MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 31, 2017
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
PLACE: Room EW41
MEMBERS: Chairman VanOrden, Vice Chairman McDonald, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Clow, Mendive (Mendive), Kerby, Cheatham, Amador, DeMordaunt, Moon, Syme, Kloc, McCrostie, Toone
ABSENT/EXCUSED: Rep. Mendive (Mendive)
GUESTS: Roger Brown, BSU; Leonard Paul, AdvancED; Dale Kleinert, AdvancED; Norene Rice, AdvancED; Vikki Reynolds, AdvancED; Marilyn Whitney, Governor’s Office

Rep. VanOrden called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.


Bob Kustra, President, Boise State University, gave the annual update. He explained the fast paced accelerated economy we live in requires BSU to develop new programs that meet the specific need of employers throughout Idaho. BSU is using the Governor’s goal of 60% of Idahoans obtaining education certificates by 2020 as a catalyst to meet that expectation through distinct programs. Programs such as "Boise State X", which are incorporating education into the private workplace such as Albertsons, "Work-U", an education collaboration with St. Lukes, and "Adult Learning" gearing education opportunities for non-traditional students in our communities who want to further their education for viable jobs via class room or online.

President Kustra introduced and turned time over to Dean Corey Cook who heads Boise State University’s School of Public Service. Dean Cook explained that the school is dedicated to excellence in innovative teaching, cutting edge scholarship in the Fine Arts, and meaningful community outreach, serving Idaho state, region, nation, and global communities. The school is comprised of rich and diverse academic programs, as well as talented affiliated faculty from departments and programs across the university. The mission of the school also is supported by a variety of centers and institutes that facilitate research and public engagement. It prepares students, public servants, and leaders to think both regionally and globally in an interdependent world. As such, it serves as a centralized resource for policy makers to assist them in making informed decisions—and for faculty and students to actively connect and engage with the community and participate in policy decisions. President Kustra concluded with the need to reach out to Jr. High students, especially young men, to spark their drive for higher education through education fairs and special projects.
Dale Kleinert, Director AdvanED Idaho, presented the annual report for School Accreditation. He explained that the NW Association of Accredited Schools began providing accreditation services in 1917 to Idaho institutions. Since then, the name was changed to Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC). Over the years, the services provided to our schools have resulted in higher instructional expectations and more successful experiences for our learners. AdvanED serves as a trusted partner to 32,000 schools and school systems that enroll more than 20 million students across the United States and 70 countries around the world. They serve learners, educators, parents, policy makers, and communities. The accreditation progress reports run on a five year cycle. Mr. Kleinert explained that accreditation is important because it holds institutions to rigorous standards, keeps plans in place to attain its objectives, raises awareness and provides planning documents to guide schools in their development. Students graduating from non-accredited high schools often face higher education application, financial aid, and difficulties in the transfer of credits to an accredited institution.

Mr. Kleinert explained the tools used to implement the plan are varied. A few he mentioned were "Smart eProve Surveys" that are used by students to rate and measure the content and instruction of their classes, "eleot" (Effective Learning Environment Observation Tool), a classroom observation tool focused on students, not teachers that identifies observable and quantifiable evidence of classroom environments conducive to learning. All users complete training and become certified to conduct classroom observations through eleot. He also explained their STEM Standard where students gain the skills, knowledge and thinking strategies that prepare them to be systematic problem solvers in STEM fields of study and work. AdvanED adheres to the cycle of "learn and share, examine and plan, and act and evaluate" to bring consistent improvement and quality to their time tested program. In closing Mr. Kleinert quoted Jerry Evans, "If you do the right thing for kids, you've done the right thing."

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:33 am.

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Representative VanOrden          Ann Tippetts
Chair                             Secretary