

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, January 26, 2012  
**TIME:** 3:00 P.M.  
**PLACE:** Room WW55  
**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Andreason, Pearce, Fulcher, Winder, Toryanski, and Malepeai  
**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator LeFavour  
**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.

**MINUTES: RS21004:** **Chairman Goedde** welcomed **Senator Bock** to the committee. He presented **RS21004** for a print hearing. **Senator Bock** stated that last year this bill was brought before the committee and it passed in both committee and the Senate, however it died in the House. Nothing on this bill has changed. This is not a change in the law rather this bill clarifies the official interpretation of the term charter school "founder".

**MOTION:** **Chairman Goedde** asked for questions. Having no questions and no testimony, **Senator Toryanski** moved that **RS21004** go to print, and it was seconded by **Vice Chairman Mortimer**. The motion carried with **voice-vote**.

**PRESENTATION:** **Chairman Goedde** welcomed to the committee **Dr. Anthony Fernandez**, President of Lewis and Clark State College (LCSC) **Dr. Fernandez's** presentation followed his handout. Supporting document related to this testimony have been archived and can be accessed in the office of the Committee Secretary (see Attachment #1).. Since the college's inception in 1893 it has experienced quite a few challenges and has responded positively to the challenges. The areas of study are three part: academic programs, professional technical programs, and community programs. He highlighted each of those areas. The primary areas of study for the college have been assigned to the school by the State Board of Education and are found in Idaho code. The courses offered at LCSC lead to associate and baccalaureate degrees which fit nicely into the scheme of Idaho's plan for higher institutions.

**Dr. Fernandez** said that the entering students' grade point average tends to be lower therefore the college works to give the students more help so they can succeed. New to the campus is an Indian cultural center for the Nez Perce students. This helps them feel more comfortable on campus, thus enabling their success. He highlighted the passing and graduation rates of the students in all areas. He told the committee where students who are going on to higher levels are placed, naming a long list of prestigious universities. He then reported that LCSC has a 90% employment placement of the graduates.

**Dr. Fernandez** wrapped up his presentation by showcasing the future educational plans for the college and asked the committee to please assess what the reduction of services would do to the school. Student fees are paying for the increased costs. The challenges that the college is experiencing is that enrollment has grown significantly without the addition of more faculty. The permanent faculty has taken on the challenge and is working to make sure the mission is met. **Dr. Fernandez** outlined the budget requests for LCSC and hoped for equity. He then noted that his recommendations for the college are on the handout. He pointed out that even though tuition has gotten higher so has the enrollment and students are bearing the financial burden of their higher education

**Chairman Goedde** then asked the committee for questions.

**Senator Andreason** asked **Dr. Fernandez** to address the issue of student loans being too large and should there be a restriction to the amount the students can borrow. **Dr. Fernandez** stated that he agreed that student debt is too high and is unacceptable. The LCSC student averages about \$20,000 in loans and most of the high paying jobs are not readily available in order to repay the loans. Yet, students who want higher education often need loans and by reducing loan amounts often education is denied. LCSC works hard to keep costs down and that helps students to have less debt. He also recommends that students should have some financial counseling before they borrow the money.

**Chairman Goedde** thanked **Dr. Fernandez** for his presentation and asked him to give his regards to **Jan Hill** in the Education Department.

**PRESENTATION:** **Chairman Goedde** called **Dr. Steven Albiston**, President, from Eastern Idaho Technical College (EITC) to the podium. He welcomed him and congratulated him on his new position.

**Dr. Albiston** gave the history and the make-up of the college using a power point presentation. This school serves nine counties in the state and is a commuter campus. He said that the cost for students to attend is low and that student success is a primary goal. EITC supports credit courses, workforce training and apprentice and adult basic education. Businesses have worked with the college to implement training programs specific for their needs. There are many refresher courses offered to incoming students. Supporting documents related to this testimony have been archived and can be accessed in the office of the Committee Secretary (see Attachment #1).

The enrollment of the school has gone up since the economy declined. Many students are getting retooled to get better training and better opportunities for a new career. Because of the enrollment increase, all the programs have been capped. The placement rate for students in the field of study is about 90%.

**Dr. Albiston** spoke about the scholarships that were available through the J.A. & Kathryn Albertson Foundation and through the school's foundation. A vast majority of staff and faculty have taken a payroll deduction which has been applied to the scholarship and grants program for students. After completion at EITC many graduates go on to ISU and CSI to complete their bachelor's degree.

**Chairman Goedde** asked if the committee had any questions. Having none he thanked **Dr. Steve Albiston** for the presentation.

**PRESENTATION:** **Chairman Goedde** welcomed **Rakesh Mohan** from Office of Performance and Evaluation (OPE) to make the presentation: Reducing Barriers to Postsecondary Education. **Mr. Mohan** said the education piece in conjunction with the employment piece make this study relevant. He then went on to name all the agencies and groups that worked with OPE to complete this study.

**Mr. Mohan** introduced **Amy Lorenzo** and **Bryon Welch**, who conducted this study, to present their findings. They distributed the report to the committee members and then outlined their findings in a power point presentation. Supporting documents related to this testimony have been archived and can be accessed in the office of the Committee Secretary (see Attachments #2 & #3).

At the closing of their presentation, **Chairman Goedde** asked if there were questions from the committee.

**Senator Malepeai** asked for the meaning of the statement, "Twenty-nine percent of students in the sample data that are not captured in the system." **Mr. Welch** replied that it is the total percentage of all State students who are in proprietary and/or private schools whose data are not available. **Senator Malepeai** then asked if all high schools track what their graduating students will be doing. How do they account for that? **Mr. Welch** responded that all schools send their post graduate findings to a national clearinghouse for measurement. Yet there is no consistent pattern that schools follow for sending information. Some schools report in the fall, some in the spring, and some even two years after graduation.

**Senator Malepeai** asked what the TRIO program is about. **Mr. Welch** referred that question to **Ms. Lorenzo**. **Ms. Lorenzo** explained the TRIO program is in all levels of school, from elementary to young adult, and there are staff members that work with all the schools in the state to gather data. For this study, the post-secondary findings were used.

**Chairman Goedde** thanked the Office of Performance and Evaluations for the presentation and assured them that there will be some follow up in the future.

**ADJOURN:** **Chairman Goedde** adjourned the meeting at 4:42 PM

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Senator Goedde  
Chairman

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LeAnn South  
Secretary