



## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

317 West Main Street, Boise, Idaho 83735-0510

### TRANSMITTAL # 2

### MEMORANDUM

January 15, 2008

**TO:** Workforce Development Council  
**FROM:** Karen A. McGee, Special Assistant to Governor Otter  
**SUBJECT:** Annual Performance Reports

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen A. McGee".

**ACTION REQUESTED:** None. Information Only.

### BACKGROUND:

The Workforce Development Council asked staff to develop annual performance reports to update the council on performance of programs under its purview. Staff have provided reports reflecting accomplishments for the most recently completed fiscal periods, most often for the period ending in June 2007.

The reports reflect solid, and in some cases exemplary, performance. While no specific action is necessary, staff welcome any recommendations for changes to these reports.

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Secondary: Leandra Burns (208) 332-3570, ext. 3327

Attachments

**Providing  
Leadership in  
Workforce  
Development**



## **Annual Update December 2007**

For the Idaho Department of Labor, 2007 was a year of change.

The three-year experiment of combining Labor with Commerce was brought to a close at the direction of Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter, who wanted more intense separate focus by directors and staff on work force development and economic development.

The knowledge and experience Labor Department staff acquired during the merger led to the creation of a Business Services Division to continue focusing on the broader needs of employers as well as the specific job, wage and benefit needs of businesses and workers throughout Idaho.

At the direction of Director Roger B. Madsen, the department continued reducing staff through attrition to cope with persisting reductions in federal grant support for the Unemployment Insurance, employment services, Workforce Investment Act and other programs. More than 100 positions have been cut over the past two years.

The department has assumed responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the Career Information System, which provides a wide array of data on occupations, skills and training to both adults and high school and college students. Legislation is being considered this winter to formally make the program part of the Labor Department, which is merging its data collection expertise with the Career Information System's distribution system.

The department also absorbed the applicant recruiting responsibilities of the Division of Human Resources, accepting the challenge of using its wide-ranging job recruiting assets to enhance the applicant pool for state jobs.

The Nursing Workforce Center, a program created three years ago under a federal budget earmark to assess the need for more nurses in Idaho, was reconstituted as a state program and placed within the Department of Labor to take advantage of the strengths of the department's research and analysis group.

Despite continued cuts in federal operating grants, the department is opening a 25<sup>th</sup> local office in January in Soda Springs.

The year ended on a high note when the department was recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor as having the best Unemployment Insurance program in the country. Idaho was the recipient of the first Pinnacle Award recognizing achievements in managing the program.

- Since mid-2006, 21 Workforce Development Training Fund agreements have been developed, covering \$3.8 million in training for over 1,300 workers. The average pay for those workers is nearly \$15 an hour.
- Under the Workforce Investment Act, the employment goals for adult, dislocated worker and youth participants were all exceeded in Program Year 2006. Nearly 3,000 adults and youth participated in the program, and the employment secured because of it saved taxpayers over \$1.3 million in public assistance costs while generating \$5.2 million in tax payments.
- A National Emergency Grant of up to \$3.9 million was secured to assist the 1,100 laid-off Micron Technology workers. In addition, Micron was awarded Trade Adjustment Assistance for those workers.
- More than 175,000 workers received employment services through the 24 local offices from mid-2006 through mid-2007, including 15,200 veterans and 9,600 people with disabilities. The total was down 5 percent from the previous year as unemployment dropped to a record low. Employers listed over 96,000 jobs openings during that period, off 5.2 percent from the previous year.
- Nonfarm jobs in Idaho increased 3.2 percent for the 12 months through September compared to the previous 12 months, the fifth highest growth rate in the nation.
- Unemployment in November was 2.7 percent, the 10<sup>th</sup> straight month the rate was under 3 percent. Idaho had the lowest rate in the nation in May, July, August, September and October.
- From mid-2006 through mid-2007, the Unemployment Insurance program paid out \$108.4 million for 455,915 weeks of compensation, a 5 percent drop in weeks compensated.
- Unemployment claimants received an average benefit of \$238.54 for an average of 11.1 weeks in FY2007 compared to an average weekly benefit of \$229.36 for an average of 12.1 weeks in FY2006.
- The Wage and Hour Section collected nearly \$360,000 in back wages during FY2007, up 23 percent from the previous year.
- Over 750 wage claims were processed in FY2007, 25 percent more than in FY2006.
- The Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund balance stood at \$309.5 million at the end of October, up from \$275.7 million a year earlier.
- The average effect Unemployment Insurance tax rate for Idaho employers dropped 30 percent in 2008 after declining 22 percent in 2007.

# IDAHO COMMISSION ON AGING

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C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor

Kim Wherry Toryanski, Administrator

**Responsible. Trained. Ready to Work.**

**Older Workers**

**Age Is an Asset. Experience a Benefit.**

Unemployment is at record low in Idaho and the need for a talented workforce is at a record high. Idaho's Senior Community Service Employment Program helps meet this need by serving unemployed seniors.

The Idaho Commission on Aging's Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) serves unemployed Idahoans, 55 years of age and older, who have limited financial resources. Many of the program participants have not worked outside the home for many years or have outdated skills.

The program helps seniors obtain the training and work experience they need to successfully compete for jobs. Services provided include employment planning, skill training, community work experience and job placement assistance. Economic independence, self-sufficiency and community service are the goals.

At the same time, Idaho communities benefit from the essential services performed by program participants. These services range from serving as child development aides to cooking and delivering meals to frail, homebound seniors. Idaho's SCSEP participants contributed 45,274 hours of community service during the year ending June 30, 2007.

## Performance Levels

Community Service Hours	45,274
Females	77%
Enrollments	103
Family Income at or Below Poverty	89%
Percent of Placement Goal Achieved	71%
Percent of Retention Goal Achieved	53%
Percent of Service Level Goal Achieved	106%
Percent of Most in Need Goal Achieved	97%
Percent of Aggregate Goals Achieved	82%

*Our vision is to ensure that all Idahoans retain their autonomy to determine their own life course as they age.*

# Professional-Technical Education

*The mission of Idaho Professional-Technical Education is to provide youth and adults with the technical skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for successful performance in a highly effective workplace.*

In the past ten years, high school enrollment in Professional-Technical Education increased 34%, while general enrollment increased six percent.

Professional-Technical Education has 766 programs in 109 Idaho school districts. Nearly all of Idaho's high school students enrolled in at least one professional-technical course in 2007.

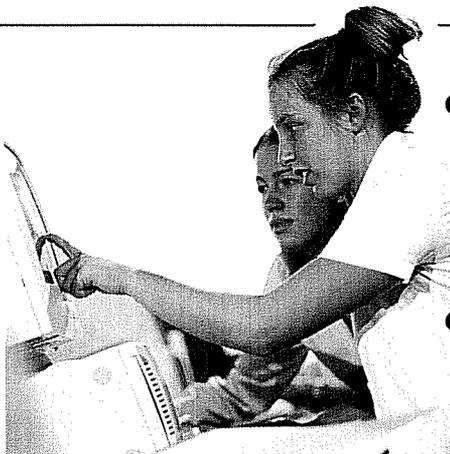
Professional-Technical Education course offerings include 23 classes that can count for science credit, 4 classes that can count for economics credit, and 3 classes that can count for health credit. That's a "two-for-one" savings in time, money, and resources for Idaho's students, teachers, and taxpayers.

Students in PTE's Tech Prep programs earn college credit for high school classes. Tech Prep credits earned in 2007 equaled a cost savings of \$1,529,319 for Idaho students. Enrollment in Tech Prep programs increased from 1,620 students in 1999 to 10,071 in 2007.

Sixty percent of PTE students who finished high school went on to college, compared to 44% of non-PTE students.

Ninety-four percent of high school and 95% of technical college professional-technical education completers in Idaho successfully found jobs or continued their education.

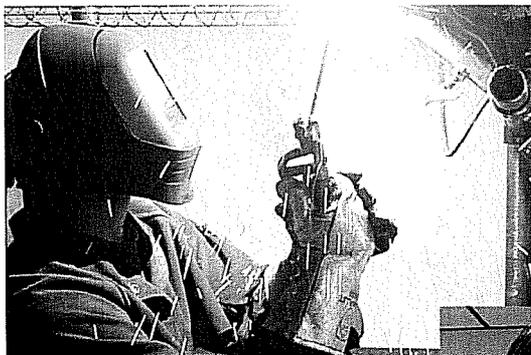
In a 2006 Idaho Public Policy Survey, 91% of the respondents agreed that high school students should be offered more opportunities to take classes for a specific career. Eighty-seven percent agreed more technical college programs are needed.



In FY2007 over 8,500 full and part-time students enrolled in technical college degree or certificate programs.

The Centers for New Directions, located on each of the technical college campuses, served 758 single parents and displaced homemakers in 2007.

In 2007 Idaho technical colleges assisted 43,678 adult Idahoans in improving their job skills. Of those, 37,358 were in short-term training with an additional 6,320 enrolled in Fire Service and Hazardous Materials Training.



# IDAHO ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM ANNUAL UPDATE 2007

## Program Overview:

The Idaho Adult Basic Education program continues to provide valuable services and instruction to adults with skill levels below the 12<sup>th</sup> grade who wish to obtain a GED or high school equivalency certificate, prepare to enter post-secondary or technical training programs, or enter/ retain employment. ABE offers an open door, and often the first step, towards skill enhancement for under-prepared adults who aspire to higher goals.

- **Authorization:** ABE is authorized under the Adult Education and Family literacy Act, Title II of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998, and it is the principal source of federal support for adult basic and literacy education in Idaho.
- **Funding:** Direct ABE student services in Idaho for 2006-07 are provided with funding from the federal Adult Education and Family Literacy Act in the amount of \$2,188,155. Additionally, the State of Idaho provided \$987,263 to support the ABE program in 2006-07.
- ABE grantees are housed in the 6 Idaho State Post-Secondary Institutions and in the Department of Corrections (DOC). Grantees are responsible for serving the region in which they reside.
- The total average cost per ABE student, including both state and federal funding is under \$500 per student.
- **Eligibility:** Anyone who is 16 years of age or older, who is not enrolled in secondary school and who has basic skill needs (below 12<sup>th</sup> grade level) may enroll in the ABE program. This includes students who may already have obtained a high school diploma or GED/HS Equivalency Certificate.
- Adult Basic Education is more than a GED program. It is a program that provides instruction in GED, but many adults come to the program having already obtained a GED or HS Diploma and simply need to refresh basic skills for the purpose of entering technical training programs or post-secondary educational programs, or to secure a higher wage job that requires further training and/or education.
- **Activities:** Adult Education provides eligible students instruction in basic reading, writing, math and English as a Second Language.
- Many students are meeting their goals, some take longer than a year to complete because life or work takes precedence.
- ABE rural and remote adult basic education outreach programs are provided in over 60 rural communities across the state.

- ABE programs serve the following age groups:

16-18 Yrs. Of Age- 1206 students  
19-24 Yrs. Of Age- 1919 students  
25-44 Yrs. Of Age- 3797 students

49-59 Yrs. Of Age- 924 students  
60 Yrs. Or Older- 116 students

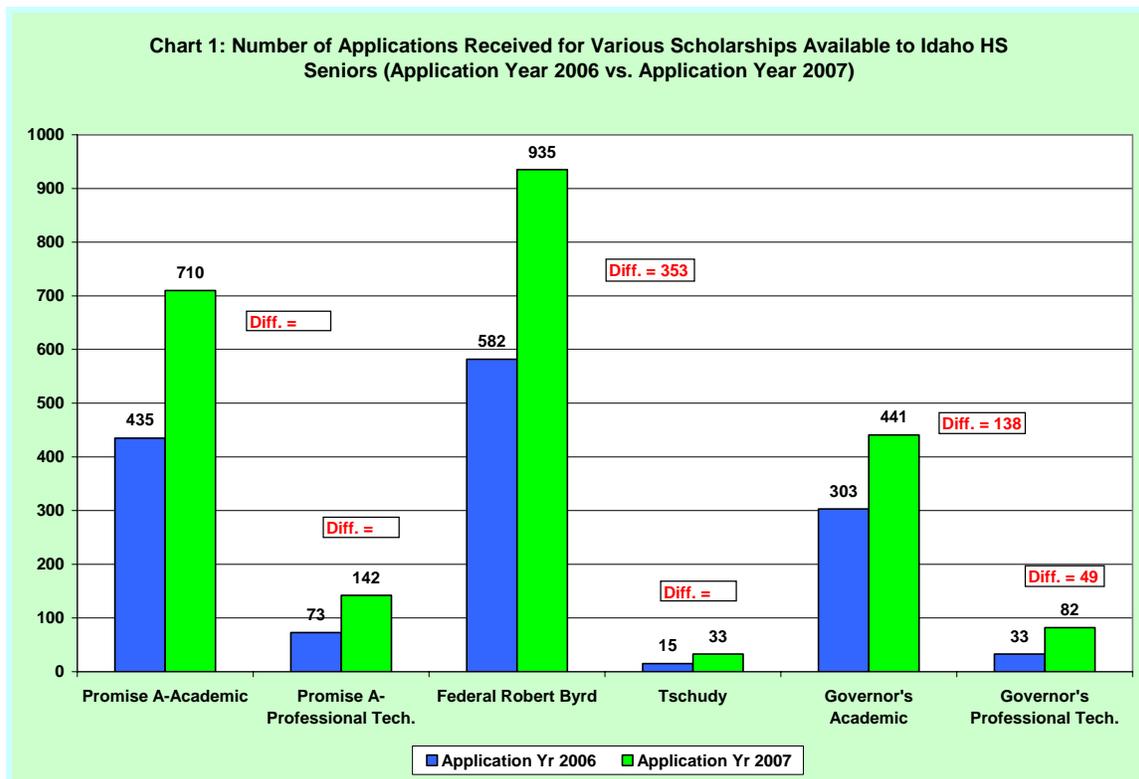
- 7,961 students attended adult basic education classes across the state in 2006-2007, an increase of over 1,000 students from the previous year.
- 3026 of the students served in ABE programs were English as Second Language learners.
- Almost 40% of the adults with the goal of enrolling in post-secondary education or training programs succeeded in meeting their goals within the program year. (Data Match provided through the State Board of Education).
- 946 adults who entered ABE programs for the purpose of obtaining a GED succeeded in meeting their goal within the program year. (Data provided by GED Testing Services)
- 1192 students with the goal of employment or improved employment met their goal within the program year. (Data match provided by the DOL).

# Idaho State Board of Education

## Online Scholarship Application Process Working Well

Now in its third year, the online application process is living up to the expectations as State Board of Education staff are seeing the benefits to parents, high school counselors and most specifically, students when applying for a myriad of scholarships available to Idaho seniors.

Below is a chart that shows six of the seven scholarships for which the State Board manages the application process. Not shown is the Opportunity Scholarship, which Governor Otter and the Legislature put in place during the last legislative session. The higher bar in each case reflects the 2007 numbers as compared to 2006.



In the past students, parents and high school counselors had to submit full application packages for each scholarship. Now all the information is submitted online. The basics need to be submitted just once and the student then identifies the scholarships for which s/he is applying.

This new process has resulted in a more efficient way to apply for multiple scholarships, an easy to use high school verification procedure, a reduction in the number of application deadlines and a more rapid response time to those selected or not selected.

**To:** Workforce Development Council  
**CC:** Director Brent Reinke, Idaho Department of Correction  
**From:** Gail Cushman, Director of Education, IDOC  
**Date:** 12/31/07  
**Re:** IDOC Education/Employment Update 2007

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**Overview:**

Idaho currently has a very low unemployment rate, with many businesses struggling to hire skilled workers. The Idaho Department of Correction has been collaborating with private businesses and state and federal agencies to develop training opportunities for incarcerated offenders and place them in businesses as they transition into the communities. Community Corrections (Probation and Parole) then supervises them. We are working with the US Department of Labor to develop apprenticeships that will lead to additional training and long term employment. We must use existing staff and facilities, so the projects are moving slowly, but we have implemented three programs that seem to be successful.

**Welding Project:**

The Idaho Department of Correction began teaching welding courses, in collaboration with Lewis Clark State College four years ago, and has taught 66 individuals, who achieved 61 welding certificates (FY2005—2007). The recidivism rate for these offenders is 13%.



In FY 2008, we continued teaching welding in Orofino (LCSC) and began to teach welding in Boise using BSU professors. We collaborated with several agencies and private businesses to offer this class three times a year. One was held in July, 2007, one started in December and another will be taught in June, 2008. Each of these classes will have 10 students who will be released within a year.



**Carpentry Project:**

The Idaho Department of Correction has been teaching carpentry for several years, but in FY 2005, we partnered with Habitat for Humanity to offer a hands-on opportunity for offenders to “give back” to the community. In those three years, we have taught 254 students, with 148 certificates earned. The recidivism rate for those students who have been released is 24%.

**Office Management Project:**

Idaho State University and the Idaho Department of Correction collaborated to provide an Office Management curriculum at the Pocatello Women’s Correctional Center, which began in November, 2007. This three-part curriculum provides three certificates, a Workforce Readiness Certificate (from IDOC), an Office Management Certificate from ISU, and industry certificates for various office technology skills. We anticipate 40-50 offenders to complete these curricula by July, 2008.