

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Monday, February 01, 2021
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Thayn, Vice Chairman Crabtree, Senators Den Hartog, Woodward, Lent, Johnson, Cook, Ward-Engelking, and Nelson
- 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 Thayn** called the meeting of the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:02 p.m.
- PRESENTATION:** **Byron Yankey**, College and Career Advising Program Manager, Office of the State Board of Education, gave a presentation on career counseling (see Attachment 1).
- DISCUSSION:** **Senator Cook** asked if any data was available as to why 1,400 students who graduated high school did not enter college in 2020. **Mr. Yankey** said there were multiple reasons, such as families not wanting students to leave their homes while the COVID 19 pandemic was still ongoing, and many families were not sure what to expect in a virtual online college experience since the students last year of high school did not go as expected. **Chairman Thayn** asked if the Next Steps Idaho website was open to all. **Mr. Yankey** said it was and there is also a monthly newsletter that anyone can sign up to receive.
- PRESENTATION:** **Dr. Kaitlin Maguire**, Interim Executive Director, Idaho STEM Action Center gave a presentation on STEM's achievements in the community (see Attachment 2). **Melissa McConnell**, and **Jessica Butler**, College and Career Professionals, Hillcrest High School, spoke about how STEM has impacted their students.
- DISCUSSION:** **Senator Nelson** asked how many Idaho graduating seniors were there last year and how many received the STEM diploma. **Dr. Maguire** said 2,400 high school seniors were eligible to receive the STEM diploma, but since the number of diplomas given out is done by the schools, she was not aware of how many actually received one. **Chairman Thayn** said the number of graduating seniors was around 20,000.
- PRESENTATION:** **Clay Long**, State Administrator, Division of Idaho Career and Technical Education (CTE), gave a presentation on the importance of counselors in helping students achieve their high school diplomas (see Attachments 3). **Jenny Bradford**, Senior Program Quality Manager, CTE, took the podium to complete the presentation.
- DISCUSSION:** **Senator Cook** asked if students in the nine schools used in the CTE pilot were specifically at-risk students. **Ms. Bradford** said all students were included and since this was a pilot program year, there is no data available to share outcomes.
- PRESENTATION:** **Dr. Eric Studebaker**, Director, Student Engagement and Safety Coordination, Idaho State Department of Education, gave a presentation on Advanced Opportunities (see Attachment 4).
- DISCUSSION:** **Chairman Thayn** asked if the link to the shift program was available to everyone to access. **Dr. Studebaker** said yes, it was available under the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program (GEAR UP) and he will send the information to the Committee for distribution.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Thayn** adjourned the meeting at 4:31 p.m.

Senator Thayn
Chair

Florence Lince
Secretary