

Idaho Heavy Equipment Operator Training

Program

The Idaho HCWP has established a Heavy Equipment Operator Training program that includes certifications in Heavy Equipment Operation, and Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response. Students also received forklift training, Occupational Safety and Health Association (OSHA)-10 certification, and National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) Construction and Safety certification. A “Field Day” was held after the course to showcase the students’ skills to potential employers on eight types of heavy construction equipment (grader, loader, dozer, large and small excavator, skid steer, forklift, water truck).

Partners

The program is a collaborative partnership between the Idaho Transportation Department, Baker Technical Institute, Idaho Rural Water Association, Idaho Workforce Development Council, Idaho Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), and the Federal Highway Administration and others as part of the Idaho Highway Construction Workforce Partnership.

Results

Twenty men and women completed the 5-week program and are certified to operate select heavy equipment on Idaho construction projects.

Funding

The program combined a \$75,000 HCWP grant with the Idaho Transportation Department’s annual fiscal year 2019 and fiscal year 2020 On-the-Job Training Supportive Services (OJT/SS) program allocations. The program provided 5 weeks of training and graduated 20 trainees with NCCER Heavy Equipment Operators certifications for less than \$207,000.

Future

The Idaho program will serve as a model for other heavy equipment operator training programs in other geographic areas in Idaho and the Pacific Northwest.

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