

Brad Little
Governor

Wendi Secrist
Executive Director



Deni Hoehne
Chair

Sarah Griffin
Vice Chair

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
514 W Jefferson St, Ste 131, Boise, ID 83702

Statewide Workforce Pell Coordinating Council
Meeting Minutes September 17, 2026

Committee Members: Wendi Secrist, Pete Risse, Heidi Estrem, McKenzie Johnson, Jose Ortiz (ex officio), Kimberly Gardner (ex officio), Nick Swayne (ex officio), Petya Stoyanova (ex officio) Jennifer White (ex officio)

Staff: Denise Hill

Guests: Matt Freeman, ISU

Call to Order at 12:00 p.m.

***Action Required**

Welcome

- Roll Call
- Review Agenda
- Introductions

Review Executive Order and Initial Committee Priorities

Wendi Secrist. Co-Chair

- Background
 - Discussion began last spring, how we implement and what is the structure
 - Recommendations were made to the Governor including expectations of each agency 04-28-2026
 - Executive Order June 10, 2026
 - Framework Policy approved by WDC Council June 10, 2026
 - Wendi Secrist, WDC & Pete Risse, CTE Co-chairs
 - 4 voting members
 - Administrator of the Idaho Division of Career Technical Education or designee
 - Executive Director of the Idaho Workforce Development Council or designee
 - Executive Director of the State Board of Education or Designee
 - Staff member of the office of the Governor
 - Non-voting members
 - Representative of Idaho Department of Labor
 - Institutions of higher education
 - Data Liaisons

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- Agency Responsibilities – memo to Governor 04-28-2026
 - IDCTE
 - Lead administrative agency for Workforce Pell implementation statewide.
 - Issue provider guidance, application materials, and reporting templates.
 - Conduct primary program review and approval in coordination with SWPCC.
 - Maintain the official registry of approved Workforce Pell programs.
 - Coordinate data collection and state-level reporting to the Department of Education.
 - Participate in performance recalibration decisions.
 - WDC
 - Lead policy body for Workforce Pell implementation.
 - Designate eligible occupations using established in-demand frameworks and workforce data.
 - Validate employer hiring requirements and labor-market alignment.
 - Participate in performance recalibration decisions.
 - Receive annual performance reports from the SWPCC.
 - OSBE
 - Provide postsecondary policy oversight and articulation framework coordination.
 - Use the Workforce Pell data metrics and framework to support elements of outcomes-based funding (OBF) formula for higher education institutions
 - Ensure institutional compliance with SBOE program approval standards.
 - Co-issue reporting templates with IDCTE.
 - Participate in performance recalibration decisions
 - Idaho State Board of Education & State Board of CTE
 - Provide institutional oversight authority and policy direction.
 - Receive annual performance reports from the SWPCC.

Workforce Pell Accelerator

Wendi Secrist

- USDOL & USDOE
- Technical Assistance Program
- Idaho was asked to participate
- Kickoff is October - November
- Meetings will be twice per month via webinar
- Ms. Secrist will be submitting the application
- Thoughts on our participation
 - Yes, absolutely
 - Will we have access to the other states' process?

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- Yes, it is unknown what but will be a collaboration opportunity

Develop Roadmap for Implementation

All

Considerations:

- Interest from Idaho Public Institutions - Applications
- Workflow
- Alignment of CIP Codes across OSBE & WDC
- In-Demand Credential Discussion
- Thoughts
 - 5 occupations to start, each has nuisance
 - Phlebotomy Technician, should be straight forward
 - CNA + Restorative Aide and/or Patient Care Technician
 - Steppingstone to other occupations
 - Final rule is 70% placement or additional education
 - How to track which participants go on to other occupations
 - EMT Basic
 - Current delivery exceeds the 14 weeks or shorter rule
 - Opportunity to work with institutions on redefining
 - HVAC, Plumbing, Electrical
 - Apprenticeship
 - 9-month academic HVAC programs would not be eligible, longer than 14 weeks (but they are eligible for regular Pell)
 - Additional information received last week for RA may help
 - Welding Entry Level
 - Academic technical certificate is Pell eligible
 - Looking at WTF Welding, does not have good articulation path to credit programs
 - Applications – how do we get them
 - Web based forms (CTE)
 - Reach directly to institutions through Technical College Leadership Council
 - Concern about gathering the necessary bits of data
 - Review of applications
 - Is there articulation agreement in place or does it need one
 - Anticipate CTE & Board will start process of validation of articulation
 - Written version of agreement is essential, institutions will be expected to provide

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- Institutions will own the bulk of the work
- Recommendation on data collection, consistency
 - 1 or 2 options in each category
 - Mitigates risk for institutions, failure has huge implementations
- Challenge for Ms. Gardner, Ms. McHugh, Mr. Ortiz, and Ms. Stoyanova to provide some options over next month
- Absence of enhanced wage reporting, is there a proxy?
 - Treat this as a pilot
 - Work with employers on a voluntary approach
 - May find better approach through tech
 - Strada Institute may possibly have some resources for reasonable assumptions
 - CTE surveys, existing Perkins data
- WDC
 - Is there industry demand
 - WDC Council is working on their process for credential recognition
- Workflow
 - Alignment of CIP codes
 - A lot of inconsistencies
 - Ms. Estrem is working on a project to address
 - LAUNCH
 - In-Demand score for SOC uses 5 metrics
 - Map SOC – CIPs aligned inherit score, use highest score for link to SOC
 - Suggest adopting same
 - Issue - there are inconsistencies between SBOE & grant management system
 - Must have consistency across institutions & programs & software
 - Must overcome the challenge or we will never get it
- In demand credentials discussion, is it validated by industry
 - Develop matrix to determine?
 - Each would have value then use threshold

Communications & Engagement Plan

- Slide Deck

Pete Risse

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- We need to be consistent in our communication with our partners
- Confusion exists on what it is and the process
 - Opportunity
 - Allows Pell dollars to fund short-term workforce programs that lead directly to employment
 - Governance structure
 - Requires Governor's formal written certification
 - Issued only after documented consultation with the WDC
 - Timeline
 - July 4, 2025, Working Families Tax Cuts Act signed – creates Workforce Pell
 - May 19, 2026, Final Rule Published FR Vol. 91, Doc 2026-10013
 - June 10, 2026, State Workforce Pell Coordinating Council (SWCPP) established Executive Order 2026-05
 - July 20, 2026, Final Rule effective
 - August 2026, Initial target
 - Eligibility criteria
 - Length: 150–599 clock hours, or 4–15 semester/trimester credit hours, or 6–23 quarter credit hours
 - Duration: At least 8 weeks and less than 15 weeks of instructional time
 - Institutional Status: USDOE-recognized accreditation, Title IV-eligible, no ED suspension, emergency action, or termination in the preceding five years
 - Operating History: Running at qualifying size and duration for at least 12 consecutive months prior to application — no exceptions
 - Occupation Match: Leads to employment in an occupation on the WDC In-Demand Careers Matrix
 - Credential Quality: Leads to a credential that is both stackable (counts toward a certificate or degree) and portable (recognized industry-wide, not by one employer)
 - Articulation: A current, signed articulation agreement with at least one credit-bearing postsecondary pathway is on file with IDCTE
 - Delivery Cap: Non-Title-IV entities deliver no more than 25% of program hours (49% for Registered Apprenticeship-linked programs)

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- Level & Format: Undergraduate level only. Correspondence, direct assessment, and study-abroad programs are prohibited
- Automatic Disqualifiers – Rule 102
 - A program is ineligible if it is primarily recreational/avocational; its credential doesn't meet Idaho employer hiring standards; its occupation isn't on the Eligible Occupation Registry; the institution carries an unresolved Title IV sanction; or over 25% of hours come from non-Title-IV entities
- The Tuition Cap
 - The government sets a price ceiling for each program, based on how much money graduates earn because of it.
 - If VAE is zero or negative, the program is disqualified entirely, regardless of quality
 - Smaller programs get pooled national data, not Idaho data
 - Run the VAE math before requesting Governor certification
- Performance Standards, Rule 200
 - Completion Rate 70%
 - Employment Rate 70%
- Annual Reporting & Enforcement
 - List of students completing the program
 - Job placement verification
 - Published tuition and fees for the program
 - Triple certification, legal attestation: president, Chief Academic Officer, CFO
- Two Wave Launch Strategy
 - Wave 1 – Phlebotomy Tech, HVAC/Refrigeration, Welding Entry Level
 - Wave 2 – CNA, EMT Basic
- Will not replace LAUNCH but run together and provide better access for low-income students
- Risks of not having data, especially rural, get lumped into national comparator and will not bode well for us
- Each program must be approved at each location
- Presentation and policy will be sent out
- Communication to technical colleges needs to begin now, additional federal information will likely come

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Additional Discussion

- SWPCC to meet monthly, Doodle Poll to be sent

Unanimous consent motion to adjourn by Ms. Johnson. Second by Mr. Risse. No objections.

Adjourned at 1:00 p.m.