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MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 27, 2024

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Yamamoto, Vice Chairman McCann, Representatives Clow, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Hawkins, Hill, Lanting, Nelsen, Price, Sauter, Berch, Galaviz, Mathias

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chair Yamamoto called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

MOTION: **Rep. Price** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 23, 2024. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 634: **Rep. Horman** presented **H 634**, legislation regarding broadband. She said this would transfer broadband program funds from the State Department of Education to the State Board of Education.

MOTION: **Rep. Galaviz** made a motion to send **H 634** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Horman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Dr. Cynthia Pemberton, President, Lewis-Clark State College (LCSC), spoke about the small college experience and returns on investment. She said LCSC offers affordable education, open education resources, workforce training, and a GED program. She spoke about nursing, radio graphic, social work and teacher education programs. She spoke about being a partner with Idaho State University with medical industry education.

Scott Green, President, University of Idaho (U of I), spoke about the value of University research to the state of Idaho, an increase in enrollment, and meeting needs of Idaho. He spoke about financial turnaround, scholarship funding, and returns on student investment. He gave an explanation of the agriculture program, new associate degrees, enrollment increase in cyber security, and spoke of the need for more medical professionals. He said U of I has the highest Reserve Officers' Training Corp. (ROTC) enrollment in the state and touched on military history and training.

Jeff Seegmiller, Regional Dean and Director, U of I, spoke about the University of Washington School of Medicine, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho (WWAMI) program and the direct impact of enrollment and retention rates in medical schools due to new laws passed.

Dr. Robert Wagner, President, Idaho State University, spoke about enrollment and tools which foster transformation and growth. He described the significant progress made in student retention and the commitment to provide affordable and relevant education. He said ISU is the only public University to offer a tuition lock program. He spoke about the health care and engineering programs and said it is important to keep facilities and resources up to date to maintain proper instruction.

Dr. Marlene Tromp, President, Boise State University (BSU), spoke about enrollment growth, graduation rates, and financial efficiency. She explained research experiences, philanthropy, and programs for in-demand occupations. She spoke about the increase in ROTC enrollment and their full service veterans center. In response to committee comments, she spoke about semiconductor and data driven programs which help students succeed and she described the character and creativity of the athletics program.

In response to committee comments, each president spoke about CEC administrative funding and the impact Idaho Launch will provide students.

Rep. Clow introduce **Dr. Mark Crandall**, Dolly Parton Imagination Library and the United Way, who spoke about the history of this early literacy program and ways to help it grow in Idaho.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:48 am.

Representative Yamamoto
Chair

Amy Bengtzen
Secretary