



Education Strategy Committee Hears Results of Albertson Foundation Research

Subcommittee formed to establish vision, adopt model

At a meeting on March 19, the Education Strategy Committee heard results of recent Albertson Foundation research, which was based on data from *Measuring Up 2006*. This is an established, decade-old system of educational measures that compare U.S. states with each other and international competitors on key education outcomes. From the data, researchers picked five model states and interviewed education experts in each one (South Dakota, Texas, Minnesota, North Carolina, and Utah).

They identified two areas that would provide the greatest opportunity for improvement in Idaho education.

The first was to **increase math and science course-taking** by eighth grade and high school students:

- Increase graduation requirements in math and science;
- Increase standards in earlier-grade curricula;
- Standardize and publish college-entry requirements;
- Add skills to high-stakes exit tests;
- Show the relevance of math and science to desirable careers; and
- Integrate fun into math and science curricula without sacrificing high standards.

The second was to **improve AP and college entry exam performance**:

- Increase incentives to districts, teachers, students, and their parents;

- Reduce barriers of costs, access, expectations, and preparation; and
- Use ACT or SAT scores as indicators.



Overall, the researchers found that **only an integrative, systemic, transformational strategy achieves enduring change.**

Success in the model states arose from such a process of strategic transformational change, all the

elements of which worked together under a continuous improvement model.

Following the research presentation, Chairman Gwartney formed a subcommittee, consisting of eight key education stakeholders. Its task is to establish a vision for the work of the committee over the next several months, and to base its strategy formation on a continuous improvement model. Guy Hurlbutt, IBCEE senior policy adviser, will chair the subcommittee.

The Education Strategy Committee is chaired by Mike Gwartney, IBCEE board member, executive director of the State Department of Administration, and retired CEO of Farmers and Merchants Bank. Committee members include the Office of the State Board of Education, State Department of Education as represented by the State Superintendent of Instruction, IEA, IASA, ISBA, IACI, IPTA, IDLA, IPTE and the J.A. & Kathryn Albertson Foundation. IBCEE serves as a facilitator among these education stakeholders and provides staff support for their deliberations.

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Teacher Quality Committee Monitors Task Force Progress

IBCEE's Teacher Quality, Retention and Professional Development Committee is monitoring the following:

Idaho Teacher Performance Evaluation Task Force 2009 Legislative Report – The report calls for all districts in Idaho to use teacher evaluations based on the Charlotte Danielson framework for teaching domains and components of instruction. Currently, more than 65% of Idaho's school districts have evaluation systems in place, including some using Charlotte Danielson's approach.

The committee is preparing a support letter to move these important teacher quality and development measures

ahead in a timely manner. The plan is to do pilot programs this coming year and then implement a statewide system in place the following year.



The Teacher Quality Committee supports initiatives that help retain quality teachers through development and compensation. It's chaired by IBCEE board member John Glerum, retired

CEO of Ore-Ida Foods and today director of the Boise State TECenter in Nampa

Membership Committee Clarifies Membership Criteria



Pat McMurray, IBCEE board member and retired CEO of Wells Fargo Bank, has become chair of this committee. He replaces Tami Brandstetter, who remains an IBCEE board member but has relinquished her role on this committee. Pat began his tenure by working with staff to clarify and write down the criteria for membership in IBCEE and to define our resource partners. Here is the new statement, which will be posted on the IBCEE website and distributed as appropriate:

IBCEE Members and Resource Partners

Members

IBCEE's members (currently numbering 70) are invited to join the organization based on their demonstrated interest in working across a broad spectrum of issues to enhance education quality in Idaho. Prospective members are recommended by a current IBCEE member based on the candidate's broad interest in educational issues and on one of the following criteria:

- A present or former CEO, President, or managing partner of his or her business, or
- The senior executive of a division of a large corporation, whose headquarters are out-of-state.

Resource Partners

A founding principle of IBCEE is to work closely and develop strong relationships with key education stakeholders. These include the education community, education-related associations, other nonprofit organizations with an interest in education, and government entities at all levels.

We have dozens of such key education shareholders as partners, and we strive to maintain clear and open communications with them. We exchange views and consult with them regularly by way of meetings and work sessions. We also share with them the IBCEE Newsletter, which is published several times a year, as well as other issue-oriented communications from time to time.