



## IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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April 15, 2015

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## **STATE BOARD APPROVES TUITION AND FEES FOR IDAHO PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

*Board Focuses on Limiting Increases to Maintain Access to Higher Education*

(Moscow). The Idaho State Board of Education approved tuition and fees for the 2015-16 academic year at Idaho's public, four-year higher education institutions. The Board and Idaho's colleges and universities partnered to limit costs to students while providing a high quality post-secondary education.

"The Board is committed to our goal of 60% of Idahoans age 25 to 34 having a post-secondary degree or certificate by the year 2020," said Emma Atchley, President of the State Board of Education. "We know cost is a significant barrier to higher education so we have worked with our college and university leadership to minimize tuition and fee increases for our students," she continued.

For the 2015-16 academic year, tuition and fee increases for resident students range from 1.7% to 3.5% - the lowest in 15 years. Lewis Clark State College's request for a 1.7% increase was approved as was Idaho State University's 3.3% increase. Boise State University, Eastern Idaho Technical College and the University of Idaho each had a 3.5 % increase approved. For the most part, the tuition and fee increases will cover a salary and benefits increase for college and university employees not funded by the state employee pay raise the Legislature approved earlier this month.

"This is a good faith effort by the colleges and universities to control tuition and fees in order to maintain Idaho students' access to higher education. We have received strong support from Governor Otter and the Legislature, and we hope this support will continue," said Rod Lewis, State Board member and Chairman of the Business Affairs and Human Resources Committee, which is charged with examining tuition and fee proposals.

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“We are balancing making higher education as affordable as possible and providing the programs students need to be employable, but we cannot expect them to carry the entire burden of additional costs,” said Atchley. “We understand the state budget process is one of balancing competing priorities, and we appreciate the support we have received from Governor Otter and the Legislature. Significant support from the state in the future will be key if we are going to provide education opportunities to meet the 60% goal and the workforce demand in Idaho.” Currently, tuition and fees cover 48% of the operating costs at Idaho higher education institutions, but they still remain among the most affordable among the western states.

The Board will continue its meeting tomorrow, Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM (PDT). The meeting agenda includes a progress report from the University of Idaho; consideration of Boise State University’s proposals to discontinue and approve academic programs; and review of the State’s request to the US Department of Education for an Elementary and Secondary Education Act Flexibility Waiver.

For those who cannot attend in person, the meetings will be streamed via the web at <http://www.uidaho.edu/newsevents/uidaholive>. The agenda and materials are available on the Board’s web site at [http://www.boardofed.idaho.gov/meetings/board/archive/2015/04\\_15-16\\_15/index.asp](http://www.boardofed.idaho.gov/meetings/board/archive/2015/04_15-16_15/index.asp).

The State Board of Education is charged with the general supervision, governance and control of the public educational institutions and the public school system of the State of Idaho. To learn more about the Idaho State Board of Education, please visit [www.boardofed.idaho.gov](http://www.boardofed.idaho.gov).

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