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## Four Idaho lawmakers graduate from U of I Legislative Energy Institute

Submitted by [Dan Popkey](#) on Tue, 04/13/2010 - 9:15am.

Three Treasure Valley legislators and one from the Magic Valley are among 28 lawmakers from Western states and Canadian provinces receiving an Energy Policy Planning Program certificate from the Legislative Energy Horizon Institute.

The institute is sponsored, in part, by the University of Idaho.

Rep. Brian Cronin, D-Boise, Sen. Elliot Werk, D-Boise, Sen. Curt McKenzie, R-Nampa, and Rep. Steve Hartgen, R-Twin Falls, are the four Idahoans who graduated last week.

"The knowledge and experience I've gained through this program has been invaluable and will serve me well as I seek to advance Idaho's leadership on energy issues," said Cronin in a news release.

A member of the House Environment, Energy, and Technology Committee, Cronin added, "I've come to understand the complex interdependencies of our energy system and electric grid, the challenges of distribution, the growing role and promise of renewable energy sources, and the regulatory framework that governs energy."

The University of Idaho was one of the partners of the institute, which already offered a "bootcamp" for energy sector executives. Cronin said the executive program was used as a model to provide lawmakers with a similar but tailored curriculum. Other partners included the Pacific Northwest Economic Region, National Conference of State Legislatures, and the U.S Department of Energy.

The program began in July 2009 and included multi-day sessions in Boise, San Diego, and Washington, D.C. Legislators also participated in online webinars. Last week's sessions in Washington included meeting with a Federal Energy Regulatory commissioner, representatives of U.S. Department of Energy and an address by Secretary of Energy Stephen Chu.

"Learning and collaborating with legislators from throughout the region, including Canada, has fostered relationships that will help us to tackle the energy infrastructure and policy challenges that we face in the Northwest," Cronin said.

The program was offered at no expense to taxpayers, Cronin said.

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**Intro text**

An inside look at Idaho politics and government from Statesman reporters. Writers include Dan Popkey, political columnist and reporter, who is covering the 2010 legislative session and the 1st District congressional race; Brian Murphy, reporter and sports columnist, who is covering the legislative session with an emphasis on the budget; Erika Bolstad, a reporter in McClatchy Newspapers' Washington, D.C. bureau covering Idaho's congressional delegation; and others. This blog also includes links to politics-related Idaho news stories and to postings by other Statesman writers on their blogs, including Editorial Page Editor Kevin Richert's Commentary blog.

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