

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 27, 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 Wills

GUESTS: Glen Zollman and Louis Picon, *Think Through Math*; Selena Grace and Laura Woodworth-Ney, Idaho State University; Harold Ott, Rural Schools; Rob Winslow, IASA; Tracie Bent, SBOE; Clark Corbin, Idaho Ed News; Matt Compton and Robin Nettinga, IEA; Marilyn Whitney, Governor's Office

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

Dr. Arthur C. Vailas, President of Idaho State University (ISU), reported the university offers more than 250 academic programs ranging from associates to doctoral degrees. He said more than one-third of ISU's degrees are awarded in the health professions and ISU offers eight of the top 11 most needed health professions. The school serves more than 18,600 students at education centers across Idaho. Dr. Vailas described the university's outreach programs and the success of those programs in meeting the 60 percent goal of the State Board of Education. He also described partnerships with rural Idaho communities. He also addressed the research progress made at ISU, the Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development, plus budget and funding requests.

A discussion was held regarding ISU's success in providing health care in Aberdeen, plus their support of the medical clinic and pharmacy in Arco.

Responding to questions from the committee, **Dr. Vailas** said the ISU Bridge Program serves those students under-prepared for the college experience. However, it assists both the under-educated and the high performing students. Within those programs they focus on getting students an Associates Degree prior to their graduation from high school. They also have a summer program that gives remedial classes at a reduced rate without impacting the student's federal financial aid. He said those coming to ISU with a GED usually do not meet the admissions requirements, however, ISU is able to conditionally admit the student.

To further questions, **Dr. Vailas** said ISU has created a connection with high schools, also intervening at middle school level and earlier. He said one critical area is curriculum alignment. It is also important that the student not feel it is daunting to go to college.

Laura Woodworth, Provost and Chief Academic Officer, was called upon to answer a question. She said ISU had been recipients of an Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP) Grant and the ISU administration were pleased with the outcome. She said highly qualified teachers are difficult to find in our rural areas. ISU is encouraging students to continue into a Master's program. She indicated ISU is restructuring the College on Education on their campus to deliver teachers with elevated credentials.

To a question regarding the future of tele-pharmacy, **Dr. Vilas** said it is financially successful and can be provided to a community with a lesser cost. ISU does not want to compete with private business, however, the pharmacy community has been supportive.

Ms. Woodworth said the top majors at ISU are nursing, pharmacy and mechanical engineering. ISU offers doctoral degrees in science, technology, engineering and math. She said 34 percent of their graduates are in the health sciences. She also said only 34 percent of graduates have replied to surveys requesting job placement data. However, the goal of ISU is to accumulate data showing job placements up to five years after students receive a post-secondary diploma.

Glen Zollman, Vice President of State Services, presented the Idaho Math Initiative and *Think Through Math* (TTM) Annual Program Update. He reported the statewide success of the program and its impact on Math learning for Idaho students. He said Idaho's students completed 16,116,324 problems in Survey Year (SY) 2013-2014, with a projected total of 22,135,332 problems completed for SY 2014-2015. This data shows student participation is up 50 percent from the inception of the Math Initiative. Mr. Zollman described strategies for engaging students including immediate feedback from live teachers, plus tutorials for parents. In addition, TTM sponsors in-state and interstate competitions. He said the goal is continual improvement.

In response to a question from the committee regarding multiple choice Q&A as a true evaluation of student learning, **Mr. Zollman** said the programs are constructed to target misconceptions. He said there are a series of steps to get a student to think about the solution pathway he/she has chosen. The programs get students to think clearly about the process, and give mini lessons to help re-mediate immediately. To a further question targeting whether teachers are using TTM as an integral part of the classroom or an extracurricular tool, Mr. Zollman said the teachers are getting more creative; they are using TTM as a key part of their instructional method. He also said the target grade level for TTM is third through eighth grade, but can be used in high school to assist in credit recovery. He indicated the TTM programs are real world based.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jean Vance
Secretary