

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017
- TIME:** 9:00 A.M.
- PLACE:** Room EW41
- MEMBERS:** Chairman VanOrden, Vice Chairman McDonald, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Clow, Mendive, Kerby, Cheatham, Amador, DeMordaunt, Moon, Syme, Kloc, McCrostie, Toone
- ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None
- GUESTS:** Ydallia Yado, Caldwell High School; Harold Ott, IASA & ISBA; Bicker Therien, IDYCA; Zeke Guerrero, IDYCA; Julian Barrientez, IDYCA; Bo Kilbourne, IDYCA; Mario Pile, IDYCA; Jesus Lechuga, Caldwell High School; Juan Amezquibo, Caldwell High School; Eber Ortega, Caldwell High School; Marcos Dominique, Caldwell High School; Clark Corbin, Idaho Ed News; Marilyn Whitney, Governors Office
- Chairman VanOrden** called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.
- RS 25267:** **Marilyn Whitney**, Office of the Governor; presented **RS 25267** relating to postsecondary scholarships for adults who have some college but no degree or certificate. This will give them the opportunity to complete their studies and earn their degree or certificate.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Kloc** made a motion to introduce **RS 25267**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- Mr. Therien**, Principal of Idaho Youth Challenge Academy(IDYCA) explained he has been an educator for 32 years and nothing compares to the rewarding and satisfying experience of being a part of this academy. IDYCA is located in Pierce, Idaho. Their mission is to intervene in and reclaim the lives of 16 to 18 year old high school dropouts by producing program graduates with the values, life skills education, and self-discipline necessary to succeed as responsible and productive citizens of Idaho. It is a cooperative program and a fully accredited alternative high school. First Challenge Program started in 1993 to stem the nation's dropout problem, and Idaho's first class began in 2014. IDYCA has a three phase program: 2-week Acclimation, 20-week Residential, and 12-month Post Residential. Their core components are: Academic Excellence, Leadership and Followership, Life Coping Skills, Job Skills, Service to the Community, Responsible Citizenship, Physical Fitness, and Health and Hygiene.
- Bicker Therien** explained they have served students from 41 of the 44 Idaho counties. To-date they have 544 program graduates, 7,588 credits recovered, 64 high school diplomas issued, 47 GED completions while in residence, 32 graduates currently in the military, and 29,433 service to community hours completed. The cadets live within the academy while going to school and live a self-disciplined, quasi military structured life to become responsible adults. Their days are 16 hours long with a wake-up time of 5 am and a sleep-time of 9 pm. The weekends are structured with physical fitness, grooming, homework, vocational programs, and recreational time. Mr. Therien introduced four cadets of the Academy who are currently or have graduated to tell their successful stories.

**Julian Barrientez** stated he was a dropout of Canyon Springs and on probation. His life had no future and no worth to him. This program completely changed his life and gave him direction. He will be graduating in March of 2017 and has a job. He has paid off all his court fines and has separated himself from the bad influences that had taken over his life, previously. **Beau Kilbourn** stated before he started the program, he was defiant, made bad choices, and was flunking out of all his classes. The Academy gave him the tools to change his direction to a productive life and future. **Zeke Guerrero** dropped out of Caldwell High School and his life was headed in the wrong direction. He found out about the Academy and was accepted. He is now taking steps for a his future which includes college and a career. He said the Academy holds him accountable, and he knows he is responsible for his choices. **Isaiha Salazar** stated that being a cadet at the Academy has literally changed his life to a new, responsible direction. His heart has been changed toward people, and feels a connection to them through his spirit. His attitude is one of gratefulness rather than blame, and knows he is accountable for his actions. He has adapted to a tight structure in academics, physical workouts, and chore requirements, and knows his intelligence has increased because of it. He credits the excellent staff of caring individuals who appreciate and encourage the uniqueness of the students. He has earned a \$1,000 scholarship for college and a \$25,000 scholarship for Georgia Tech. The Academy has not only changed his academic and physical life, but his personal life with family and friends.

**Superintendent Ybarra** stated that Advanced Opportunities is aligned to the State Department of Education's Strategic Plan with its emphasis on Dual Credits in the public school system for future savings post education tuition. She introduced Matt McCarter, Director of Student Engagement Career and Technical Readiness.

**Matt McCarter** presented Advanced Opportunities Brief. He stated that Advanced Opportunities is a success step towards achieving the Governor's Task Force goal of having 60% of Idahoans receive a certificate or degree through student engagement in Dual Credits, alternate routes to graduation, provide advanced opportunities to all students, and promote and emphasize career coaches and teacher-to-student mentoring. Previously there were four different funding programs for students. Because of the complex technical intricacies of implementing each of these, the programs were streamlined into one Fast Forward program in 2016, which can now be found in Idaho Code. The streamlined program includes, 8 in 6 Program, Fast Forward, Dual Credit for Early Completers, and Mastery Advancement.

**Mr. McCarter** explained every \$1.00 of taxpayer funds spent on dual credit tuition through Advanced Opportunities results in a savings of \$3.36 to Idaho families that have students headed for college. In FY 16, high school students earned 96.8% of all dual credits that were attempted. Many school districts are taking a systems approach to develop and streamline district procedures, timelines, and advising surrounding Advanced Opportunities by bringing together administrators, career advisors, counselors, SDE personnel, the CSI dean to discuss best practices and implementation plans. Transactions for the Fast Forward program are processed through the Advanced Opportunities Portal managed by the SDE. The process is as follows: The students create an account, it is approved, student requests funds for course or exam, school personnel approve the fund request, course providers verify enrollment for all courses, district personnel submit to the SDE, SDE personnel validate all data, and makes payments to districts and public post secondary institutions. Feedback from the field is regularly considered and updates to the portal are made at least annually to provide efficiency to this process.

**Mr. McCarter** explained it is important that tax payer dollars used through these programs are counting towards program completion for students. They have made a point to train staff in the courses to make sure the course credits are guaranteed to transfer between institutions within the state. The SDE provides numerous support services to the field including: Advanced Opportunities Roadshows, local and regional support, conferences, dual credit program directors collaboration, print materials for schools, webinar and video training, and monthly updates. The challenges are: a dearth of dual credit teachers, transferability of dual credits, integration of private and homeschool students, increased work for existing staff, and balancing local practices and statewide consistencies. The success experienced can be attributed to statewide partnership, streamlined legislation, automation of technical processes(portal), support for college advising and mentoring, increased community awareness, positive media coverage and thorough training and communication with the field.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:29 am.

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Representative VanOrden  
Chair

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Ann Tippetts  
Secretary