

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, January 25, 2016

**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:** None

**GUESTS:** Chris Bragg, Ken Campbell, Cate Collins, Laird Stowe, Jeff Harmon, College of Southern Idaho; Graydon Stanley, Chris Martin, Ken Howard, Joe Dunlap, Mark Browning, North Idaho College; Cheryl Wright, Mark Dunham, Todd Schwarz, Adriana Randall, Craig Brown, Doug DePriest, College of Western Idaho; Clark Corbin, Educational News; Tim Corder, State Department of Education; Marilyn Whitney, Governor's Office

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

**Chairman DeMordaunt** moved **RS 24243** to the agenda of the next meeting, on Tuesday, January 26, 2016. He welcomed the presidents of three community colleges.

**Dr. Jeff Fox**, College of Southern Idaho President, said the three community colleges meet monthly to discuss their shared focus. Some of the missions of the community college are the following: to provide a less expensive post-secondary education choice; to involve the communities they serve; to have a positive economic impact; and to be accessible and offer open access. Dr. Fox added that sixty percent of College of Southern Idaho Students intend to transfer to a four-year college. The tuition at a community college is less than half the cost of tuition at a four-year college, and almost half of students in Idaho (48.4%) attend a community college. The economic impact of community colleges is in excess of five hundred million dollars.

**Dr. Fox** added that two goals of the college are to increase retention of students and to decrease the time required to obtain a degree. The college has increased the advising and coaching of students. CSI also partners with the community to achieve its goals, such as the business and industry sections, the education community, and government agencies.

**Dr. Fox** said the challenges CSI faces are the following: the career and technical funding formula, having enough personnel to implement the student success strategies, the promotion of career and guided pathways, and meeting the needs of diverse student populations, such as a changing demographic with more Hispanic students. He added that the retention of quality personnel is another challenge. There are more openings for university presidents than there are candidates.

**Chairman DeMordaunt** commented that the committee will miss the leadership of **President Dunlap**, when he retires at the end of the year. He asked what the colleges are doing regarding professional-technical job preparation, and what areas the industries are experiencing the most difficulty finding employees.

**Dr. Fox** replied that each college responds to different employment needs. The College of Southern Idaho is responding to shortages in food production employees, because of companies such as Chobani and Clif Bar. Those companies need employees trained in food production and quality assurance, which is now high tech, and those companies need to hire people who understand the technology.

**Dr. Joe Dunlap**, President of North Idaho College, added that the primary industries in the area served by his college are forestry products, aerospace manufacturing, and health care. Centers for Excellence for each industry have been created. A professional-technical facility will be completed in the late Spring, which will free up space on the campus for other programs.

**Dr. Berton L. Glandon**, President of the College of Western Idaho, said that health care is a large industry in his community, as two new hospitals have been built in Nampa. The hospitals need to hire thousands of new employees, and the hospitals are partners with the college. The students train on donated equipment, which increases their employability. Advanced manufacturing is another area in his community with a need for employees. The cheese factory is building a huge addition, and Micron and Heartland also need employees. Western Cat is a partner to the College of Western Idaho. The company said it could not wait two years for students to complete professional technical training, so Western Cat worked with the college to change the two-year program to a ten month program, which resulted in a one-hundred percent graduation rate and work placement.

**Dr. Glandon** added that Idaho is experiencing a software development and IT crisis, as there are not enough students graduating with these skills. The college is working to implement a dual-credit professional-technical program, which feeds into the associate program. More students will be employed and inspired to complete the four-year program.

In response to questions from the committee, **Dr. Dunlap** said that the college had done an evaluation with the intent of determining how to re-allocate resources to less-needed subject areas. The report will be completed in February.

**Dr. Fox** added that the decision to expand or reduce programs is closely related to the economy, such as when residential construction slowed down after the 2008 Recession. Some decisions to discontinue or reduce programs are based on space and equipment, such as the welding program. Colleges need to have a three to five year view of whether to close or open a program.

**Dr. Glandon** added that his college's reliance on adjunct faculty gives it the flexibility to be responsive to program fluctuations and needs.

In response to questions from the committee, **Dr. Glandon** said the College of Western Idaho makes an effort to advise students which programs offer the best employability. The college also gives financial advice to students, and student loans have been reduced by 28%.

**Dr. Dunlap** added that North Idaho College used to give the full year of financial aid at the beginning of the school year. Now, the financial aid is dispersed throughout the year, and students need to show progress towards a degree to receive financial aid. The average student debt has dropped from \$6,500 to \$2,500.

**Dr. Fox** added the College of Southern Idaho is helping their students understand the effects of debt, and the difference between subsidized loans versus loans which are not subsidized. Also, the federal government has tightened the requirements for loans, tying them to a student's grades. The college is working with high school counselors and four-year colleges, to make sure attention is paid to student debt.

In response to questions from the committee, **Dr. Fox** said that technology changes so quickly, and colleges need to think outside the box in order for education to be relevant to technology needs. He commended CWI for condensing the program, based on Western Cat's needs. He added that colleges should evaluate their programs and ask how they could be quicker and more efficient, within the confines of the program.

**Dr. Glandon** added A1 Plumbing starts its employees at \$50,000.00 a year. This company wants to partner with the college to help the college know what employers mean when they tell colleges which skills their students need to learn.

In response to a question from the committee, **Dr. Fox** explained people can receive credit for prior learning by taking exams. A scholarship for this type of person would be helpful, because the testing and portfolios required to obtain prior learning credit cost money. The average age of people seeking prior learning credit is twenty-four to twenty-eight. However, it is not unusual for people with a master's or doctorate degree to go back to college for further training. N. Idaho College asks businesses how the college can help them help their employees. One thing the businesses do is to pay for the college training of their employees.

**Dr. Glandon** said the current work force needs to find incentive to go back to school, if the 60% goal is to be reached by 2020, and it is important for companies to help their staff get degrees. **Dr. Fox** added that the goal was changed from sixty to sixty-five percent nationally, but Idaho has not adopted the new goal. However, it is important for degrees to have value to the work force.

**Chairman DeMordaunt** commented that both large and small businesses should be engaged to help their current employees improve their employment situation.

In response to questions from the committee, **Dr. Fox** said re-mediation is not a new issue, and the College of Southern Idaho has been addressing this issue the last couple of years. He thinks students who are not college ready are coming to college, so CSI has sent transition coaches to schools to help identify and prepare students who are not thinking of college. Examples of what transition coaches do are offering financial aid workshops for juniors, and encouraging students to attend summer school to improve their grades.

**Dr. Fox** added the College of Southern Idaho has recruited students from the workforce, who have their GEDs, and provided mentors to them. This initiative has raised the success rate of this type of student from five percent to seventy-five percent.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to approve the minutes from the subcommittee meeting on January 19, 2016. The motion carried by voice vote.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Rubell** made a motion to approve the minutes from the committee meeting on January 18, 2016. The motion carried by voice vote.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

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Representative DeMordaunt  
Chair

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Jenifer Cavaness-Williams  
Secretary