10M transfer availability
 - To mitigate concerns about over obligating the fund, a waitlist approach will be used after initial awards go out.
 - FY27 transfer is one-time, not ongoing

One-Stop Committee Updates/ Actions

Kristyn Carr, One-Stop Committee Interim Chair

***American Job Center Certification Policy**

- Minor update to how certification visits are conducted
- Law requires us to update policy every 2 years

Motion by Ms. Price to approve the changes to the American Job Center Certification Policy as written. Second by Mayor Chadwick. Motion carried.

***WIOA State Plan Submission**

Chad Lahti, Project Coordinator

- Federally required 4-year workforce strategy, modified every 2 years
- Submitted by the Governor to USDOL
- Aligns programs, funding, and performance
- Blueprint for Idaho's workforce system
- WIOA Core and Combined Partners
 - Workforce Development Council
 - Idaho Department of Labor
 - Division of Career Technical Education
 - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
 - Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired
 - Commission on Aging
- Workforce system in Idaho is consolidated into just a few agencies which keeps it streamlined
- Economic and workforce analysis was completely rewritten
 - Economic Analysis Summary
 - Top five state for employment growth over the past decade
 - Fastest growth in construction, professional services, and leisure
 - Health care remains a major and expanding employer
 - Projected gains through 2032 in construction, health care, and manufacturing
 - Rising demand for soft skills, technical skills, and AI literacy
 - Workforce Analysis Summary
 - Population surpassed 2 million; strong in-migration
 - Unemployment remains low at 3.7%
 - Aging population outpacing labor force growth
 - Fewer young workers entering the pipeline
- 4 Focus Areas
 - Improving Public Awareness and Access to the Workforce System
 - Ensure Idahoans and employers understand and can easily access workforce services
 - Implement a coordinated communications strategy
 - Identify key audiences and targeted messaging
 - Leverage community partnerships for outreach
 - Coordinate business services across partners
 - Build Workforce System Capacity to Receive Additional Participants
 - Prepare staff and services through professional development
 - Develop shared inter-agency resource hub
 - Leverage technology and AI to improve service delivery
 - Improve digital and AI literacy among participants
 - Service to Youth
 - Expand service to youth within, but not limited to:
 - Youth with disabilities
 - Justice-involved youth

- Youth residing in rural or remote communities
 - Align workforce supports with Idaho LAUNCH
 - Develop a statewide youth services matrix
 - Career Pathways/Sector Partnerships
 - Strengthen industry-driven workforce strategies aligned to in-demand sectors
 - Develop career pathways via Talent Pipeline Management (TPM)
 - Prioritize high-growth and high investment industries
 - Advance Registered Apprenticeship growth
 - Develop Idaho “credentials of value” framework
- Everything in the plan aligns with America’s Talent strategy pillars
 - Industry-Driven Strategies
 - Worker Mobility
 - Integrated Systems
 - Accountability
 - Flexibility & Innovation
- Waivers allow flexibility within each state and are encouraged
 - State Workforce Board to Act as the Local Board
 - Continue authorization for the State Workforce Development Board to serve as the Local Workforce Development Board.
 - Allow for Post-Exit Supportive Services for Employment Retention
 - Waiver to allow supportive services to be provided for Adult and Dislocated Workers for up to 12 months after exit. Already allowed in Youth program.
 - Eligible Training Provider (ETP) Reporting Requirements
 - Waiver of the requirement to collect and report performance data for all students in ETPL-listed programs.
 - Comprehensive One-Stop Center Requirement
 - Waiver of the requirement to designate a Comprehensive One-Stop Center in each local area.

Motion by Ms. Barber to approve the 2026 WIOA State Plan Modification along with the 4 waivers. Second by Ms. Logan. Motion carried.

WIOA Title 1 Funding Shifts

Wendi Secrist, Executive Director

- Notification only – no action needed
- IDOL moving \$10K from SDA 4 to SDA 2 to address current need in Adult program

Policy Committee Updates/ Actions

Hope Morrow, Policy Committee Chair

***Workforce Training Fund Policy Goals**

- Last updated 2018. Recommendation:
 - Purpose:
 - Advancing economic mobility and prosperity for Idahoans by expanding pathways to in-demand careers and retaining skilled talent that enables Idaho businesses to succeed and grow.
 - Goals:
 - Align education and work-based learning to in-demand careers, clearly connected to current and projected employer demand in industries that drive Idaho’s economy.

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- Expand access to and participation in career-connected opportunities that drive wage growth and keep talent in our state.
 - Implement effective talent pipeline models and support their replication across regions and industries statewide.
 - Demonstrate measurable value and accountability to the Idaho Taxpayers through transparent tracking and reporting of workforce outcomes.
- Discussion:
 - Bullet 4, are there additional things we are not currently tracking?
 - As new opportunities come up, we are always looking at new ways to demonstrate through data
 - Wage growth is part of the calculation of what is deemed in-demand
 - How do we measure success?
 - These goals are for the entire fund
 - Each program has its own metrics, identified in policy. Examples include:
 - Adult LAUNCH is showing an average of 40% wage increase for participants
 - 75% of individuals work within 50 miles of where they attend training
 - Alignment to in-demand careers is an addition, its been inherent in our work, but now is “codified” in the goals.

Motion by Ms. Price to approve the Workforce Training Fund Goals as presented with addition of word “employers” before “in-demand careers” in the WDTF Purpose statement. Second by Mr. Hendrickx. Motion carried.

Idaho Economic Outlook

**Sam Wolkenhauer, Labor Economist, Idaho
Department of Labor**

- Key points
 - Healthcare stands alone in driving growth
 - Net job growth from January 2024, United States
 - GDP real-time indicators are strong, Federal Reserve GDPNow estimates
 - Emerging GDP-payroll gap
 - Quarterly growth in non-farm payrolls and real GDP
 - Idaho nonfarm employment, total employment returns to trend growth
 - A tale of two business cycles
 - Net Growth from 2020, Total Employment (Pre-Covid = 100)
 - Net Growth from 2020, Employment exclusive of Healthcare (Pre-Covid = 100)
 - There’s more balance in Idaho, than US
 - Definitive net job growth from January 2024 in Idaho
 - Idaho hourly wage growth
 - Wage growth softens from the peak but remains robust
 - More imbalances in our economic drivers
 - Quarterly contributions to net fixed private investment growth
 - More AI in the macro-economy?
 - Diverging residential construction and construction employment
 - Labor market dynamism subsides
 - Softening without obvious distress
 - Closing thoughts
 - We are in a softening phase of this economic cycle. Employers are countermanding a period of over-hiring. Exclusive of healthcare, it’s a weak labor market.

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- AI is doing heavy lifting right now, keeping investment and by extension GDP numbers respectable. However, AI is currently functioning as an output, rather than an input.
 - Healthcare remains the lone driver of job growth on the federal level. Employment gains in Idaho, however, remain broadly balanced.
 - The labor market is working for people who have jobs but tightening for job seekers.
- Discussion
 - 1.8M jobs added in healthcare, all others shed 50K jobs – includes fed layoffs
 - Economy is accelerating
 - Unique times - GDP solid, labor market is flat
 - Idaho job growth is more balanced, stronger
 - Covid has not had any lasting effect. Idaho recovered much faster and is sustaining much better employment
 - National economy is stagnating due to no growth beyond healthcare
 - Idaho is settling into a range of wage growth that remains elevated
 - Idaho consistently ranked in top 10 for the last couple years for wage growth
 - Fixed private investment, accumulation of productive capital
 - All growth is coming from “information processing and software” which is AI in its most concrete form
 - Idaho would look similar
 - If healthcare & AI growth were removed, would have recession
 - Construction is increasing, but housing starts are down due to the building of data centers
 - 8-10% of US construction workforce is building data centers
 - Labor Market insights:
 - Stagnating, but no obvious signs of distress
 - Hiring activity well below pre-covid, turn over below pre-covid levels
 - Just not moving much in either direction
 - Idaho unemployment numbers are very low
 - But those that are laid off tend to be unemployed longer
 - Recent graduates (4 yr) are having the hardest time getting jobs
 - Home market not working for first time buyers
 - If you have job and a house doing fine, if first on either, not great
 - Idaho still has labor force growth due mostly to in-migration
 - Growth is disproportionately retirees, 60%
 - Trade demand remains high

FY27 WDTF Allocations

****Talent Pipeline Management Request***

Jan Whiting, Workforce Engagement Director

- Funding request \$650,000 for FY27, \$100K increase from FY26
- Proposing to shift from a primarily regional structure towards a more industry-focused model
- Maintaining TPM activity across all regions of the state
- Engaging TPM host sites with industry as the primary focus
- FY27 will serve as a transition year for the program
- TPM funding will be considered as a single statewide investment, with final funding allocations determined based on the strength of the host site applications, and subject to Executive Committee approval.
- Questions
 - How did you arrive at potential industry alignment list?
 - Potential only, aligning with employer investment and in-demand matrix

- What does funding go to?
 - Supporting a position or positions supporting these employer collaboratives. May be dedicated individual, others divide the responsibilities among multiple positions
 - Funding request is for FY27
 - Contracts will be 1 year with option to extend
 - Don't want to lose momentum or solidify existing model, need to adapt, this year will define how

***Externship Program Request**

Halle Fultz, Project Coordinator

- Requesting additional \$250K set aside for FY27
- Allows for 100 externs
- K-12 eligibility
- No cost to Host sites
- First time participation is priority for participants and host sites
- Is it possible to run program outside of the summer?
 - Host sites can offer field trips, etc. to maintain relationship throughout the year
- Teachers can receive professional development credits through BSU
- 30% repeat of the host sites from last year

***Youth Apprenticeship**

Marie Price

- Requesting a set-aside of \$1.167M to fund IBE's core staffing and operational expenses through 12/31/2028
 - 9/1/2026 – 8/30/2027 \$ 500,000
 - 9/1/2027 – 8/30/2028 \$ 500,000
 - 9/1/2028 – 12/31/2028 \$ 167,000
- Current WDTF Innovation Grant funding for Idaho Business for Education (IBE) ends August 31, 2026
- IBE is applying for \$200k + Technical Assistance from CareerWise Colorado/Future Ready Apprenticeship Program to work towards building a sustainable public/private funding model
- Served 600 individuals in 6 years
- Only organization in Idaho to focus on 16-24 year olds
- 70+ employers are participating
- WIOA State Plan alignment
- One piece of overall Apprenticeship Idaho initiative
- Discussion
 - IBE has had 6 years of grants why do they need 3 more years?
 - Covid impacted rollout of program – start date was June 2020
 - Idaho is one of only 4 states that met performance targets
 - Employers need and value the assistance in expanding to youth apprenticeship

Motion by Ms. Morrow to approve \$650K for FY27 TPM set-aside, \$250K for FY27 Externship set aside, and \$500K for FY27 Youth Apprenticeship. Additional funding for Youth Apprenticeship will be revisited in March 2027. Second by Mayor Chadwick. Motion carried.

Micron's Artificial Intelligence Initiatives

Himanshu Nanda, Micron

Director of Talent Acquisition & Operations

- AI is everywhere
- Micron history
 - Start 1978
 - \$37.4 B FY25 revenue
 - 170 on 2025 Fortune 500
 - ~60K patents granted and growing
 - ~54K team members
 - 13 manufacturing sites and 13 customer labs
 - 30+ major cities with Micron offices
- Investment in Idaho
 - 2 new fabs ~\$50B
 - 3,500 jobs, 6,000+ construction jobs
 - First fab to open 2027
- Key Takeaways
 - AI in recruiting is no longer optional, 87% adoption and accelerating
 - Candidates want AI for efficiency but demand humans for final decisions
 - Critical thinking ranks #1, ahead of AI skills, in what employers want
 - 77% of employers expect AI experience; 58% say universities aren't delivering
 - University-industry partnerships (co-design, shared data, shared accountability) are the path forward
 - Day One Readiness = AI literacy + critical thinking + professional skills
 - Idaho is uniquely positioned with Micron's investment and strong educational partners

WDC/STEM AC AI Literacy Initiatives

Dee Mooney, STEM AC Administrator

- Legislation
 - Several bills this session
 - 600 legislative initiatives across US on AI
 - S1227aa - directs the State Department of Education to develop a statewide framework for generative AI in education which will guide local school districts and charter schools in adopting their own policies
- Framework #1 – USDOL AI Literacy Framework
 - A foundational set of competencies that enable individuals to use and evaluate AI technologies responsibly, with a primary focus on generative AI.
 - Core Focus
 - Workforce facing
 - Economy-driven
 - Generative AI-centered
- Coming soon Idaho's AI Framework
 - Led by SDE
 - Education & industry partners, and workforce representatives; will include
 - Human-centered oversight, transparency, safety, and data security
 - Guidance on digital citizenship and responsible use

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- Address accessibility and access to AI tools
 - Serve as foundation for school district policies
 - Core Components
 - aiEDU’s Spark the Future Training Course
 - Statewide AI Training Resources
 - Regional Trainings
 - AI Innovators / Coaches
 - Year 1 Targets
 - 485 educators trained / coached
 - 70% demonstrate improved AI classroom integration
 - 85% satisfaction and > 20-point gain on pre-post assessments
 - Online training platform is built and > 60 enrollments
- Key points
 - AI Literacy as a Baseline Workforce & Educational Requirement
 - Responsible and Ethical Use is Central
 - Statewide, Coordinated, Multi-Sector Collaboration
 - Investment in Training, Capacity Building, and Tools
 - Human Skills are Essential Alongside AI
 - Preparedness for a Changing Economy

WDC STEM Focused Grant Updates

Sara Newton-Kiltz, Micron

Director of Strategic Workforce Programs

- Generational investment in semiconductor industry
- Micron Workforce Strategy
 - Filling jobs today, anticipating tomorrow’s needs by
 - Scaling programs and pathways
 - Improving quality of programs
 - Partnerships & collaboration
 - Modernizing curriculum, stay ahead of the curve
 - Hands on experience through apprenticeship and internship
 - Internal stakeholders, regional ecosystems
 - Tap into where the talent is
- Funding Opportunities
 - Micron direct investments
 - CHIPS workforce funding
 - Endorsing partners seeking state or federal funding
- Statewide Partnerships
 - Grants feeding into technician shortage, greatest need
 - Semi-conductor for All
 - Mechatronics
 - High school and community colleges CTE programs
 - Construction Combine very successful
 - Rural outreach, 4-H

- Employer Grant is being used for
 - Technology transfer from Asia to US for high volume manufacturing
 - New/incumbent employee technical skills academy
- New Boise Training Center
 - 1/3 will be classrooms with CWI helping to deliver technical instruction
 - 2/3 hands-on learning with Micron decommissioned tools & equipment for technical training

Chair's Report

Deni Hoehne

- No report

Executive Director's Report

Wendi Secrist

- Industry Driven Skills Training Fund Update
 - Justin Glenn, IDOL
 - Filling the critical training gap in advanced manufacturing, nuclear energy and mineral extraction
 - \$8M federal funded program
 - Anticipated to support 750 workers and 20 employers
 - Reimbursement model
 - Up to \$25K per employee for eligible training
 - Applications open March 18
- Workforce Pell Grants
 - Part of One Big Beautiful Bill
 - Governor formed a small working group to recommend where it should live and to ensure initiatives come together
 - Will require some legislative policy changes next year
 - Funds will be available July 1, but no programs will be approved at federal level
- CTO Challenge
 - Create a talent marketplace to connect to AI and skills based hiring
 - CTE leading application; April 30th due date
- NIC accreditation has been restored
- LCSC name change bill has stalled
- WDC/ STEM consolidation bill passed the house
- Budget setting Friday morning

Unanimous consent motion by Ms. Morrow to adjourn. Second by Mr. Maloney. No objections.

Adjourn 4:06 PM