

MINUTES
JOINT FINANCE-APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 22, 2024
TIME: 8:00 A.M.
PLACE: Room C310
MEMBERS PRESENT: Senators Co-Chairman Grow, Bjerke, Burtenshaw, Lent, Cook, VanOrden, Adams, Herndon, Ward-Engelking, Just
Representatives Co-Chair Horman, Miller, Bundy, Raybould, Furniss, Handy, Lambert, Petzke, Tanner, Green
ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

Co-Chair Horman called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Mr. Keith Bybee, Division Manager, LSO Budget & Policy, introduced the Division of Career Technical Education (CTE). It has five budgeted programs, including the CTE Administration Program, Secondary and General Programs, Postsecondary Programs, the Educator Services Program, and Related Programs.

Mr. Bybee stated most of the agency's funding is sourced from the General Fund. The Legislature has appropriated significant resources into CTE, which explains the budget's \$25M+ growth over the past five years. Most of the budget is structured in trustee and benefits expenses, which fund 509.14 FTPs at the state's six technical colleges. Mr. Bybee presented the agency's FY 2025 budget requests for supplementals and enhancements. These include ongoing and one-time funding for CTE data system expansion and educator training program staff and capital outlay, as well as ongoing funding to increase fire service training hours.

Mr. Clay Long, State Administrator of CTE, answered questions from the committee about fire service training. Currently, the fire service equipment is housed in the Boise district, but the agency is developing a rotation schedule so every region in Idaho has access to the equipment for a quarter of the year.

In response to committee questions, **Mr. Long** explained the Legislature provided training in-house for new teachers who leave private industry to become educators at the technical colleges. He also stated students can access CTE classes with education grants through the Idaho Launch program.

In response to further committee questions, **Mr. Long** explained previous legislation appropriated \$45M to the State Department of Education for facilities, expansions, and other similar purposes for CTE. Last year the trailer bill to **H 267** appropriated additional monies for supplies. Previously supplies had not been eligible for appropriated funds.

Finally, **Mr. Long** stated the CTE data system expansion will reduce the burden on new and existing teachers. The requested FY 2025 budget line item will allow CTE to build an educator certification portal, which will also be used by the State Department of Education to create one central location instead of multiple systems.

Mr. Bybee gave an overview of the Idaho Small Business Development Center (ISBDC). ISBDC provides direct services to individual small businesses in Idaho through a higher education-based network. Mr. Bybee explained the agency's FY 2025 budget request for a rural business consultant.

In response to committee questions, **Ms. Deanna Berry**, Associate State Director of Finance at ISBDC, asserted every year the agency works with 2K clients and assists with approximately 90 new business starts and 800 new jobs throughout the state of Idaho. Through one-to-one, no-cost counseling, the agency helps small businesses increase sales growth and capital infusion, which results in approximately \$13M in state tax revenue. She further explained the agency's budget request for a rural business consultant in south central Idaho; it is critical to have counselors in rural areas so they know the area economy and can meet with clients face-to-face.

Mr. Bybee gave an overview of TechHelp, which provides manufacturing consulting services to small and medium-sized companies in Idaho. He explained the FY 2025 budget request for a Studio\Blu director position.

In response to committee questions, **Mr. Steve Hatten**, Executive Director of TechHelp, explained TechHelp's programs, including Studio\Blu, have multiple funding streams, including federal funding, state funding, client fees, and private and university partnerships.

Mr. Hatten gave historical background to the Studio\Blu program. TechHelp's standard practice is to use special award funding, not base funding, to launch new programs. Mr. Hatten stated the FY 2025 budget request will help the agency prepare an off-ramp from the special award fund and fund it like other TechHelp programs.

In concluding remarks, **Mr. Hatten** expressed appreciation for the funding and explained it allows the agency to leverage federal funding and to provide services around the state, especially in rural communities.

Mr. Bybee gave an overview of the Museum of Natural History, located on the campus of Idaho State University. It is charged with preserving, expanding, and disseminating information about the natural history of the Idaho and the inner Mountain West. Mr. Bybee explained the Museum's FY 2025 request to increase funding for their current operating budget costs. This request would restore funding from the 2021 statewide 2% reduction from the General Fund.

Dr. Leif Tapanila, Director/Curator of the Museum of Natural History, explained the budget request will fund base level operating expenditures; in the past, the Museum has used salary savings to cover base operations. He further explained the Museum expends over \$100K, funded through philanthropy, grants and contracts, and service fees, on other additional operating expenses. Without the requested budget increase, gate and ticket fees will need to fund base operations instead of potential future exhibits, education programming, marketing, etc.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:01 a.m.

Representative Horman
Chair

Alyson Jackson
Secretary