

TRANSMITTAL # 3

MEMORANDUM

October 3, 2007

TO: Workforce Development Council

FROM: Roger B. Madsen, Director



SUBJECT: Community Based Job Training Grant Proposal

ACTION REQUESTED: Authorize a letter of support for the grant applications

BACKGROUND:

The U.S. Department of Labor issued a solicitation for grant applications for Community Based Job Training grants (CBJTs). The CBJT grants are designed to increase the capacity of community colleges for delivery of training in high growth, high skill occupations. To be considered for these grants, a partnership must be in place that includes the Workforce Development Council as a key partner.

Two institutions have notified us that they intend to apply for these grants—Boise State University and Eastern Idaho Technical College. BSU intends to submit an application to expand its advanced manufacturing programs and EITC has prepared an application to build capacity to respond to needs for radiation safety technicians at the Idaho National Laboratory and elsewhere in the growing nuclear energy industry

Staff Recommendation:

Both institutions have established an industry need for the training and demonstrated benefit to the regional economy through development and expansion of the proposed training. Therefore, staff recommend that the Workforce Development Council authorize the chair to submit a letter of support for these proposals, offering to partner with the applicant in the development of the program.

Attachments

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Secondary: Cheryl Brush (208) 332-3570, ext. 3312

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

D R A F T

The purpose of this grant-funded project is to increase the number and skill levels of workers for Southwest Idaho's manufacturing industry. First, funding from this grant will be used to increase the numbers of individuals pursuing careers in manufacturing. Second, it is to build the capacity of Larry G. Selland College of Applied Technology (Selland College) at Boise State University to deliver advanced manufacturing skilled worker education and training throughout Southwest Idaho.

Boise State University was originally founded as Boise Junior College in 1932 and received its university designation in 1974. It is the largest of three state universities in Idaho and is a fully accredited member of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges. In addition to three universities in Idaho, there are six institutions in the state charged with the responsibility for career and technical education, of which the Selland College at Boise State University is one.

Until recently, the Greater Boise Area was the largest Metropolitan Service Area (MSA) in the country without a community college. On May 22, 2007 voters in Ada and Canyon Counties passed a referendum establishing a community college district in Southwest Idaho. The campaign to establish a community college was organized by key business leaders and its passage demonstrated the community's desire to increase access to technical and academic post secondary education.

In partnership with Boise State University, the Selland College will become the College of Western Idaho – a fully-accredited institution that will provide college credit technical certificates and degrees, Adult Basic Education services, incumbent worker training, and lower-

division academic courses and transfer degrees. Courses will be offered under the community college umbrella beginning Fall 2008, but it will take several years for the Seland College to fully transition all programs to its new location in Canyon County.

Until this transition is complete, the Seland College will continue to serve three distinct roles in Southwest Idaho:

- 1) It is a two-year technical college providing career education in 37 technical programs culminating in Technical Certificates and Associate of Applied Science degrees. Students have the option of continuing their education beyond the associate-degree level and earning a Bachelor of Applied Science degree. The seamless transition from one educational level to the next provides students with career ladder that will enable them to advance within their chosen career path. The Seland College is organized around Centers of Distinction. These Centers include programs in the following areas: Manufacturing & Engineering Technology, Business and Management, Construction, Health & Human Services, Horticulture, Information Technology, and Transportation Technology. Each program has an active Technical Advisory Committee that provides curriculum expertise, donates equipment and supplies, and hires graduates.
- 2) The Center for Workforce Training provides short-term, employment-related training to individuals and customized training for industry. Areas of focus for these flexible, short-term classes are: construction apprenticeships, trades certifications, business & computer, manufacturing, technical, healthcare, and job skills.
- 3) The Center for Adult Basic Education, which serves the under prepared population with basic education and adult literacy, English skills, and workplace basic skills.

EASTERN IDAHO TECHNICAL COLLEGE

D R A F T

Radiation Safety Technician Training

Region VI is seeking Governor's set aside training funds in support of a grant application for a community based training initiative to train Radiation safety technicians. This request to the State Council will help us leverage approximately \$200,000.00 to increase our capacity to ensure the goal of developing and maintaining a technically trained workforce at the technician level.

Labor Market Data on Radiation Safety Technicians indicates a shortage of qualified workers to serve the needs of the Nuclear Energy and Medical industry. The shortage stems from an aging workforce nearing retirement and a lack of qualified workers in the pipeline to replace them. With renewed interest in the benefits on Nuclear power generation, the industry is facing a critical shortage of qualified technicians. This is a National, Regional, and local need. Radiation Safety Training is a high wage high growth training opportunity that typically pays a starting wage of \$18 to \$25.00 locally and more nationally.

This request will help us join a consortium of community colleges who have already received a U.S. Department of Labor grant to prepare Rad Techs for the national need. We will be joining Central Virginia Community College and Lynn State Community College in Missouri in this effort and will become the Western Arm or extension of this training effort for the West and Pacific North West.

This project will also aid Eastern Idaho and Eastern Idaho Technical College in supporting the Idaho National Laboratory's role as the primary national radiation research facility.

This grant will allow Eastern Idaho to expand their offerings to entry level participants and incumbent workers who find it necessary to renew their certifications. Other efforts of the expanded program will include developing a tech prep 2 + 2 program in partnership in cooperation with the Advanced Learning Partnership Consortium and the Professional Technical High School that leads from high school to the community college and on to employment in the industry. This effort will include activities to increase student awareness of the opportunities in the Nuclear energy industry and educational requirements to enter the college program.