

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 22, 2013
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
PLACE: Room EW41
MEMBERS: Chairman DeMordaunt, Vice Chairman Nielsen, Representatives Shepherd, Wills, Bateman, Boyle, Agidius, Clow, Gestrin, Harris, Horman, Mendive, VanOrden, Pence, Kloc, Ward-Engelking
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Boyle, Rep. Kloc
GUESTS: Harold Ott, Rob Winslow, and Phil Homer, Idaho Association of School Administrators; Russ Joki, Phil Kelly, Clark Corbin, Idaho Education News; Christina Lords, Post Register; Marilyn Whitney, State Board of Education, Jess Harrison, Idaho School Boards Association; Luci Willits, State Department of Education

Chairman DeMordaunt called the meeting to order at 8:59 a.m.

Arthur Vailas, President of Idaho State University (ISU), gave a presentation to the Committee. He stated that ISU educates 19,288 students annually at campuses in Pocatello, Meridian, Idaho Falls, Twin Falls - where there is a focus on teacher education, and the Health Science Center in the Treasure Valley. Mr. Vailas said they have some satellite programs in other small towns and communities.

Mr. Vailas mentioned that of the degrees awarded by the University, 70% were at the undergraduate and associate level, and 30% at the graduate level. He said there is a global trend toward an increase in credentials for the same jobs, and employers are looking for a highly educated workforce. Mr. Vailas stated that 38 to 40 percent of ISU degrees awarded are in the health care professions. He said there are 12 clinics in the state where research is executed, and training and accreditation requirements are fulfilled.

Mr. Vailas talked about the career path internship program that ISU started. This program tries to find mentors willing to spend time with students to give them the experience employers are looking for in the workforce. Students in this program work in both public and private sectors.

Mr. Vailas discussed the increase in online learning, stating enrollment in online courses has increased from 9% to 30% in the last two years. The number of online courses has increased from 4,699 to 6,436. He said that online learning allows students to be flexible with their scheduling and this has contributed to an increase in degrees awarded.

Mr. Vailas reviewed some budget figures and funding requests for 2014, and concluded by reviewing ways the university is looking to improve the efficiency of the university. That involves restructuring and consolidation.

Michelle Exstrom, National Conference of State Legislatures, presented a Legislator's Guide to Educator Effectiveness. She said NCSL created an educator effectiveness partnership which consists of 10 Legislators, 6 Legislative staff, and 8 foundation member partners. This group created the guide for all state legislators to follow.

Ms. Exstrom discussed ways for preparing teachers including a new effort from Education Teacher Performance Assessment (EdTPA) for preparation performance assessments of pre-service teachers, and a 3 part "bar exam". She reviewed standards that could be adopted for licensing educators, and ways of recruiting and retaining effective educators.

Ms. Exstrom presented information on the "Measures of Effective Teaching" (MET) study which has been investigating ways to evaluate effective teaching. Using test scores from current and prior years, student surveys, and additional classroom observers are among these studies. Ms. Exstrom talked of work condition studies that are being conducted in North Carolina, that inform legislators of what teachers want and need.

RS 21767: **Rep. Bateman** presented **RS 21767**. This proposed legislation requests that the State Board of Education commence rulemaking to provide that cursive handwriting be taught in the public schools of the State of Idaho. He stated the reasons for the decline in cursive writing are the use of electronics, the Federal Government "No Child Left Behind" law, and that teachers are not being trained to teach cursive. Rep. Bateman stated that this should not be left to the local districts, the State needs to take leadership.

MOTION: **Rep. Shepherd** made a motion to introduce **RS 21767**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Lynn Walker
Secretary