

FINAL REPORT

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL INTERIM COMMITTEE

**COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND
POSTSECONDARY PROFESSIONAL-
TECHNICAL EDUCATION
2006**

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**COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND POSTSECONDARY
PROFESSIONAL-TECHNICAL
EDUCATION
INTERIM COMMITTEE
SCR 132 (2006)**

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Senator John Goedde, Co-chair
Senator Dean Cameron
Senator John Andreason
Senator Joe Stegner
Senator Bart Davis
Senator Patti Anne Lodge
Senator Brad Little
Senator David Langhorst
Senator Edgar Malepeai

Representative Darrell Bolz, Co-chair
Representative Jim Clark
Representative Julie Ellsworth
Representative Leon Smith
Representative Larry Bradford
Representative Ann Rydalch
Representative Marge Chadderdon
Representative Donna Boe
Representative John Rusche

Staff: Maureen Ingram, Matt Freeman, Charmi Arregui and Jennifer O’Kief

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Legislative Council Interim Committee
Community Colleges and Postsecondary Professional-Technical Education
2006

FINAL REPORT

Charge

The Postsecondary Professional-Technical and Academic Education in Idaho Interim Committee, referred to as the Community Colleges Interim Committee, was created by the Legislative Council pursuant to the provisions of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 132, 2006. The resolution directed the committee to assess the role and mission of postsecondary professional-technical and academic education in Idaho, and to request information from representatives of both public and private partnerships, educational institutions, the Office of the State Board of Education, members of the business community and other interested persons or organizations. The committee was also directed to make recommendations as necessary for changes to existing statutes regarding such postsecondary issues as the role, mission, funding, governance and academic programs of community colleges and the burdens placed on community college taxing districts and professional-technical programs. The resolution further required the committee to report its findings, recommendations and proposed legislation, if any, to the First Regular Session of the Fifty-ninth Idaho Legislature.

Membership

The eighteen-member committee was comprised of nine senators and nine representatives: Senator John Goedde (Co-chair), Representative Darrell Bolz (Co-chair), Senator Dean Cameron, Senator John Andreason, Senator Joe Stegner, Senator Bart Davis, Senator Patti Anne Lodge, Senator Brad Little, Senator David Langhorst, Senator Edgar Malepeai, Representative Jim Clark, Representative Julie Ellsworth, Representative Leon Smith, Representative Larry Bradford, Representative Ann Rydalch, Representative Marge Chadderdon, Representative Donna Boe and Representative John Rusche.

Meetings

The Community Colleges Interim Committee (“committee”) held six meetings from the date of its formation to its expiration on November 30, 2006. Meeting dates and locations were as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. June 19, 2006 | State Capitol, Boise, Idaho |
| 2. July 7, 2006 | North Idaho College, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho |
| 3. July 25, 2006 | Eastern Idaho Technical College, Idaho Falls, Idaho |
| 4. September 11, 2006 | College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls, Idaho |
| 5. October 3, 2006 | State Capitol, Boise, Idaho |
| 6. November 10, 2006 | State Capitol, Boise, Idaho |

Idaho's Community Colleges

Idaho has two community colleges, North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene and College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls, created pursuant to Chapter 21, Title 33, *Idaho Code*. Community college districts are authorized to levy a property tax up to a maximum of .16% of market value for assessment purposes and to charge tuition and fees. Both community colleges also receive an appropriation from the state general fund, distributions from the state liquor fund and other non-appropriated funds including federal grants and contracts. Both NIC and CSI continue to establish additional outreach centers for delivery of education at off-campus sites. Electors of a community college district elect their own five-member board of trustees who each serve a term of six years. Testimony and supporting studies indicate that community colleges provide a significant economic benefit to the local economy, and that the responsiveness of the local boards of trustees to the business community for workforce training is a critical factor in the colleges' positive impact on the community.

Public Professional-Technical Education and Postsecondary Academic Education

Eastern Idaho Technical College in Idaho Falls is the sole stand-alone public technical college in Idaho; it is supported entirely by appropriation from the state general fund. In accordance with State Board of Education policy, the four-year public institutions of Lewis-Clark State College, Boise State University and Idaho State University provide selected professional-technical programs and offer lower division academic courses that can lead to an associate's degree. Such programs are referred to as embedded community college functions and are available at rates commensurate with the cost of education at any Idaho public four-year postsecondary educational institution.

North Idaho College and College of Southern Idaho also offer professional-technical programs funded by the state.

Treasure Valley Community College, an Oregon public community college, offers courses in Idaho and is continuing to expand its programs in both lower division academic and professional-technical education.

Private Professional-Technical Education and Postsecondary Academic Education

In addition to the state's system of public postsecondary and professional-technical education, there are also private institutions that offer courses of instruction leading to certification in a wide variety of technical programs, some of which also provide lower division academic courses for the granting of an associate's degree.

Issues

Committee discussion of community colleges revolved primarily around the issues of governance, accessibility, affordability and funding. Governance requires the need to balance the responsiveness inherent in local control with the control that can come only from the state: coordinating transferability and articulation of credits, and standardizing tuition. Accessibility and affordability were further viewed and distinguished from the perspective of the student as well as that of the state. Funding an expanded state system of community colleges would require additional revenues if the current system is to continue to be supported at current levels. State law allows for the formation of additional community college districts with the authority to raise revenues by levying a property tax, but such an option is less desirable in today's atmosphere of general dissatisfaction with property tax as a revenue source.

Presenters

The committee took testimony from administrators of public and private postsecondary educational institutions and professional-technical colleges, members of the business community and members of local chambers of commerce, private educational organizations, and city and county elected officials. In addition to the presenters, the committee heard from interested members of the general public, who offered their comments and opinions.

BOISE, June 19

Dr. Michael Rush	State Administrator, Division of Professional-Technical Education
Mr. Matt Freeman	Budget & Policy Analyst, Legislative Services Office
Mr. Dwight Johnson	Executive Director, Office of the State Board of Education
Ms. Lori A. Fisher	Executive Director, J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation
Dr. Robert Kustra	President, Boise State University
Dr. Bruce Schultz	Dean, Treasure Valley Community College, Caldwell campus
Mr. Eric Ellis	Director, Information Support Services and Public Information, Treasure Valley Community College, Caldwell campus
Dr. Bill Bach	Director of Academic Affairs, University of Phoenix, Idaho
Mr. Steve Ahrens	President, Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry
Mr. Ray Stark	Senior Vice President of Policy & Partnerships, Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce
Ms. M. C. Niland	Chair, Board of Directors, Nampa Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Scott Gipson	Government Affairs, Caldwell Chamber of Commerce

COEUR D'ALENE, July 7

Dr. Michael Burke	President, North Idaho College
Mr. Rolly Williams	Chair, North Idaho College Board of Trustees
Mr. Dan Wenstrom	North Idaho Manufacturers' Association and President, Precision

Mr. Ron Nilson	Machine & Supply, Inc., Lewiston, ID and Spokane, WA North Idaho Manufacturing Consortium and owner of Ground Force Manufacturing, Post Falls, Idaho
Mrs. Judy Meyer	Idaho Business Coalition for Excellence in Education
Mr. Joe Morris	CEO, Kootenai Medical Center, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
Mr. Steve Griffiths	Jobs Plus, Inc., Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
Mr. Jonathan Coe	Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce
Ms. Angela Alexander	Post Falls Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Paul Kimmell	Moscow Chamber of Commerce
Ms. Kathy L. Martin	Lewiston Chamber of Commerce
Dr. George Copa	Professor, College of Education, Oregon State University
Dr. Kjell Christophersen	President, CCBenefits, Inc., Moscow, Idaho

IDAHO FALLS, July 25

William A. Robertson	President, Eastern Idaho Technical College
Dr. Arthur C. Vailas	President, Idaho State University
Dr. Dene Thomas	President, Lewis-Clark State College
Robb Chiles	President and CEO, Greater Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce
Dr. Andrew Klein	Director for Education, Training and Research, Idaho National Laboratory
Edith Irving	President, Idaho Alliance of Leaders in Nursing and Chief Nursing Officer at Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center
Terry Butikofer	Business Manager, East Central Idaho Planning and Development Association

TWIN FALLS, September 11

Dr. Gerald Beck	President, College of Southern Idaho
Dan Chadwick	Executive Director, Idaho Association of Counties
Fred Tilman	Ada County Commissioner and Chairman, Legislative Committee, Idaho Association of Counties
Tom Mikesell	Twin Falls County Commissioner
Lance Clow	Mayor of Twin Falls and 1 st Vice President, Association of Idaho Cities
Ken Harward	Executive Director, Association of Idaho Cities
Wiley Dobbs	Superintendent of Twin Falls School District
Mary Lu Barry	Director of Curriculum for Twin Falls School District
Ben Allen	Principal, Twin Falls High School
Cliff Green	Executive Director, Idaho School Boards Association

BOISE, October 3

Cathy Holland-Smith Division Manager, Budget & Policy Analysis, Legislative Services Office
Ms. Luci Willits Office of the State Board of Education

Draft Legislation Considered by the Committee

During its October and November meetings, the committee reviewed twenty-one pieces of draft legislation: two drafts on formation of a community college district; three drafts on standardizing tuition to community college or technical college rates; three drafts on income tax credit and property taxes paid to a community college district; four drafts on geographic boundaries and course offerings; three drafts on elections; four drafts on changes to the existing community college system; and two drafts on scholarships.

Findings and Recommendations

Of the fifteen motions placed by the committee during its final meeting, the following received approval. When a roll call vote was taken, the ayes and nays were recorded and are reported with the recommendation.

1. Hold in committee the four drafts under consideration that would create a statewide community college system and that would add community colleges to the state system of postsecondary institutions (Drafts MLI015, MLI036, MLI029 and MLI044).

Moved: Representative Smith
Seconded: Representative Rusche
Carried on a voice vote

2. Recommend two drafts, Draft MLI021 and Draft MLI011 taken together, that reduce the majority required to approve formation of a community college district from a two-thirds majority to a 60% majority, and that require all elections regarding community colleges to be held on one of the four dates established in law.

Moved: Representative Smith
Seconded: Senator Cameron
Passed: 10-7-1
Ayes -- Goedde, Cameron, Andreason, Lodge, Langhorst, Bolz, Smith, Bradford, Chadderdon, Rusche
Nays -- Stegner, Davis, Little, Malepeai, Clark, Rydalch, Boe
Absent and excused -- Ellsworth

3. Recommend that the state adopt a policy that moves toward standardizing tuition costs and fees for professional-technical courses. The State Board of Education and the presidents of the colleges and universities are invited to submit recommendations to the Legislature describing how they would implement this policy over time.

Moved: Senator Cameron
Seconded: Senator Malepeai

Passed: 11-7-0

Ayes -- Goedde, Cameron, Andreason, Lodge, Langhorst, Malepeai, Bolz, Ellsworth, Smith, Boe, Rusche

Nays -- Stegner, Davis, Little, Clark, Bradford, Rydalch, Chadderdon

Absent and excused -- None

4. Recommend reducing the maximum levy allowed by law for maintenance and operation of a community college, from .16% of the market value for assessment purposes to .125% of the market value for assessment purposes.

Moved: Senator Langhorst

Seconded: Senator Little

Carried on a voice vote

5. Recommend Draft MLI013 that reduces the term of office of community college boards of trustees from six years to four years, and that ensures all trustees shall not be elected or reelected during the same election.

Moved: Senator Davis

Seconded: Representative Rydalch

Carried on a voice vote

6. Recommend establishing by law a procedure for dissolving a community college district, based on Draft MLI028. Add an additional provision that provides a continuing revenue source until all debt and lawful claims against the dissolved district are discharged, if the proceeds from sale and disposition of community college properties and assets are insufficient to discharge all such debt or claims.

Moved: Senator Davis

Seconded: Representative Bolz

Carried on a voice vote

7. Recommend Draft MLI019 to extend eligibility for application to the Robert R. Lee Promise Scholarship Program to “non-traditional” students who do not matriculate in college immediately following high school graduation or who are twenty-two years of age or older.

Moved: Senator Lodge

Seconded: Senator Davis

Carried on a voice vote

8. Recommend the state develop a policy and a program that expands availability of needs-based scholarships in order to increase students' accessibility to a postsecondary education in Idaho.

Moved: Representative Rusche

Seconded: Senator Langhorst

Passed: 14-3-1

Ayes -- Goedde, Camerson, Andreason, Davis, Lodge, Langhorst, malepai, Bolz, Clark, Smith, Bradford, Chadderdon, Boe, Rusche

Nays -- Stegner, Little, Rydalch

Absent and excused -- Ellsworth