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*GOVERNOR*

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*Executive Director*

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*Chair*

**Sarah Griffin**
*Vice Chair*

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

514 W Jefferson St, Ste 131, Boise, Idaho 83702

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** Tuesday, October 8, 2026
**Time:** 2:00 – 3:30 PM

**Council Committee Members:** Deni Hoehne, Joe Maloney, Kelly Kolb, ~~Sarah Griffin~~, ~~Scott Bedke~~, Hope Morrow

**Staff:** Sherawn Reberry, Denise Hill, Wendi Secrist, Amanda Ames, Stacy James, Jan Whiting, Chad Lahti

**Guests:**

**Call to Order at 2:00 PM**

**Welcome** **Deni Hoehne, Chair**

- Roll Call
- Review Agenda
    - Request to modify and make addition of Micron to the ARPA Grant Modifications

**Motion by Mr. Kolb to add Micron to the agenda item ARPA Grant Modifications. Second by Mr. Maloney. Motion carried.**

***Approve August 18, 2026 Meeting Minutes***

**Unanimous consent motion by Mr. Kolb to approve August 18, 2026 Meeting Minutes as written. Second by Ms. Morrow. Motion carried.**

***ARPA Grant Modifications*** ***Amanda Ames***

- Anticipate unspent funds
- Additional saving in salary and benefits also available
- Final quarter for ARPA spend
- Requesting reallocation of approximately $350K
    - NIC approximately $106,760
    - CWI approximately $117,501, would need an extension
    - Micron approximately $128,235
- How were the 3 recipients arrived at?
    - Projects are still moving and have additional targets to reach
    - Others possible recipients have completed their projects
    - Proposed recipients can meet spend and reimbursement process timeline

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**Motion by Mr. Maloney to accept the staff recommendation for reallocation of available ARPA funds to proposed recipients. Second by Mr. Kolb.**

Discussion:

- Added Micron because other 2 proposed recipients could not utilize full available funds

**Motion carried.**

***Childcare Grant Modification** **Amanda Ames***

- Approximately $108K available for reallocation
  - $21,453K from Armbruster Kids, LLC
  - $86,508.79 in unspent funds from Creative Corner Learning Center, LLC
- Currently evaluating legal options with Armbruster Kids, LLC
- Identified 2 recipients able to absorb reallocated funds with the ability to meet all requirements and deadlines
  - Giraffe Laugh, 30-day extension needed
  - Treasure Valley YMCA

**Motion by Ms. Morrow to accept the staff recommendation for the reallocation of the remaining available ARPA Child Care Expansion Grant Funds Second by Mr. Kolb.**

**No discussion, motion carried.**

***WDTF Grants** **Amanda Ames***

- Mullan School District Innovation Grant

The Advancing Workforce Readiness—Idaho Heartland project strengthens Idaho's talent pipeline by delivering industry-aligned pre-apprenticeship training to rural high school students in agriculture, forestry, health care, culinary services, and construction. Over two years, partner schools will deliver more than 1,200 training sessions, preparing 150 students and producing at least 250 recognized credentials—including WRA, TSA, welding certifications, EETC small-engine credentials, ServSafe, Barista, CNA, and Medical Assisting. The project aims to raise student employability through hands-on skill development and expand employer-ready talent across high-demand Idaho industries. Grant funds will be utilized to support personnel time, equipment and program supply purchases, field trips for students, student certifications, student stipends, and administrative costs.
Requested Amount: $314,000.00

Discussion:

- Supporting expansion of CTE activities and connections
- Work-Based Learning component allows for no cap to innovation grant funding request amount
- Expanding to North and Central Idaho schools and employers
- Pre-apprenticeship, IBE is doing apprenticeship for youth, they are working with IBE for some direction on the employer side IBE cannot do this within their funding
-

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- Aligns with our guidelines and hit mark with rural communities

**Motion by Mr. Kolb to recommend further review of the Mullan School District Innovation Grant by the WDC Grant Review Committee. Second by Ms. Morrow.**

Discussion:

- Request Grant Review Committee investigate sustainability

**Motion carried.**

- Teton School District Innovation Grant

Teton High School is launching a Studio Learning Environment to better prepare students for Idaho's workforce by offering hands-on, employer-connected learning across high-demand industries. Developed in response to skill gaps identified by regional employers, the program integrates real workplace projects, mentorship from industry professionals, and studio courses aligned with fields such as construction, aviation, healthcare, engineering, and skilled trades. Through the course of the one-year grant period every student (totaling 610 individuals) will participate, gaining exposure to technical skills, industry-recognized credentials, and pathways into internships, apprenticeships, and advanced CTE coursework. Grant funds would be used to acquire employer-identified equipment such as heavy machinery simulators, electrical training systems, flight simulator upgrades, and digital fabrication tools while Teton School District is investing over $250,000 into the program.
Amount Requested: $25,000.00

Discussion:

- 43 employee partners
- Onramp to CTE

**Motion by Ms. Morrow to recommend further review of the Teton School District Innovation Grant by the WDC Grant Review Committee. Second by Mr. Kolb.**

Discussion:

- Request Grant Review Committee investigate sustainability

**Motion carried.**

- Groom Forge Innovation Grant

The Pet Styling Registered Apprenticeship project establishes Idaho's first structured pet styling training pathway for individuals with training in employer-identified skill gaps such as animal handling, coat and skin science, safety, sanitation, grooming techniques, and salon operations. This project will launch a pilot at Idaho Correctional Institution–Orofino (ICIO) and build long-term training capacity by certifying four ICIO staff to deliver in-house Related Technical Instruction for the program to continue after the grant period is over. Over 24 months, twelve participants will receive foundational training, earn industry-recognized credentials, and gain a pathway toward

paid employment and Registered Apprenticeship. Grant funds will support instructor time and travel, facility rental, curriculum, outreach and recruitment, and administrative fees.
Amount Requested: $50,000.00

Discussion:

- In house correctional model
- USDOL registered credentials for participants and instructors
- Is an in-demand career
- Well written, meets all expectations

**Motion by Mr. Kolb to recommend further review of the Groom Forge Innovation Grant by the WDC Grant Review Committee. Second by Ms. Morrow.**
**Motion carried.**

- Northwest Machining & Mfg. Industry Sector Grant

Northwest Machining & Mfg. Inc. will launch an employer-driven Apprenticeship and Training Facility to address Idaho's shortage of CNC machinists, programmers, and precision inspectors through hands-on, industry-aligned technical training. Instruction will be provided by experienced manufacturing professionals and supported by a consortium of industry partners who have committed signed MOUs, apprenticeship placements, equipment contributions, and ongoing curriculum engagement. Over the three-year grant period, the program will train 150 participants, award 150 industry-recognized apprenticeship credentials, and support wage gains for incumbent workers. Sustained through employer investment and reinvested tuition, the initiative will deliver a cost-effective, centralized talent pipeline with strong long-term workforce impact. Grant funds will be utilized for personnel, facility space, equipment, supplies, and administrative costs.
Requested Amount: $1,804,660.00

**Motion by Ms. Morrow to recommend further review of the Northwest Machining & Mfg. Industry Sector Grant by the WDC Grant Review Committee. Second by Mr. Kolb.**

Discussion:

- Cost per person seems high
- Could this be part of CHIPS?
  - No - ARPA funds were broader; CHIPS funds are semiconductor focused and Micron approves how they are allocated
- All WDTF Micron funds are expended

**Motion carried.**

- U of I Robotic Machine Tending Industry Sector Grant

The University of Idaho's Center for Intelligent Industrial Robotics (CIIR) is launching a three-year initiative to

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address a critical shortage of automation and robotics skills within Idaho's manufacturing workforce. The project will deliver hands-on, on-site workshops that train incumbent workers in collaborative robotics, industrial automation, and machine tending. During the first year, CIIR will embed with employer partners to study real automation challenges and develop an industry-informed training curriculum. In years two and three, the University will offer 44 weeklong workshops across the state, training up to 88 employees and equipping them with transferable skills that support automation adoption and career advancement. Grant funding will be used for personnel, equipment, and administrative costs while In-Kind donation will come from employer partners for curriculum development.

Amount Requested: $243,433.74

Discussion:

- Institution has several grants open, different schools i.e. engineering, etc.
- Have a current robotics grant
- This grant focuses on employers
- Plan to train 88 participants

**Motion by Ms. Morrow to recommend further review of the U of I Robotic Machine Tending Industry Sector Grant by the WDC Grant Review Committee. Second by Mr. Kolb.**
**Motion carried.**

Justice Involved Population - Strategy Discussion — Wendi Secrist

- Following September Council meeting and review of WIOA performance measure, interested to see whether the Council would be interested in working with IDOC and Juvenile Corrections to build broader strategy for training "behind the gates"
- Discussed tradeoffs in working with the population
- If we agree this is an important population, should we ask Council to set aside funding?
- Process recommendation at December Council meeting:
  - Set aside a fixed amount
  - IDOC and Juvenile Corrections would apply through existing process
  - Would lessen administrative burden by bundling projects
  - Thoughts?
    - Agree – it's a more strategic approach than taking requests from the prisons that aren't necessarily connected
    - One time set-aside of funds, no need for policy update
    - Set expectation for an evaluation component
    - Presentation suggestions:
      - Stats on success of similar programs in Idaho and nationally
      - Summaries of what we have done in the past

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Executive Committee Planning — Deni Hoehne

- Mr. Kolb will be leaving Council and Executive Committee effective December 1st
  - Replacement TBD, possibly Mr. Whitescarver
- Potential half day meeting on November 12th if appointments are completed or December 8th before Council

Executive Director Report — Wendi Secrist

- $47M in semiconductor related investments
  - $13.5M to Micron directly
  - $33.4M to external community
    - $16.8M Education Infrastructure
    - $8.4M Students Engineering the Future
    - $6M Educator Leadership
    - $2.2M Community Benefit
  - Highlights
    - Outreach for Semiconductor for All is over 26,000
    - Total trained to date 9,947
    - 11 of the 21 grants have exceeded their targets
  - Stem Exploration
    - Semiconductor for All courses, 731 impacted, BSU
    - Youth Apprentices, 328, IBE
    - STEM Ambassadors, 203, Idaho Out-of-School Network
    - EcosySTEM, 297, U of I - Extension
    - Youth provided OJT, 41, U of I - 4-H
    - New Pre-Apprenticeship Program, Idaho Manufacturing Alliance
  - Investing in Teachers
    - Externs, 280, WDC/STEM
    - U of I I-KEEP, 498
    - ISTEM, 959
  - Construction
    - Welding Students, 389, Boise Schools
    - Construction Career Explorers, 77, CWI
    - Veterans, 1,296, Idaho Veterans Chamber of Commerce
    - Unhoused Individuals, 40, Interfaith Sanctuary
  - Mechatronics/ Automated Manufacturing
    - CWI, 158 students
    - CSI, 317 Engineering Students + 1,642 Dual Credit Students
    - CEI, 21 Students
    - NIC, 188 Students
  - University – Cleanroom & Engineering
    - BSU, 207 students + 263 CHIP Camp
    - U of I, 1,777 Students + 235 in Cleanroom + 3,027 Outreach

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  - Additional initiatives following Micron's announcement
    - MERC – Microelectronics Education & Research Center
    - MERITS – Manufacturing, Education, Research for Idaho-Taiwan Success
    - NNME/PINES – Pacific-Intermountain Network for Education in Semiconductors
    - XTREME – Capacity Building for Resilient Microelectronics for Extreme Environments
- In Demand Credentials Framework
  - Leaning into Perspective Model
  - Presented to Program Impact & Evaluation Committee for review
  - Plan to bring final recommendation to Council in December
  - Will present to State Board of Education next week for their review and feedback
  - If adopted by both WDC and OSBE, would become a tool for increasing data and research in the state
  - Adds consistency, each group uses it to tailor their work
- State employment engagement survey results received, some positive improvement

**Unanimous consent motion by Mr. Kolb to adjourn. Second by Ms. Morrow. No objections.**
**Adjourned 3:21 PM**