

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 08, 2023

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Lent, Vice Chairman Toews, Senators Den Hartog, Nichols, Dunn (Carlson), Herndon, Lenney, Ward-Engelking, and Semmelroth

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Carlson

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: **Chairmen Lent** called the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.

PRESENTATION: **Division of Career Technical Education Annual Report. Dr. Clay Long**, State Administrator, Division of Career Technical Education (DCTE), presented an update on career technical education in the State of Idaho. He highlighted the DCTE's mission to prepare Idahoans for highly skilled, in-demand technical careers. He illustrated some of the main takeaways from the DCTE's annual report on career technical education in Idaho which encompassed facts and statistics on secondary, post-secondary, and adult technical education. **Dr. Long** detailed the DCTE's three priorities for the 2023 fiscal year. This included: 1) designing and developing a program data system that would help the DCTE determine how to best provide professional development for Idahoans; 2) ensuring standards in their programs were still in line with industry expectations; 3) and empowering staff to improve internal processes. He reported the Governor's recommended budget for DCTE for the 2024 fiscal year (Attachment 1).

DISCUSSION: **Senator Lenney** asked Dr. Long if he could further explain the budget law exemption request from the Governor's recommended budget. **Dr. Long** remarked that the DCTE received \$2 million in allocation from the State for the 2023 fiscal year to improve program data systems and program prioritization. The DCTE was requesting that whatever was not used in that allocation was carried over into the next fiscal year. **Senator Lenney** asked if this request was ongoing or if it was a one-time request. **Dr. Long** answered it was a one-time request.

TESTIMONY: **Hailey Bowman**, Future Farmers of America (FFA), spoke to the FFA as a career technical education resource for young people in Idaho and how it had benefited her. She provided the Committee with her background and how she came to be a part of FFA. **Ms. Bowman** reported the increased growth in FFA membership enrollment in the State was the highest it had been since 1929. She discussed some of the skill and leadership-building projects that FFA provided her and her fellow peers as well as what she learned from these experiences. **Ms. Bowman** concluded by explaining her future plans included pursuing degrees in agricultural business and elementary education.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** expressed her excitement over Ms. Bowman's future plans in both agriculture and education.

Chairman Lent asked Ms. Bowman for any final remarks for the Committee. **Ms. Bowman** remarked that she appreciated the opportunity to speak and thanked the Committee for their continued support for career technical education.

TESTIMONY: **Carolyn Heiner**, Idaho Technology Student Association (ITSA), gave an overview of her background and how she came to be a part of ITSA. She explained how a career technical education through ITSA had impacted her life for the better and detailed the skills she had acquired from the career technical classes she took. She commented how ITSA had given her a clear direction for pursuing a career in civil engineering, assisted in establishing industry connections, and provided her with internship opportunities.

DISCUSSION: **Chairman Lent** asked Ms. Heiner how her exposure to different careers in career technical education had affected her future plans. **Ms. Heiner** explained being a part of ITSA and taking career technical education classes helped to identify and focus on a career in civil engineering.

Vice Chairman Toews asked if Ms. Heiner had job shadowed anyone who worked in civil engineering. **Ms. Heiner** stated she had not, but she was excited at the potential opportunity to do so.

Senator Nichols asked Ms. Heiner what she would tell her younger self based on what she knew now about career technical education. **Ms. Heiner** remarked she would tell herself to not be afraid to try new things, even if it was something she did not think she would be interested in.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Lent** adjourned the meeting at 3:28 p.m.

Senator Lent
Chair

Linette Grantham
Secretary

Tyler Allen
Assistant Secretary