

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 13, 2024

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Lent, Vice Chairman Toews, Senators Den Hartog, Nichols, Carlson, Herndon, Lenney, Ward-Engelking, and Semmelroth

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Lenney

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 Lent** called the meeting of the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:02 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Den Hartog** moved to approve the Minutes of February 5, 2024. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to approve the Minutes of February 6, 2024. **Senator Nichols** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**

PRESENTATION: College of Eastern Idaho Update. Dr. Rick Aman, President, College of Eastern Idaho (CEI), gave an update about the college (Attachment 1). He pointed out that each community college in Idaho reflected the region where it was located. CEI's proximity to the Idaho National Labs influenced its array of technical training program offerings. He stated that CEI had approximately 24,000 students in over 33 programs, and enrollment had increased significantly. **Dr. Aman** highlighted nursing and cyber security as two programs that saw exponential growth. He encouraged support for Idaho Launch and expressed the need to fund two additional faculty.

PRESENTATION: College of Southern Idaho Update. Dr. L. Dean Fisher, President, College of Southern Idaho (CSI), offered an update about the college (Attachment 2). He shared that CSI's goal was to engage in a college-wide, systemic approach to developing and implementing training, certificate, and degree programs that supported existing and emerging industries and expanded equitable enrollment opportunities. **Dr. Fisher** highlighted several statistics including increased enrollment and 150% of time graduation rate for first time, full-time students. He identified a need for more funding for staff pay increases and support for more mental health care providers.

PRESENTATION: North Idaho College Update. Dr. Nick Swayne, President, North Idaho College (NIC), highlighted some of NIC's accomplishments including increased new-student retention, 150% of time graduation rate for first time, full-time students, and an increase in the students completing 30+ credits per year (Attachment 3). He spoke about collaborations with University of Idaho and Lewis and Clark State College to create two plus two programs where students earned two years with NIC and two years at a four year institution. He highlighted continued success of the Workforce Training Center. **Dr. Swayne** spoke about the need for funding for data security and funding to build a driving course and pistol range for law enforcement student training and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) trainings.

PRESENTATION: College of Western Idaho Update. Dr. Gordon Jones, President, College of Western Idaho (CWI), gave an update about the college (Attachment 4). He shared that CWI was the largest community college in the state with over 30,000 students in 121 programs. He highlighted successes such as a 100% pass rate for nursing students taking national licensure examinations and 88% of career and technical students being placed in their field of training. **Dr. Jones** spoke about efforts to anticipate future growth in the State and the labor needs that accompanied that growth. He spoke about CWI's distinctiveness at providing affordable, employable, high quality education. He identified a need for staff pay increases to close the gap with private sector salaries.

DISCUSSION: There was a question regarding the timing of Idaho Launch applications. **Dr. Fisher** stated a later Idaho Launch application deadline would be preferable. There was another question to explain taxing districts related to community colleges. **Drs. Aman** and **Jones** explained how taxing districts affected the finances at CEI and CWI, respectively.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Lent** adjourned the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

Senator Lent
Chair

Lisa Stein
Secretary