



February/March 2013 Update

Board Meeting Highlights

At its February meeting, the Board reviewed progress on the Complete College Idaho Plan, which supports its goal to see 60% of Idaho's 25-34 year olds attain a postsecondary degree or certificate by 2020. The Board also reviewed proposed changes to its 2013-2017 Strategic Plan and associated goals, objectives and performance measures. Discussion included implementation of the Idaho Core Standards as well as goals for dual credit and advanced placement opportunities. In addition, two new Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) programs were approved – at Idaho State University and at Boise State University. To view presentations and materials from the February Board meeting, visit www.boardofed.idaho.gov or www.boardofed.idaho.gov/meetings/board/archive/2013/02_20-21_13/index.asp.

The Board held a special meeting on February 14 and voted unanimously to recommend to Governor Otter and the Legislature that the \$33,915,200 designated in the Governor's budget for fiscal year (FY) 2014 be distributed to school districts to fund local differentiated compensation plans and to support professional development. In addition, the Board reiterated its support for funding of technology, additional science and math teachers, and dual credit opportunities. The Taskforce for Improving Education is expected to bring forward a recommendation for this funding for FY 2015.

A special meeting was held on March 5 with agenda items that included an update on the K-12 public schools budget from Superintendent Luna. The Legislature's budget setting committee approved a 2.2 percent increase in general funds for the 2013-2014 school year, which included the following: an increase in the minimum teacher salary, from \$30,500 to \$31,000; \$21 million in block grants to be distributed to districts and public charter schools for compensation (with up to 40% to be spent on professional development and 60% on differential pay plans); \$13.4 million for classroom technology; \$4.85 million to fund math and science teachers and instruction to help schools meet new high school graduation requirements; and \$3.75 million for professional development to implement the Idaho Core Standards.

Also at the March 5th special meeting, the Board authorized the Acting President to appoint a chair or co-chairs for a screening committee to conduct a search for a new president of the University of Idaho and to direct the chair or co-chairs to select a screening committee. They also authorized the Board's Acting President to identify a candidate or candidates for interim president of the U of I and to forward a list of candidates to the Board by April 5, 2103. It was announced on March 1, 2013, that current U of I President Duane Nellis was the sole finalist for the presidency at Texas Tech University.

Higher Education Budget Setting

The Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC) recently approved several budgets under the State Board. Highlights of the new base funding include:

Agricultural Research and Extension Service

- \$1M for operating expenses
- \$13,600 for occupancy costs

Health Education Programs

- 5 new WWAMI medical education program seats
- \$240k for the Boise Internal Medicine residency
- \$68,400 for the Family Medicine Residencies
- \$10k for the Psychiatry Residency

Professional-Technical Education

- \$180k for capital replacement items
- \$472k for added costs related to enrollment growth

Special Programs

- \$160k for the University of Idaho Rangeland Center
- \$58k to move the Office of the State Board Scholarship Program Manager onto 100% General Funds (currently funded on 76% soft money)

Remediation Initiative

Board staff presented information to the Senate Education Committee regarding the Board's initiative to Transform Remediation. The presentation included background on the need for remediation at Idaho's higher education institutions, the issues with assessment and placement of students in remedial courses and the best practice models of postsecondary remediation being considering by Idaho's colleges and universities. A Remediation Summit with representatives from Idaho's higher education institutions will be held April 25-26 in Boise to evaluate assessment and placement of students in remedial classes as well as three delivery models for remediation. These working meetings will be the major in-state kick-off to this reform effort. To view the recent presentations on this initiative, visit www.boardofed.idaho.gov.

Task Force for Improving Education

The 31 member group appointed by the Governor in December 2012 continues its work to develop strategies and recommendations for improving K-12 education in Idaho. The group initially identified five areas of focus – Fiscal Stability, Structural Change, Teacher/Administrator Effectiveness, Professional Development and Technology. Draft strategies and recommendations have been discussed and will be further refined at the Task Force's next meeting on Friday, March 15th, at Boise State University. Community forums will be held this spring to share draft recommendations with the public and gather feedback. Information about the Task Force, including meeting materials is available on the Board's website at www.boardofed.idaho.gov.

College Board announces AP results for Class of 2012

According to the College Board's recently announced Advanced Placement® results for Idaho's Class of 2012, over the last decade, there has been a steady increase in AP participation and success in Idaho. The number of public school graduates leaving high school having taken an AP Exam in Idaho has increased by 75 percent and more graduates in Idaho's class of 2012 scored a 3 or higher on at least one AP Exam than took AP Exams in 2002. AP courses help students develop the critical thinking, reasoning and communication skills that are essential for college success. For more information or to see the full report for Idaho's Class of 2012, visit <http://apreport.collegeboard.org/download-press-center>.

Contact: Marilyn Whitney – marilyn.whitney@osbe.idaho.gov – 208-332-1591