

NEWS RELEASE

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Western States Equipment Receives \$48,000 Workforce Grant to Assist with Creation of 18 New Jobs

Western States Equipment Co. will use \$48,243 in Idaho Workforce Development Training Funds to assist with the creation and training of 18 new permanent full-time positions in multiple locations throughout the state. Upon completion of training, the new positions will pay an average hourly rate of \$16.50 plus employer-assisted medical benefits.

The new diesel technician positions will bring the total number of Western States employees to 506 by June 4, 2019.

Western States is a full-service Caterpillar dealer offering sales, services, parts and rental across five states. Western States works with a variety of industries including construction, agriculture, logging, mining, trucking and locomotive.

The Idaho Workforce Development Training Fund was started in 1996 and is administered by the Idaho Department of Labor. Grant funds are used to reimburse businesses for the cost of training new workers or retraining existing workers with skills necessary for specific economic opportunities and industrial expansion initiatives.

Eligible businesses must produce a product or service sold outside the region, and the jobs must pay at least \$12 an hour and include employer-assisted health insurance. The fund is financed by a 3 percent set-aside of the unemployment insurance taxes paid by businesses each year. Learn more about the Idaho Workforce Development Training Fund at labor.idaho.gov/WDTF.

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