

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Tuesday, January 26, 2016
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Nonini, Patrick, Souza, Den Hartog, Anthon, 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 3:02 p.m. To open the meeting, **Chairman Mortimer** read the poem "Purpose," by Edgar A. Guest, from the book *A Heap O' Living*.
- PRESENTATION:** **Dr. Arthur Vailas**, President, Idaho State University (ISU), introduced his colleagues in attendance. He stated that ISU is very appreciative of all the legislature did for higher education last year. He explained Governor Otter met with the university presidents to discuss their needs. He stated the Governor's recommendations will have a positive effect for the advancement of higher education. **Dr. Vailas** briefed the Committee on how the Governor's financial recommendations, workforce development, the Complete College Idaho programs, and the ability to innovate will affect ISU. He concluded by reflecting on the school's accomplishments (see attachment 1).
- Senator Den Hartog** asked if the tuition lock moves forward, and the General Fund finances it, will there be any commitment from the universities to control the tuition rates to avoid an increase expenditure from the General Fund? **Dr. Vailas** replied the financial consequence to attend college for the student is high and the Governor assumes the tuition will continue to rise. He stated that he believes this policy is good and will help to accomplish some of the educational goals of the Governor.
- PRESENTATION:** **David Longanecker**, President, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) presented "The Advent of a New Millennium in Idaho Higher Education." He explained WICHE researches issues from 15 other Western states to aid in the development of educational growth. He reported to the committee Idaho grade in educational issues and then explained in detail how the different quantifiers are used to attain that grade. **Mr. Longanecker** concluded his presentation by reminding the Committee that education is changing and for Idaho to be better in education a new normal must be embraced (see attachment 2).
- PRESENTATION:** **Dr. Rick Aman**, Interim President, Eastern Idaho Technical College (EITC), explained that EITC is the only professional-technical college in Idaho Enrollment at the two-year college is up, with 700 students. He believes that the demand for professional-technical education is growing and EITC is a good option for students in Idaho. **Dr. Aman** stated the 2016 goals for EITC: 1.) increase PTE course offerings, 2.) prepare for the accreditation visit, 3.) augment the Go-On rate, 4.) build community relationships, and 5.) grow building capacity to serve the students on waiting lists. He concluded his presentation by explaining his role as EITC interim president on the task force committee which is studying the development of a taxing district to establish a community college in eastern Idaho.

Senator Den Hartog asked what the job placement rate is for those programs that have a waiting list. **Dr. Aman** replied that the waiting lists are for high-placement careers such as registered nurse, welding and machinist. There are definitely more jobs than candidates.

PRESENTATION: **Dwight Johnson**, State Administrator, Division of Professional-Technical Education (PTE), introduced his colleagues in attendance. He stated the mission of PTE and explained how it is dovetailing into the Governor's 2020 educational goal. He noted that the image of PTE needs to be changed to emphasize that those careers are high skill and high wage; he noted that technical training and academic training are not mutually exclusive. He played a video addressing that issue.

Mr. Johnson informed the Committee that PTE is working to change its name to Career Technical Education, to align with industry standards. He explained the different educational tracks that are available to students and the marketability of those skills. He stated that PTE is three-fold: 1.) it connects student to real careers with real wages; 2.) it provides the talent pipeline for businesses to be successful; and 3.) it makes education meaningful through applied hands-on learning. He presented the statistics showing that there are more jobs available than number of students graduating. **Mr. Johnson** outlined the Governor's budget recommendations and how those funds will be allocated for 2017.

Mr. Johnson detailed the implementation of the 2015 legislation that aligns PTE credits more effectively when transferred from high school to college courses. He explained how they worked with faculty to make the transitions seamless. **Mr. Johnson** stated this is an ongoing process, with the goal to have credits aligned and a statewide articulation framework created in the next couple of years. They were able to initiate micro-certification in the form of badges, which is a national effort. He explained the process for students to achieve the badges, how credits are transferred to the technical colleges of the state and how potential employers can find educated employees.

Mr. Johnson concluded his presentation stating his department is excited about all the opportunities that are occurring for PTE. He said PTE and other state agencies are working to 1.) create a web portal to connect students to resources for college; 2.) encouraging mentoring programs; and 3.) establish different state-sponsored scholarships. He emphasized that those who got a PTE degree or certificate were employable right after schooling (see attachment 3).

Senator Souza said if the 100 percent job placement is a correct number, please advertise that to the public more often. She asked if more people are inquiring to attend PTE. **Mr. Johnson** replied in the affirmative. He explained that they are working to better communicate the value and the statistics of a PTE.

ADJOURNED: There being no more business, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:47 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary