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**FEDERAL GRANT AWARDED TO EXPAND
APPRENTICESHIPS IN IDAHO**

The Idaho State Board of Education’s Division of Career Technical Education will receive nearly \$2 million in grant funds from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) to increase apprenticeships in Idaho.

The Idaho grant is one of 28 public-private apprenticeship partnership grants totaling nearly \$100 million awarded through the DOL’s Apprenticeship: Closing the Skills Gap grant program. Nationwide, the grant will support training of more than 92,000 people in expanded or new apprenticeship programs including an estimated 1,600 here in Idaho over four years.

Five of Idaho’s higher education institutions will use the grant funds to partner with private sector employers to expand apprenticeships in health care, cyber security and advanced manufacturing throughout the state. The goal is to help Idahoans, particularly veterans and underrepresented groups, gain specialized skills for jobs that are often hard to fill.

“Apprenticeships are one of the most exciting and effective ways to satisfy labor needs for employers and the long-term career goals of students,” State Board of

Education President Debbie Critchfield said. “This grant will be a huge benefit for both while also bolstering the state’s economy moving forward.”

“This award couldn’t come at a better time for Idaho,” said Wendi Secrist, executive director of Idaho’s Workforce Development Council. “This project dovetails perfectly with simultaneous efforts by the Council to scale youth apprenticeships and the Idaho Department of Labor to scale registered apprenticeships. We are poised to see exponential growth in work-based learning opportunities for Idahoans.”

Clay Long, state administrator for the Idaho Career Technical Education added, “This grant will provide us the opportunity to continue identifying additional routes for our youth and adults to prepare for high-skill, in-demand careers.”

The institutions participating in the grant are:

- North Idaho College
- Lewis-Clark State College
- College of Southern Idaho
- Idaho State University
- College of Eastern Idaho

About 400 apprenticeships will be established annually over four years. Participating private sector employers must contribute a 45 percent match of the federal funds awarded. The grant, which totals \$1.98 million must still undergo a final review by the DOL before the funds are released.

Here’s a link to the DOL press release announcing the grant:

<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20200218>

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