

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Monday, February 03, 2025
- TIME:** 9:00 A.M.
- PLACE:** Room EW41
- MEMBERS:** Chairman Pickett, Vice Chairman Hawkins, Representatives Clow, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Harris, Marmon, Tanner(13), Mathias, Church
- 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.
- Chairman Pickett** called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.
- H 79:** **Rep. Clow** presented **H 79**, legislation which would increase the tuition cap and limit annual tuition increases at Idaho's Community Colleges. He spoke about growth, inflation, and competitive faculty salaries. He said the last tuition cap was set in 2008 which was met in 2016 to 2018.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Garner** made a motion to send **H 79** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Clow** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- Gordon Jones**, President, College of Western Idaho, spoke about tuition, enrollment, affordable degrees, and said 98% of CWI students come from Idaho. He commented on population growth, capacity, wait lists, and pointed out high demand programs. In response to committee questions, he clarified an affordable bachelor's degree program.
- Dr. Dean Fisher**, President, College of Southern Idaho, gave an overview and included this is CSI's sixtieth year. He spoke about serving students through apprenticeship, adult learners, and Head Start programs. He mentioned a motorcycle safety program, sports programs, funding, pell grants, student retention, and reported a 20% increase in enrollment due to Idaho Launch. He explained growth, capacity demands, and wait lists.
- Dr. Lori Barber**, President, College of Eastern Idaho gave a history and said CEI has the largest work force division in Idaho. She spoke about adult learners, CTE, increased growth of in-demand programs, and growing Idaho economy with local talent. She mentioned growth could be a burden or an opportunity and explained investment and transformation.
- Dr. Nick Swayne**, President, North Idaho College, shared a decline and increase in student enrollment over the past several years and spoke about non-credit programs, apprenticeships, CTE, the expansion of programs, and enrollment capacity. He said two mines are on track to open and will need mining engineers, providing educational opportunities. He explained accelerated programs, graduation rates, and the elimination of golf programs.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:12 am.

---

Representative Pickett  
Chair

---

Amy Bengtzen  
Secretary