



For Immediate Release

October 16, 2024

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BOARD APPROVES REVISED HIGHER EDUCATION PLANNING AND DELIVERY POLICY

A year-long process to review and revise the Idaho State Board of Education’s policy on the planning and delivery of academic and career-technical programs was approved today during the Board’s regular meeting in Lewiston. The revised policy is intended to improve “systemness” across Idaho’s public higher education institutions.

Board Member Cally Roach acknowledged some institutions raised concerns with the previous version of the policy, so a Board workgroup was formed to evaluate and propose revisions. The new policy attempts to thread the needle between healthy competition and effective collaboration among the institutions as they work to meet the needs of students throughout the state.

Board President Dr. Linda Clark, who has advocated for systemness since joining the Board a decade ago, called the revision a work in progress that will need to be continually looked at and revised as needed.

Lewis-Clark State College Enrollment Growth

LCSC President Dr. Cynthia Pemberton delivered her annual report and touted improvements in student retention and graduation rates, and said LCSC's fall 2024 overall enrollment is the highest since 2016. Dr. Pemberton also credited the new Idaho Launch program for driving enrollment growth in health sciences (nursing) and career-technical education. Sitting today as the Board of Trustees of Lewis-Clark State College, the Board also heard from faculty, staff and students.

Nearly a dozen students, about half of whom are the first in their families to attend college, recounted their experiences at LCSC and shared their career plans after they graduate. LCSC Student Body President Xander McDowell, a senior from Caldwell, said he benefitted by attending a smaller college rather than one of the larger universities. Board Member Bill Gilbert said hearing from and visiting with students is always the highlight of Board meetings.

Strategic Performance Reporting

The Board held a lengthy discussion on measures and metrics used for determining overall public education system performance. Board members and institution presidents agreed that many of the metrics in the current model are outdated and that revisions are needed, such as tighter alignment between the data that the institutions are required to report by statute and outcomes the Board wants the institutions to achieve, particularly around student success.

All agreed that new metrics need to be clearer and more useful in determining accountability, explaining purpose, and overall successful output of Idaho's education system. The Board directed staff to work with the institutions to develop recommendations for Board consideration during its December regular Board meeting.

Other Board actions included the following:

- Approved a request by Boise State University to create a career technical educator (CTE) cybersecurity program. As a result of the Board's approval, Boise State may bring other CTE-focused educator preparation proposals to the Board for consideration.

- Authorized a development agreement between Idaho State University and the City of Meridian to begin infrastructure development plans for future expansion of ISU's Meridian Health Sciences Center. The development agreement involves a 23 acre parcel directly north of the Health Sciences Center in Meridian.

The Board meeting will resume tomorrow morning October 17, at 9 a.m. Pacific Time on the Lewis-Clark State College campus in Lewiston.

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