

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 26, 2015

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman DeMordaunt, Vice Chairman VanOrden, Representatives Shepherd, Wills, Boyle, Clow, Gestrin, Harris, Mendive, McDonald, Dixon, Kerby, Pence, Kloc, Rubel

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Rubel

GUESTS: Mark Browning, Todd Banducci, Ken Howard, Christie Wood, Chris Martin, Lita Burns, and Jo Dunlap, North Idaho College; Todd Schwarz, College of Southern Idaho, Zac Ricketts and Mark Dunham, College of Western Idaho; Harold Ott, Rural Schools, Rob Winslow, IASA; Tracie Bent, SBOE; Clark Corbin, Idaho Ed News; Dan Blocksom, Idaho Association of Counties

Chairman DeMordaunt called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Kloc** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 23, 2015. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Dr. Joe Dunlap, President of North Idaho College (NIC), introduced **Dr. Bert Glandon**, President, College of Western Idaho (CWI) and **Dr. Jeff Fox**, President, College of Southern Idaho (CSI). He said the group of Idaho community colleges chose a panel format to address specific questions from the committee.

Responding to questions from the committee, **Pres. Glandon** said CWI follows college dropouts and gathers data. He said at CWI, they have structured the courses in cohorts of 25 students. This creates a support group and the retention rate goes up. **Pres. Fox**, CSI, said students often leave when their assistance or financial aid stops. **Pres. Dunlap** said at NIC, they give credit for prior learning such as learning obtained in the military.

In response to a question regarding re-mediation of incoming students, **Pres. Fox** said those who are recent graduates require less re-mediation than those returning from the workforce. He said 60 percent need re-mediation in math; the percentage is lower in English. At CWI, All students are registered for English 101, then English 101 Plus programs to help students become more proficient. **Pres. Glandon** said 84 percent move through the two classes; they use Khan Academy for these courses. **Pres. Dunlap** said NIC is using initiatives such as an early alert program, required counseling, Freshman and Sophomore orientation, college prep and peer-mentoring. NIC also works to help students from incurring debt.

To a question regarding feedback loops to the high schools, **Pres. Dunlap** said he meets regularly with superintendents and principals to provide feedback. **Pres. Fox** meets quarterly with faculty who are involved with students in dual credit classes. **Pres. Glandon** said the unintended consequences of dual credit is that faculty from colleges must interact with faculty from the high school. He indicated dual credit has created an environment for moving students into post-secondary studies.

There was discussion regarding the out-of-district tuition and the county's portion per student. It was explained that the county funds going to increased numbers of students is putting pressure on police and fire departments who also compete for these funds.

For all community colleges, the 60% Goal will cause a paradigm shift. The colleges are hiring online instructors, and using facilities in a better way. CWI is turning out workers for Caterpillar, Inc. in 10 months. NIC is addressing the aging workforce for the mining and forest products by offering courses in scaling, millwright, diesel mechanic and other technical programs. CWI is also offering stackable certifications and degrees are being accelerated. All community colleges are targeting workforce development.

Pres. Fox said recruitment is the main piece in reaching the 60% Goal for the smaller colleges. There are many students who need advising and students come from many nontraditional secondary educations. He said, "they don't know what they don't know." The important component is to make students feel comfortable, and educational coaches are a key part of that initiative. The presidents agreed there are many students who need guidance into the job markets. They also said there are challenges in funding, and in being flexible in their response to industry. They also indicated they were continually changing, plus implementing nontraditional measures in order to meet the 60% Goal.

Christine Stoll, Executive Director of IDeal, Idaho College Savings Program, described the 529 tax deferment college savings program and the goals of the programs. She explained the benefits to taxpayers in creating an account for children and grandchildren. She gave the recent statistics of growth and management and explained how the recent announcement from **President Obama** could affect Idaho's savings program. She indicated the President's proposal to take away the tax benefit for 529 tax deferment plans could impact the State Board of Education's 60% Goal. She told lawmakers those students who have saving programs are seven times more likely to receive a post-secondary degree.

Ms. Stoll announced that CWI has recently gone into partnership with IDeal to provide a \$500 match scholarship to any student whose family is using the IDeal program to fund their student's college education.

In response to questions from the committee, **Ms. Stoll** said she is a recent hire by the State Treasurer's Office to get the IDeal message to the public. She said they are using social media and the office's state partners are sharing the message.

Jace Perry, State Treasurer's Office, Board Member of IDeal, said in September they were able to sponsor a video contest on Facebook which awarded scholarships to kids across the state.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jean Vance
Secretary