

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012
- TIME:** 9:00 A.M.
- PLACE:** Room EW41
- MEMBERS:** Chairman Nonini, Vice Chairman Shirley, Representative(s) Trail, Block, Nielsen, Chadderdon, Shepherd, Wills, Marriott, Thayn, Hartgen, Bateman, Boyle, DeMordaunt, Nessel, Pence, Chew, Cronin
- ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representatives Nielsen and Cronin
- GUESTS:** Tracie Bent, State Board of Education (SBE); Bert Glandon and Cheryl Wright, College of Western Idaho (CWI); Erik Makrush, Idaho Freedom Foundation; Harold Ott, Phil Homer and Rob Winslow, Idaho Association of School Administrators (IASA); Penni Cyr and Bert Marley, Idaho Education Association (IEA); Luci Willits, State Department of Education (SDE); Marilyn Whitney, State Board of Education (SBE)
- Chairman Nonini** called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Chew** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 30, 2012. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 21047:** **Rep. Bateman** presented **RS 21047**. This is a House Joint Memorial asking the federal government to repeal the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. He stated that he has not met a single teacher who is passionate about the act, and teachers have reported that the No Child Left Behind Act calls for unrealistic expectations. Nearly half of American schools did not make "adequate yearly progress". The No Child Left Behind Act does not allow for special programs for gifted students. Teachers are allowed to spend much less time in subjects like history, social studies, and physical education. They have reported that they now often teach to the test, rather than explaining practical applications of the material they are teaching, or allowing creativity in the learning environment. Finland has no state testing in their schools, but they are ranked #1 in the world in education. Canada has no federal department of education, but they are ranked #2 in the world in education.
- Rep. Bateman** stated that there is no place in the United States Constitution allowing the federal government to direct the states in this area. He said that they are operating under the General Welfare Clause and the Interstate Commerce Clause, but that there is no specific directive allowing intrusion into state education programs.
- Chairman Nonini** stated that teachers in his district have reported that they spend so much time sending reports to the federal government that they have much less time to spend with the children they are supposed to be teaching.
- Rep. Trail** agreed, stating that teachers spend so much time on documentation that they are unable to optimally focus on their students.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Thayn** made a motion to introduce **RS 21047**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 382: **Tracie Bent**, State Board of Education (SBE), presented **H 382**. This removes a reference to state appropriations for health education programs being deposited into the Professional Studies Account. This account was created by an act of the Idaho Legislature in 1983, but was never formally set up in the State of Idaho's accounting system, so no state appropriations have been run through the account. Auditors have recommended that either Code be followed, or Code be aligned with current practice. There is no identified value to using this account for the appropriated funds. This legislation would simply codify current practice.

MOTION: **Rep. Wills** made a motion to send **H 382** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Shirley** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 384: **Tracie Bent**, State Board of Education (SBE), presented **H 384**. She explained that Section 33-3717B, Idaho Code, outlines residency requirements for tuition purposes for higher education. **H 384** adds language to recognize the residency status of Idahoans who are in the armed forces and stationed outside the State of Idaho. This would benefit our service members and their dependents.

In response to questions, **Ms. Bent** stated that for in-state tuition purposes, a domicile must be maintained in Idaho for at least twelve (12) months. Proof can be provided through vehicle registration or tax records. Residency is not determined until the student applies to a college or university. If the student is determined to be a resident based on the status of a parent, and the parent's residency status changes due to military service, the student will remain an Idaho resident for the purposes of tuition.

MOTION: **Rep. Shirley** made a motion to send **H 384** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Nonini** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

President Bert Glandon, College of Western Idaho (CWI), gave a presentation to the committee. CWI began offering academic course work in 2009, and initially had 1,208 students. He stated that in FY2011, there were nearly 8,100 credit students and 12,000 non-credit students, for a total of more than 20,000 students being served. Sixty percent (60%) of their students live in Ada County, and another thirty percent (30%) live in Canyon County. The remaining ten percent (10%) are from surrounding areas. CWI provides traditional classes and also offers online courses. The online program is rapidly growing. CWI provides dual credit classes for high school students, and also provides professional-technical programs. CWI is seeking stand-alone accreditation, which will allow them to separate from the College of Southern Idaho (CSI). CSI has been hosting them with accreditation and financial aid.

CWI collaborates with Boise State University (BSU), Idaho State University (ISU), University of Idaho (UI), Lewis-Clark State College (LCSC), Northwest Nazarene University (NNU), The College of Idaho, and George Fox University. The college also has partnerships with the Department of Labor, the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation, and other community support organizations. CWI has made a major breakthrough in teaching the blind and is working with local veterans. Since its beginning in 2009, CWI has experienced huge growth (600%), but has only seen increased revenue of 61%. Over fifty percent (50%) of revenue growth is from tuition and fees. Currently there are over 14,000 new applications for financial aid. Forty percent (40%) of applicants reported income at or below poverty level, and seventy-seven percent (77%) were eligible for Pell Grants. The CWI Foundation has raised 16.7 million dollars to assist the college and its students.

President Glandon listed resources to support growth, keeping high-quality programs, employee retention, maintaining a strong culture and communication, and student retention as current challenges for CWI. Priorities for the future are fiscal stability, accreditation, student retention, system transitions from CSI to CWI, and new facility moves. CWI is planning three campuses, with the existing campus in Nampa, and new facilities in Meridian and Boise. The Meridian campus will focus on medical arts, and the Boise campus will focus on technology. Student comments were shared. Those comments focused on the opportunities they have received and the achievements they're made through their experiences as CWI students. President Glandon shared the story of a student who recently graduated from CWI's dental assisting program. She experienced a very traumatic childhood and had been living in a car with her younger siblings. The education she received at CWI has allowed her to find a job and pay for an apartment so that she and her siblings can begin to build a healthy life.

In response to questions, **President Glandon** stated that generally a community college serves between 7.5% and 10% of people in their geographic area. Based on those numbers, CWI will not stop growing until it hits around 80,000 students. Currently their tax base pays \$18 per 100,000, which is considerably lower than the tax bases at other Idaho community colleges. He stated that it is not realistic to think that CWI will be able to raise the tax base up to \$90 per 100,000, as it is in Twin Falls, especially in this economy. The process for receiving full candidacy for accreditation is projected to take eighteen (18) months. Athletic programs are not an issue involved in accreditation. The top concern is student success, followed by financial stability and sustainability. The college is not currently advertising. CWI offers a standard GED training program and serves as a GED testing site. President Glandon greatly enjoys working with a five-member, locally elected Board of Trustees. He is concerned that designating that members must be from certain counties could be problematic for CWI, which serves ten counties. He stated that Board discussions do not revolve around counties, but instead focus on the college itself. There is not a good way to track the accuracy of student addresses.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Representative Nonini
Chair

Mary Tipps
Secretary