

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 28, 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 (Brooke Green)

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Boyle

GUESTS: Amy Hirotaka, Code.org; Blake Youde, State Board of Education; James Price, Clearwater Analytics; Jay Larsen, ITC; Jesse Ronnow, Zion's Bank; John Hode, Trailhead; Jason Kreizenbeck, Jason Ronk, Microsoft; Amy Moll, Boise State University; Von Hansen, Alertsense; Justin Touchstone, Division of Professional-Technical Education; Lindsey Lockwood, Boise School District; Nick Wadsworth, West-Ada Schools; Robin Nettinga, Idaho Education Association; Dee Mooney, Micron Foundation; Angela Hemingway, STEM Action Center; Marilyn Whitney, Governor's Office; Ken Edmunds, Department of Labor; Megan Ronk, Commuel

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

MOTION: **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2016 meeting as written. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 23982: **Blake Youde**, State Board of Education, spoke to **RS 23982**. He said this proposed legislation allows employees of state educational agencies to transfer their accrued sick leave from one agency to another, should they change employment from one educational agency to another. It provides a definition of state institutional agency, clarifies its use, and provides consistency in sick leave transfers. The ninety-day maximum for accrued sick leave is left the same. The proposed legislation does not change current law regarding transfer of sick leave between public school districts.

In response to questions from the committee, **Mr. Youde** said the State Board of Education would be willing to have legislation drafted which would include school district employees.

MOTION: **Rep. Wills** made a motion to return **RS 23982** to the sponsor. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chairman DeMordaunt turned the gavel over to **Vice Chair VanOrden**.

H379: **Rep. DeMordaunt** spoke to **H379**. He said the legislation creates standards and curriculum for computer science. There are many pieces in STEM education, and this is one of them. It is about creating opportunities which don't exist today.

MOTION: **Rep. Wills** made a motion to send **H379** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Those speaking in support of the legislation were **Amy Hirotaka**, Code.org; **James Price**, Clearwater Analytics; **Jay Larson**, Idaho Technical Council; **Jesse Ronnow**, Zion Bank; **John Hode**, Trailhead; **Jason Kreizenbeck**, Microsoft; **Amy Moll**, Boise State University; **Von Hansen**, Alertsense; **Lindsey Lockwood**, Boise School District; **Nick Wadsworth**, West-Ada Schools; **Jayson Ronk**, Micron; **Ken Edmunds**, Dept. of Labor; and **Angela Hemingway**, STEM Action Center. Increasing interest in computer science at an early age will be beneficial to Idaho businesses and graduates.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. DeMordaunt will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Vice Chair VanOrden returned the gavel to **Chairman DeMordaunt**.

President Chuck Staben, University of Idaho, gave a presentation on the University of Idaho and its initiatives. He said that 33% of the students are first generation college students, and 39% receive Pell Grants. The retention rate is 80%, which is the highest in the state. The University of Idaho is below the national average in cost, and above the national average in graduation rate and salary after graduation. The goals of the university are to increase enrollment and increase the number of graduates. Enroll Idaho is an initiative with events across the state in 43 locations, to encourage high school graduates to go on to post-secondary education.

The University of Idaho's priorities are the Complete College Idaho: Go On Initiative, which includes investing in counseling, retention and intervention, college success management, tutoring support, and supplemental instruction, and the WWAMI Program. Idaho WWAMI graduates, as well as non-Idaho WWAMI graduates, return to Idaho to practice medicine. **President Staben** believes state-wide priorities should be a change in employee compensation, to avoid high turnover, a tuition lock, and investment in the Opportunity and Completion Scholarships.

In response to questions from the committee, **President Staben** said the average loan amount for University of Idaho students is \$25,600, which is slightly below the national average. To increase admissions, the University of Idaho sent letters to 25,000 graduates who qualified for admission to the University of Idaho. The perception that men can get higher-paying jobs with no post-secondary degree has created a gender gap in admissions, and President Staben said perhaps they could learn from the gender-targeted advertising, and emphasize the difference in earning power, to appeal to the male high school graduates.

President J. Anthony Fernandez, Lewis-Clark State College, gave a presentation on the college. He said that 68.6% of students are first-generation college students, and 76.3% receive financial aid. The average age of students is twenty-six. Sixty-seven percent of LCSC graduates stay to work in Idaho. Thirty percent do not work in Idaho, but many of them work in the border towns to Lewiston. Key requests for FY 2017 include the following: greater employee compensation and benefits, the Complete College Idaho Initiative, safety, security and compliance, meeting professional-technical needs, updating and sustaining current facilities, and collaborating on new facilities. LCSC has used money from the state to increase access to English courses.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jenifer Cavaness-Williams
Secretary