

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, March 16, 2018
TIME: 8:00 A.M.
PLACE: Room EW41
MEMBERS: Chairman VanOrden, Vice Chairman McDonald, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Clow, Mendive, Kerby, Cheatham, Amador, DeMordaunt, Moon, Syme, Ehardt, McCrostie, Toone, Gannon(5)
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Boyle, Amador
GUESTS: Jessica Ruehrwein, David Eastwood, Treasure Valley Education Partnership

Chairman VanOrden called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Jessica Ruehrwein, executive director, gave a presentation on the work of the Treasure Valley Education Partnership (TVEP). She said the group works with all the school districts in the Treasure Valley, as well as Bishop Kelly High School, six institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, the government and business. The University of Idaho McClure Center has provided in-kind assistance to TVEP of office space and IT Support. She said the goal of the Beyond High School Working Group is to increase enrollment at postsecondary education institutions. She reported the results of the senior exit survey for 2015, 2016 and 2017. Many more seniors reported they planned to enroll in postsecondary education than actually did. More females plan to complete a degree than males. Most of them reported making their plans in seventh grade or earlier, and they report their families to be the largest influence on their decisions. The two largest factors for choosing to continue education after high school are to make more money and to have a job they love, she said. The three highest career fields of interest were health care, STEM careers, and "I don't know." Significantly more females than males plan to go into health care, and more males than females plan to go into STEM careers, she added.

Ms. Ruehrwein reported the key findings of the exit surveys are the discrepancy between what students plan to do and what they actually do, that career plans are made before ninth grade, with Hispanics making career plans later, and the primary reason students report for not completing FAFSA paperwork is they are "too busy." Hispanics are two times more likely to report the highest level of secondary education they plan to complete is a certificate or two-year degree, she added.

Ms. Ruehrwein said TVEP plans to continue to collect data and to use the data to target interventions, supports and messaging. The potential to implement the exit survey statewide and analyze trends exists, she said, enabling a deeper analysis of current trends. The organization plans to administer the senior exit survey in 2018 and to assess the workforce development landscape, said Ms. Reuhrwein.

In response to questions from the committee, **Ms. Ruehrwein** said TVEP is looking at administering the survey to eighth-grade students. Also, they plan to add a question to determine if the people who influence postsecondary education plans are positive or negative. The organization plans to discuss externships this month, she said, which provide shorter-term experiences for high school students than internships or apprenticeships. One possibility is to create a portal which pairs students with externships. The discussion will include how externships can be provided without making students too busy to complete FAFSA paperwork, she added. Finances are an important consideration in postsecondary career plans, said Ms. Rehrwein. She said she appreciates the state's help. Ways for students to access postsecondary education must be created, she added. TVEP has hosted FAFSA completion nights and invited parents to work with counselors. Last year, the organization targeted Hispanic Families and made phone calls in Spanish. The event had food and translators, she said. Another way TVEP involves parents is through a third-grade summer reading program, she said. Perhaps the exit survey could also be given to those participants, she added.

In response to questions from the committee, **Ms. Ruehrwein** said counselors, teachers and superintendents are discussing how to include conversations about postsecondary education earlier in school, at the elementary level. Most counselors do not have financial aid training, and TVEP provides that training, she said. She said there is a need to provide more financial aid training for career counselors and maybe for a parent cohort. **Chairman VanOrden** commented that the State Board of Education and State Department of Education might be able to help provide that training.

Rep. Clow commented that he thought students who chose to enroll in the military should be counted in the go-on rate. He said thousands of youth attend the Hispanic Youth Summit conducted by Boise State University, and the Magic Valley is planning to conduct a similar event. **Ms. Ruehrwein** said it would not be difficult to implement data collection state wide, and TVEP already has the best practices in place. The critical element in data collection is trust, she added, trust that the data would not be used against the schools. **Rep. Kerby** commented that TVEP could give information to employees of their business partners, many of whom are probably parents. In response to questions from the committee, Ms. Reuhrwein said she thought one way to reduce how busy high school students are is to make career pathways and classes more targeted to those pathways. One place to start is to expose students to careers, she added. Rep. Clow commented that **S 1212** would help with the career plans made in seventh and eighth grades.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 a.m.

Representative VanOrden
Chair

Jenifer Cavaness-Williams
Secretary