

WORK SESSION  
DECEMBER 17, 2025

TAB	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
1	<b>IRSA – POSTSECONDARY CIVICS EDUCATION: PRESENT AND FUTURE</b>	Information Item

**WORK SESSION  
DECEMBER 17, 2025**

**SUBJECT**

Work Session: Postsecondary Civics Education: Present and Future

**REFERENCE**

**APPLICABLE STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY**

Not applicable

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION**

Employers, community leaders, and citizens alike emphasize the importance of graduates who are prepared to engage productively in civic life, bringing skills in civil discourse, problem solving, and informed decision-making to their workplaces and communities. Idaho's strong tradition of civic participation, from high rates of volunteerism to high voting turnouts, underscores the opportunity to reinforce these habits of democracy in higher education. By fostering both career readiness and civic readiness, the Board and institutions can build public trust, strengthen Idaho's workforce, and ensure that graduates contribute meaningfully to the state's economic and democratic vitality.

In this work session, Board members will have the opportunity to hear from student leaders and institutional presidents about current institutional initiatives on civic knowledge, civil discourse, and civic or community engagement.

**IMPACT**

This presentation and guided discussion will enable Board members to learn more about the current institutional initiatives that support postsecondary civic education in Idaho. This work session provides further context for *the America's Next 250: Enhancing Postsecondary Civic Knowledge and Engagement in Idaho* plan, a Board initiative to promote civic education across all postsecondary institutions. The Board's leadership is key in establishing guidance for institutions to develop institution-wide approaches so that students gain civic knowledge and experience civil dialogue. By fostering both career readiness and civic readiness, the Board and institutions can build public trust, strengthen Idaho's workforce, and ensure that graduates contribute meaningfully to the state's economic and democratic vitality.

**ATTACHMENTS**

None

**STAFF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Idaho's public postsecondary institutions are well positioned to respond to this discussion with both experience and commitment. They bring existing strengths in workforce preparation and civic engagement and can align their efforts with the Board's leadership in addressing public confidence. Board staff will work with institutions to coordinate their efforts and provide updates as appropriate.

**BOARD ACTION**

This item is for informational purposes.