

MINUTES
HOUSE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 26, 2015
TIME: 1:30 P.M.
PLACE: Room EW41
MEMBERS: Chairman Thompson, Vice Chairman Anderst, Representatives Raybould, Hartgen, Vander Woude, Nielsen, Anderson, Mendive, Trujillo, Beyeler, Chaney, Nate, Scott, Smith, Rusche, Jordan, Rubel
ABSENT/EXCUSED: Representative(s) Vander Woude, Nielsen, Smith
GUESTS: None

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Chairman Thompson introduced the committee's page **Marilyn Clements** for the remainder of the session.

Dr. Amy Moll, Dean Boise State University (BSU) presented an overview of the College of Engineering at BSU, established in 1996 offering several different degrees. The Engineering Department focuses on research funded through several proposal submissions and awards received, ongoing exploration teaching, and service outreach offering summer camps and events such as STEM Exploration Day in February. Together this drives economic development in Idaho creating jobs and raising the highest median earnings. Engineering degrees are critical for economic health of Idaho. Challenges the department faces is the need for four more faculty. Currently the Governor only has four in his budget, which reduces the educational experience.

In response to questions, **Dr. Moll** said according to Forbes, engineering is the highest paid median. High school graduates coming to the department are only 40% prepared so they offer programs and math sessions to catch up. Students within the College of Engineering do not tend to receive patents immediately, they typically start out pursuing prototypes. Patents are more likely when they are graduate students or faculty, which BSU has received and more are pending. Micron has endorsed this strong program and been on the frontline for interns. She said the best thing to foster education is to encourage early learning in life.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Representative Thompson
Chair

Heidi McKay
Secretary