

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 12, 2019

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW41

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt (Call), Moon, Ehardt, Goesling, Marshall, Raymond, Wisniewski, McCrostie, Abernathy, Berch

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**GUESTS:** Erica Compton and Angela Hemingway, STEM Action Center; Alexandra Dominguez, The College Board; Clark Corbin, Idaho Ed News; Harold Ott, IRSA/IASA; Marilyn Whitney, SDE

**Chairman Clow** called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**RS 26810:** **Rep. Goesling** presented **RS 26810**, which concerns school boards. He stated most school boards have five trustees, but many rural districts struggle to find people willing to serve. With a simple majority of three, boards are able to conduct routine business, but cannot go into executive session. This proposed legislation would allow school boards to go into executive session with a simple majority of members present.

**MOTION:** **Rep. McCrostie** made a motion to introduce **RS 26810**. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Call** abstained from voting.

**Dr. Angela Hemingway**, Executive Director, STEM Action Center, presented to the Committee. Last year, over 6,300 STEM jobs went unfilled in Idaho, resulting in lost personal income and state tax revenue. The STEM Action Center was created by the legislature to help build a homegrown workforce to fill these high-paying jobs. She shared three goals of the Center. The first is to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of STEM programs throughout Idaho. This is accomplished through professional development for teachers; support of student competitions; and the STEM Resources Portal, which is a resource for educators to find lesson plans, toolkits and best practices. The second goal is to align STEM education and workforce needs throughout Idaho. This is accomplished through a new externship for teachers to gain work experience in a STEM job; 140+ community-led STEM events throughout the state; a virtual, project-based, statewide mentorship platform to connect students with mentors; the encouragement of industry donations; and a STEM school designation which schools can earn. The third goal is to increase awareness of STEM throughout Idaho. The Center has an online impact map which shows events and interactions happening throughout the state and can be broken down by legislative district.

In response to Committee questions, **Dr. Hemingway** noted to receive a grant, recipients must identify how they will serve underrepresented populations, which include female, minority and rural students. The Center focuses primarily on serving K-12 students in order to create interest in STEM long before a student is already in college. The Center also tries to help communities recognize pre-existing STEM activity in their area, whether it's mining, agriculture, health care or banks.

**Alexandra Dominguez**, Government Relations Director for Idaho, College Board, gave an overview of the College Board Opportunity Scholarships. This new program guides students through the journey to college, motivating and rewarding them with scholarships along the way. The College Board will award \$25 million in scholarships over the next five years; 4,000 students will earn a scholarship each year, and the amounts will range from \$500-40,000. Students will be entered into a drawing for a scholarship by completing one or more of six steps to prepare for college. Any student who completes a step will be entered to win, regardless of their GPA, and the more steps completed, the more chances they will have to win.

In response to Committee questions, **Ms. Dominguez** explained the winners are chosen randomly to give the largest number of students an opportunity to win. She stated she will look into what College Board will do with the data entered by students.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:02 am.

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Representative Clow  
Chair

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Erica McGinnis  
Secretary