

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Tuesday, February 12, 2019
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Den Hartog, Crabtree, Woodward, Lent, 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 3:02 p.m.
- PRESENTATION:** **Wendi Secrist**, Executive Director, Idaho Workforce Development Council (WDC), updated the Committee about their work. She outlined the criteria from the Governor's Workforce Development Task Force. She said WDC, through its programs, is to maintain a highly skilled workforce, provide efficient use of resources, and increase awareness and access to career education and training. She named the different agencies with which they collaborate.
- Ms. Secrist** emphasized the partnership with the State Board of Education (SBE) and explained the work partnership with the goal to close the skills gap and to develop a talent pipeline for statewide employers. She provided actual examples of how employers are training workforce students.
- Ms. Secrist** said there are workforce development training funds available to help students. Those funds are employer grants, industry sector grants, and innovation grants. WDC also sponsors outreach projects to provide public information on career education and workforce training opportunities. She shared with the Committee the legislative priorities for WDC (Attachments 1, 2, and 3).
- In response to Committee questions, **Ms. Secrist** stated WDC is sensitive to the needs of all regions in Idaho. They are working to identify gaps and find investments to fill those. She explained the age groups of the people they work with the majority being adults. She said the Department of Health and Welfare is a required partner under the Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, which gives WDC access to communicate with over 30,000 people across the state who receive foods stamps and welfare payments. **Ms. Secrist** detailed the funding amounts and sources and emphasized there are no General Funds being used for their budget. She said she would like to see more career technical education opportunities in middle schools and the integration of Nextsteps Idaho.

PRESENTATION: Dr. Cathleen McHugh, Chief Research Officer, State Board of Education (SBE), presented the Data Dash Board (DDB). She disclosed to the Committee where on the SBE website they could find the DDB page. She stated there are three different components to the DDB; 1.) K-12; 2.) Transition to postsecondary education; and 3.) The postsecondary education component. **Dr. McHugh** said in building the DDB they knew there would be many types of users, and accordingly the DDB has pages for each. A summary page is also available. She demonstrated to the Committee a variety of data points available on the site. The DDB is being expanded with the goal to provide information to parents, administrators, policymakers, and others to share the information.

Matt Freeman, Executive Director, SBE, detailed the arenas where the SBE has shared the DDB and the work they are doing to build awareness.

Chairman Mortimer expressed his appreciation with this tool and with the work of the SBE. He said this will help improve efforts in education.

PRESENTATION: Kelly Edginton, Head of School, Idaho Virtual Academy (IDVA), presented IDVA data and informed the Committee the school has been accredited since 2005. She explained the student demographic composition of IDVA, and the reason parents enroll their children with IDVA. She reported that 57 teachers are employed with the virtual school. She reported the graduation statistics and said she would provide the Committee with the exact numbers to support her report. **Ms. Edginton** concluded saying the IDVA serves an indispensable role in Idaho's public education system (Attachment 4).

PRESENTATION: Jessica Shopoff, Accountability Specialist, K12 Inc. (K12), presented the Impact of Mobility on School Success Measures. She said K12 is a curriculum provider for alternatives to traditional brick and mortar schools and she is an accountability specialist. She highlighted for the Committee the demographic percentage of students who are served by brick and mortar versus online charter schools, emphasizing those students who are special education students as well as those in poverty. **Ms. Shopoff** stated research has found that student mobility has a negative impact on student learning. When reporting data, the State Department of Education should consider mobility factors (Attachment 5).

PRESENTATION: Monti Pittman, Head of School, Idaho Technical Career Academy (ITCA), said ITCA was founded in 2014 to meet Idaho's labor needs in business and industry. The intent was to create a quality virtual charter school that uses technology to connect academically at-risk, underserved, or geographically dispersed students in the state. He detailed the four career pathways offered at ITCA: 1.) Agricultural Manufacturing/Food Processing Systems; 2.) Business/Marketing Management (Entrepreneurship); 3.) Health Science/Pharmacy Tech; and 4.) Web Development and Digital Communications. He reported ITCA's enrollment numbers and detailed the student demographics. Mr. Pittman conveyed the number of certificates and diplomas awarded by ITCA (Attachment 6).

PRESENTATION: Katie Allison, Executive Director, iSucceed Virtual High School (iSucceed), said iSucceed as a statewide accredited online school, grades 9 through 11, authorized by the Public Charter School Commission, and open to all students in Idaho. She stated online schools educate the extremes: from high performing students to high-risk students. She stated the number one reason students enroll is the bullying they receive in their brick and mortar school. **Ms. Allison** emphasized the importance of online schools. She said without them, students would not be receiving a diploma.

Chairman Mortimer thanked the presenters for the work they do to help Idaho students achieve.

**RECORDING
LINK:**

To hear the complete Workforce Development Council and Online School presentation, go to:
<https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2019/standingcommittees/SEDU/>.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary