

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018

**TIME:** 3:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Nonini, Den Hartog, Guthrie, Crabtree, Buckner-Webb, and Ward-Engelking

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** None

**NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

**CONVENED:** **Chairman Mortimer** called the Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.

**HCR 34** **Stating Findings of the Legislature and Recognizing the Boundary County Library District as the Best Small Library in America in 2017. Senator Shawn Keough**, presented **HCR 34** and stated the Boundary County Library (BCL) in Bonner's Ferry, Idaho was recognized by the *Library Journal* magazine as the "Best Small Library in America." She explained how the library has become the focal point of the community. Through its creative use of limited resources, the library offers a wide variety of programs and is an engaging environment for residents. She said this resolution honors the library for all it does.

**Ann Joslin**, State Librarian, Idaho Commission for Libraries read a statement from Craig Anderson, current director of BCL. He stated they were honored to receive the recognition and thanked all who made it possible.

**Ms. Joslin** credited Sandy Ashworth, former director of BCL, for developing the library's vision. She saw a need within her community to improve the technology skills of the residents, and actively worked to fulfill that need. **Ms. Joslin** stated the library continues to add value to its community and is deserving of the award and recognition.

**John Thill**, Public Services Manager, Meridian Library District, spoke on behalf of Gretchen Caserotti, Director, Meridian Library District, who nominated BCL. He stated it is an honor be selected; the small library category is one of the largest categories which only selects one library each year. This is the first time a library in Idaho has won this award.

**Senator Keough** stated she appreciated the Committee's time and the consideration given to the resolution. She remarked it honors a small-town library, which is representative of Idaho's libraries, and how hard they work.

**MOTION:** **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **HCR 34** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**S 1221**

**Relating to Higher Education; Amend to Provide Certain Postsecondary Credits Shall Transfer.** **Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, Idaho State Board of Education (ISBE), presented **S 1221** and stated it adds a new section which mirrors current board policy; it also adds procedures regarding notifications to students and annual reporting on credits that transfer. She outlined the framework and noted section three as the new section. Subsection three states how credits transfer; subsection four states the requirements for transfer; and subsection five contains provisions requiring notifications to students.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** asked how Career Technical Education (CTE) degrees would transfer. **Ms. Bent** replied they could pursue a bachelor of applied science with their associate of applied science.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** inquired as to the nature of an associate of applied science degree. **Dr. Todd Schwartz**, Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer, College of Southern Idaho (CSI) replied it is applied learning.

**TESTIMONY:**

**Senator Grant Burgoyne** District 16, remarked he is glad **S 1221** has reached this point, as it has been a two-year effort (Attachment 1).

**MOTION:**

**Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **S 1221** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**H 366**

**Relating to Worker's Compensation; Amend and Revise Provisions Regarding Public Employment.** **Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, Idaho State Board of Education (ISBE), presented **H 366** and stated it makes a minor amendment to Idaho Code § 72-205. The amendment proposes to add language that would require a postsecondary institution to cover a work study student if the employer has not covered the student with its own workers' compensation policy.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Guthrie** moved to send **H 366** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Vice Chairman Thayn** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PRESENTATION:**

**Work Force Development Day.** **Wendy Secrist**, Executive Director, Idaho Workforce Development Council (WDC). **Ms. Secrist** introduced the presenters and gave an overview on Idaho's work-based learning initiative. She stated successful work toward collaboration amongst the agencies began in 2016 when the Idaho Department of Labor (IDOL) and Idaho Career and Technical Education (CTE) were awarded a \$1.4 million grant. In 2017, the Governor's Workforce Development Task Force and Higher Education Task Force were created with a recommendation to invest in workforce-based learning (Attachment 1).

After comparing current practices with best practices, the two task forces developed a comprehensive, Statewide, strategic workforce development plan comprised of related recommendations. **Ms. Secrist** noted Idaho was selected to participate in the second cohort of the National Governor's Work-Based Learning Police Academy. This program helps to streamline decision making. Knowing their areas of focus, they analyzed their strengths and weaknesses, compared benefits and risks, then developed a vision and action plan.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** asked for insight into the spending across agencies for workforce development programs. **Ms. Secrist** replied they could provide follow-up information. **Senator Nonini** asked if the private sector is contributing. **Ms. Secrist** replied she believes the majority of the private sector contributes directly through the colleges.

**Registered Apprenticeship Idaho. Melinda Smyser**, Director, IDOL. **Ms. Smyser** stated apprenticeship programs are driven by a need for skilled workers with specific industry needs and hands-on skills. The apprenticeship program provides benefits to both the employers and employees. Seen as a viable solution to meet needs, non-traditional apprenticeships are being set-up in several industries. She remarked, since last year, the number of registered apprenticeships in the State has doubled (Attachment 2).

**Vice Chairman Thayne** asked for clarification regarding who is included in the count in the total number of registered apprentices. **John Russ**, Southwest Area Manager, IDOL, answered the number of registered apprentices include those individuals who are enrolled in a program and are connected to employment. **Vice Chairman Thayne** inquired as to the age groups. **Mr. Russ** replied they do not have a way to access that data at this time.

**Mr. Russ** asserted the apprenticeship program is the "gold standard" of workforce learning. For every dollar invested by employers in registered apprenticeships, they could expect a return of \$1.47. The program gives employers an opportunity to train their workers to a specific standard while meeting an industry standard.

**Chris Southard**, Workforce Manager, St. Luke's Health System (St. Luke's) spoke about the apprenticeship program at St. Luke's. She remarked the new apprenticeship program started in January 2018 to fulfill a shortage for Certified Medical Assistants. The training takes approximately nine to twelve months and the apprentices are paid through a grant. She expressed gratitude for the program, as it is it allows the recruits to develop necessary skills through hands-on training (Attachment 3).

**Vice Chairman Thayne** asked about the ages of the apprentices. **Ms. Southard** said the age range varies; one participant is a recent high school graduate and some are in the 30-to-40-year old range.

**Mr. Russ** indicated the need to correct misunderstandings and miscommunications regarding the nature and purpose of an apprentice. He noted a need for greater communication, industry awareness, and a searchable database with system wide access.

**Shelley Roberts**, CEO, Idaho Rural Water Association, shared the Association's experience working with WDC, CTE, and IDOL in developing an apprenticeship program. Advancements in technology have increased the amount of skills needed in the field. She stated much of today's youth are not aware of the career opportunities available in water management. Apprenticeship programs help direct students into this career path and provide them with the necessary hands-on training.

**Nanna Hanchett**, Deputy Administrator, Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, stated they are a state-federal program that assists individuals with disabilities in attaining gainful employment. She related information regarding a paid summer work experience program they offer students. She stated the agency works closely with school districts and with the Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and Blind to identify students and individuals who would like to receive the opportunity to work.

**Senator Winder** asked if their agency deals with Witco, Inc. **Ms. Hanchett** replied they are a provider of their services.

**Dwight Johnson**, State Administrator, CTE, stated their mission is to prepare youth and adults for high-skill and in demand careers. As such, they are pleased with the opportunity to collaborate with other agencies to expand work-based learning models through applied learning. He emphasized the importance of increasing the skill attainment of the current workforce through the acquisition of degrees, certifications, and industry credentials to meet the State's 60 percent goal.

**Senator Den Hartog** asked if apprenticeships lead toward a certificate so they can be counted toward the 60 percent goal. **Mr. Johnson** replied apprenticeships now count toward the 60 percent goal.

**Marie Price**, Director, Workforce Training and Community Education, North Idaho College (NIC), stated their focus is not only on access, but completion which leads to careers and living wage jobs. She discussed how workforce training was unique from traditional college courses, noting a steady increase in workforce training growth. Their regional focuses are on the healthcare, construction, and wood products-manufacturing industries.

**Brandi Turnipseed**, Executive Director Workforce Training Center, College of Southern Idaho (CSI), stated their regional focus is in the food processing and advanced manufacturing industries. Their current trends include business expansions, outreach and training programs.

**Michelle Holt**, Director Workforce Training Center, College of Eastern Idaho (CEI) remarked how the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) has a large impact on their region. There has been a slow, yet steady increase in apprenticeships and customized contract training. Industries with a driving need are healthcare, advanced manufacturing, and construction. Rural outreach programs continue to be a challenge.

**Christi Rood**, Executive Director, College of Western Idaho (CWI), stated their regional focus is in the HVAC, electrical, plumbing, and manufacturing industries. She noted a shortage of nursing assistants in the healthcare industry. Their current trends include increasing engagement with regional economic development agencies and scaling programs for demand and growth. She stated they plan on doing more industry outreach and noted how, overall, the workforce centers collaborate well across the State.

**Chairman Mortimer** asked for clarification on what is counted toward the 60 percent goal in regards to workforce training. **Ms. Rood** replied those programs which are nine months or longer in length.

**Trent Clark**, Chairman, WDC, commented how workforce development was unique not only in the political area via consensus between parties, but in varied groups as well. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of deploying rural outreach programs.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

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Senator Dean M. Mortimer  
Chair

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LeAnn Mohr  
Secretary

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Diane James  
Assistant Secretary