

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 23, 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:** Representative Boyle
GUESTS: Tony Fernandez, Lewis and Clark State College; Mark Browning and Kathie O'Brien, North Idaho College; Harold Ott and Phil Homer, Idaho Association of School Administrators; Clark Corbin, Idaho Education News; Robin Nettinga, Idaho Education Association; Marilyn Whitney, State Board of Education

Chairman DeMordaunt called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Joe Dunlap, President of North Idaho College (NIC), gave a presentation to the committee. Mr. Dunlap stated that NIC was established in 1933 and is the oldest Community College in the State of Idaho. NIC is located in Coeur d'Alene. Mr. Dunlap introduced members of the staff.

Mr. Dunlap said NIC is a comprehensive college that embraces the traditional five missions of a community college; transfer programs, professional technical education, continuing education, adult basic education and customized training. NIC has 42 degree programs that prepare students for transfer to four year institutions. On their higher education campus they have Lewis and Clark State College and the University of Idaho as partners. He said the average age of their students is 27, with a makeup of 40% male and 60% female.

Mr. Dunlap reviewed figures of the total student head count and the various programs they are enrolled in, as well as the economic impact of NIC. He stated that the dual credit program increased 50% last year and is on track for an additional 50% increase this year. Mr. Dunlap said this year NIC will have 32 students who receive their High School Diploma and Associate Degree on the same day. He stated that the outreach centers, distance learning program, and dual credit program present the greatest growth opportunities.

Mr. Dunlap reported a 46% growth rate in student head count, a 14% decline in state funding, and a tuition increase of 50%. There are waiting lists for the 39 professional technical programs offered, primarily due to a lack of capacity. He stated NIC can only accommodate 12-15 students per lab, when they should be serving 20-24 students. Mr. Dunlap said that building a new career technical facility in the future will become a priority.

Mr. Dunlap reviewed budget figures and funding requests, which included the dual credit program, the Sandpoint Center, the Veterans Center, and a One-Stop Student Services Center. He explained how NIC disperses financial aid to students by spreading it out over the semester and requiring students to complete a financial literacy course.

In response to questions, **Mr. Dunlap** stated there is a difference in salaries between Washington and Idaho. However, over the last several years they have made strides to increase salaries and are seeing some employees return to Idaho. In regard to property tax funding equity, Mr. Dunlap stated there has been discussion between the three community colleges. Although they have not yet done so, it was suggested they put a formal proposal together for consideration. NIC only receives property tax income from a single county.

Mr. Dunlap spoke about Massive Online Open-ended Courses (MOOC). Currently there is no credit for these courses, but NIC is in the process of reviewing and evaluating offering credit. He said he hopes to be able to make decisions on this initiative by next year.

J. Anthony Fernandez, President of Lewis and Clark State College (LCSC), gave a presentation to the committee. Mr. Fernandez introduced the staff that accompanied him. He stated LCSC was founded in 1893, and it is believed that Reed Centennial Hall is the oldest publicly supported building in Idaho that is still functioning for its original purpose.

Mr. Fernandez reviewed the college's role and mission of connecting learning to life through academic programs, professional technical programs and community programs. LCSC is a four year college that offers both Associate and Bachelor degrees. He discussed the college's primary emphasis areas, including teacher education, which was the initial reason LCSC was founded.

Mr. Fernandez presented figures on enrollment, dual credit head count, and degrees/certificates awarded for both academic and professional technical studies. He stated there has been an increase in student credit hours with no increase in faculty. Mr. Fernandez mentioned that LCSC places 90% of their students into the workforce or higher education institutions.

Mr. Fernandez spoke about the development of a two-year Electronic Engineering Technology degree program for Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories. He said Schweitzer has 14-20 positions they cannot fill.

Mr. Fernandez reviewed LCSC's outreach centers in Coeur d'Alene, Grangeville, and Orofino. He said the current facilities in Coeur d'Alene are portable buildings and they are asking for a joint facility. This facility will be used by the University of Idaho, North Idaho College, and LCSC. Mr. Fernandez discussed other outreach programs to include community programs, workforce training, the Small Business Development Center, and the Department of Corrections.

Mr. Fernandez presented budget data and requests which include employee salaries, enrollment workload adjustment, inflation costs, and capital equipment replacement. He summarized that LCSC runs a lean and practical operation, focused on professions that promote economic development.

In response to questions regarding unfilled positions, because there is not enough trained workforce **Mr. Fernandez** explained that LCSC is listening to industry and working on programs to meet the need of employers, including the offering of noncredit certificates for specialized classes.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Lynn Walker
Secretary