

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Monday, January 22, 2018
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Nonini, Den Hartog, Guthrie, Crabtree, Buckner-Webb, and Ward-Engelking
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** None
- NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.
- CONVENED:** **Chairman Mortimer** called the Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.
- He opened the meeting with a reading from the book, *A Heap O'Living Along Life's Highway*, by Edgar A. Guest, "Stuck."
- Chairman Mortimer** welcomed the presidents from Idaho's four community colleges and explained the presentations would be slightly different from previous years.
- PRESENTATION:** **College of Eastern Idaho, Rick Aman, PhD**, President,(CEI), began his presentation by stating the CEI is the newest community college in Idaho and described the time line for the establishment of CEI.
- President Aman** indicated there are four priorities that CEI is expanding. Those are as follows:
1. Academic transfer/career technical class degrees that can transfer to other universities.
 2. Dual credits which includes hiring a dual credit coordinator.
 3. Online learning.
 4. Workforce development.
- President Aman** explained the five sources of revenue for CEI. One of CEI's focus is the "speed to degree" helping students to get in to school, obtain their education, and move into employment. Community colleges play an important role in providing a two-year associate degree for students. He indicated CEI wants to be valuable in helping high school seniors get either a technical degree or an associate degree. CEI has regional educational partnerships in nine of the State's counties and have begun relationships with five universities in the State (Attachment 1).
- PRESENTATION:** **North Idaho College (NIC), Rick MacLennan, Ed. D.**, President, said NIC' is committed to investing in student success and shared a student's life story. Leaders from NIC view the campus as the "sweet spot" between education and employment and are working hard to fulfill the mission. He said NIC is expanding the workforce training programs and they are realizing the economic impact. He spoke about the number of students enrolled in the non-credit workforce training and elaborated about the manufacturing companies NIC is working with to solve common problems. He reported the outcome of the collaboration.

President MacLennan reported the amount of scholarship dollars to CTE and workforce development programs during the years 2007 through 2017, is nearly \$5 million. He said dual credit enrollment is strong and is expanding all types of educational programs. He explained the newly establish Co-Creation Center, C-3; it is a hub for entrepreneurship, creativity, and collaboration for broad community access to relevant STEM centered educational programs, small business development, hands-on learning and cross-discipline education (Attachment 2).

PRESENTATION: College of Southern Idaho (CSI), Dr. Jeff Fox , President said CSI has a variety of course delivery methods, including campus classes, dual credit classes, off-campus centers, and online classes. They work to maintain low-cost tuition. He stated the retention rates have increased from fall 2012 to fall 2015 from 53 percent to 60 percent. **Dr. Fox** said the key elements in this steady increase may be due to having transition coordinators employed in area high schools helping students and parents be prepared for the college transition.

Dr. Fox said workforce development is important component at CSI and the region it serves. He detailed the number of people enrolled in the programs. He stated CSI has been present at every visit from new employers looking to locate in the Magic Valley. **Dr. Fox** discussed the reasons for enrollment flattening out and emphasized the increase in dual credits; combined enrollment is the highest enrollment figures for CSI.

Dr. Fox explained how CSI is adapting to the change in student demographics. He said the four Idaho Community Colleges (ICC) have a strong working relationship. He elaborated on some of the issues they are working to remedy (Attachment 3).

PRESENTATION: College of Western Idaho, Dr. Bert Glandon ,President, stated CWI will serve over 30,000 students at the end of the spring semester and has exceptional growth in dual credit courses. CWI received the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnership accreditation in May 2017. In effort to maintain curricular rigor of college courses being offered in high school, CWI hires faculty based on qualifications set and approved by the college's academic departments. He explained the process to ensure the dual credit course meets the rigor.

Dr. Glandon said CWI has not increased the tuition in the last four years. By keeping the cost of tuition as low as possible, retention levels are high. He stated dual credits are difficult on budgeting because more students are enrolling in the program and the revenue does not cover the cost of the courses. He cited the biggest weakness for CWI is the lack of buildings and facilities.

Dr. Glandon said CWI has achieved accreditation, but are they sustainable? He said online classes enhance student achievement. CWI is expanding the online class offerings to assist students in the completion of their degree. He said they are working to increase the help offered to the Hispanic student population. **Dr. Glandon** explained the keys to future achievement for CWI include short and long-term facility training, adult completion courses, and sustainable funding (Attachment 4).

Chairman Mortimer asked if the presidents had any other concerns they would like to address. **President MacLennan** replied he is concerned about workforce development programs and the pressure that all the community colleges were feeling to make the courses shorter so students could enter the workforce sooner.

Vice Chairman Thayn asked if they were using dual credits for CTE courses. **President MacLennan** said dual enrollment classes count for high school credit and college credit. The high schools have been asked to look at their CTE classes and align them with what would be required for college credit. **President Glandon** stated the four community colleges have been working on dual enrollment for several years with the State CTE group. He explained the design of the bridge program and how it can shorten the time it takes for a student to earn an associates degree. He said it is very challenging to set up this type of program and there is concern there will be little interest by students.

Senator Guthrie said CEI is growing fast and asked what they are doing to engage private industry in developing program curriculum. He also asked if they would be able to do four, six or eight week crash courses if the need arose.

President Aman replied in developing the curriculum, CEI engaged about 30 advisory committees; many were engaged with them when it was a technical college. CEI enlist industry experts to teach specific subjects. He stated CEI works with the Regional Economic Development Agency for Eastern Idaho (REDI) to help determine the kinds of topics students need to learn to be marketable.

President Glandon said CWI had a working relationship with a large construction manufacturing company which helped CWI develop curriculum with industry standards built into the program. He explained the success of the program. It has been very successful with a 100 percent graduation and 100 percent placement.

President Fox added Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization has been a leader in business development and in attracting businesses to the Magic Valley. The CTE programs have a mandatory advisory committee made up of professionals who specialize in specific areas. CSI also offers companies the opportunity to send employees to classes to update their skills.

Chairman Mortimer asked if the academic coursework for CTE certification could be abbreviated. **President Fox** stated credit bearing courses depend on approved accreditation. The CTE classes are regulated by accrediting agencies. Most require a general education component in addition to the CTE skills set. The programs which have melded into the short-term trainings and on-demand trainings may not have the required components for general education. He stated It is an ongoing process and they are working to determine how to find the most effective combination.

Senator Thayn expressed his concern regarding the dual credit programs. He asked if those courses are preparing students for college. **President Aman** replied there are steps in place to have qualified master teachers work and mentor a high school faculty member. CEI is encouraging concurrent credits which requires the student to be physically present in the class to exhibit college readiness. The key for dual credit course is a proficient instructor and the final exam be the same as it is in the college/institution.

President Fox replied high schools make the decision to accept the credits as part of the high school curriculum. He emphasized dual credit students have a higher grade point average than their peers.

President Glandon stated the cost involved with dual credit classes is higher than the \$65 and with so many students taking advantage of those classes, it is creating a financial burden for the colleges.

Vice Chairman Thayn asked how the education landscape in Idaho is changing with the increase in dual credit classes. **President MacLennan** indicated the instructional staff is changing and the average age of the student has gone down.

President Fox said dual credit courses enable students to get a head start on their education and enhances their ability to either go to work or to go on to college more quickly. He stated CSI strives to reach not only the best students but the other 50 percent who are not planning on going to college. There are transition coordinators working with students and their parents when they are sophomores in high school, discussing whether going on to college could be a reality.

Senator Den Hartog asked if adult completers have other barriers than financial that keep them from attending post-secondary education. **President Glandon** said many adults are already working and are comfortable. He explained the hurdles older students face when walking on campus. He stated online or hybrid classes appear to be the best way for adults to finish their degrees.

President Fox said in the Magic Valley there are many students who went to CSI and never finished because there are not enough programs available. **President MacLennan** said many adults wonder if it is worth the effort to return to school. He emphasized the importance for colleges to have a strong relationship with the community so they are aware of local needs.

Senator Guthrie stated he believes community colleges provide an important niche in education. He asked if the community college model is disruptive to the four year institutions. **President Aman** said the demographic for CEI is not to attract students who want the amenities of a university experience. Their targeted demographic is the 50 percent who would not necessarily go to college. CEI will education a student through the sophomore year of college. They have enough credits, have less debt, and achieve comparable to the university educated peer. He said community colleges should address the veteran population. They have good benefits for more education but are less inclined to return to school. **President Glandon** said the one challenge facing higher education is how to deliver better education at lower costs. He stated community colleges can help with that challenge.

Chairman Mortimer asked each community college president to report the two things not currently being done that they would like to see done in the future.

President Fox stated CSI is working to get a bachelor's degree in food processing and education which would meet the needs of companies in the Magic Valley. **President MacLennan** said in the region NIC serves there is a need for applied baccalaureate degrees in areas such as health occupations and the aerospace industry. **President Aman** said he would like to see baccalaureate degrees being offered at EIC. He stated he would like to see an increase in the reimbursement for dual credits. **President Glandon** added it is important to do a study to determine what the actual cost is for dual credit courses. .

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:24 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary

Sharon Pennington
Assistant Secretary