



## **GUIDED PATHWAYS PROGRAM FOR IDAHO'S STUDENTS**

**WHY IS A GUIDED PATHWAYS PROGRAM IMPORTANT?** Too few students successfully navigate their educational journey. Too few are prepared for postsecondary, too few go on and too few successfully obtain a credential that leads to a good career.

**WHAT IS A GUIDED PATHWAYS PROGRAM?** It's a comprehensive state-financed program that supports students starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school and postsecondary.

**WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE GUIDED PATHWAYS PROGRAM?** To achieve Idaho's goal of having 60 percent of our 25-34 year olds hold a postsecondary credential – a workforce-ready certificate, an associate's degree, a bachelor's degree or advanced degree.

### **WHAT ARE THE KEY COMPONENTS OF A SUCCESSFUL GUIDED PATHWAYS PROGRAM?**

**PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT:** Studies show that for 7 out of 10 students parents have the most influence on whether they go on to postsecondary. Having parents as full partners in their students' education is essential to meeting our 60 percent goal.

**CAREER AND ACADEMIC COACHING:** Besides parents, students must have other adults who help them determine their academic and career pathway. These must be adults who are dedicated 100 percent of the time to coaching students.

**SUPPORT SYSTEMS FOR STRUGGLING STUDENTS:** We must create systemic ways to assist economically disadvantaged students. Only through systematic means can we close the achievement gap between economically advantaged and disadvantaged students.

**WORK-BASED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:** Student industry internships give students hands-on learning opportunities and helps them explore and prepare for potential careers.

**ERASING SUMMER MELT:** Research shows that students have high aspirations about going on to postsecondary, but then don't show up in the fall. We must build a stronger bridge between May and September for students to cross so more students show up for school. Building this bridge must be a joint responsibility of our secondary and postsecondary institutions.

**ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY:** It's not enough to prepare students for postsecondary and careers. We must make postsecondary accessible and affordable for them. Other states have taken bold steps to make access and affordability possible. Idaho can too. It's a choice.

**STRONGER EMPHASIS ON ACADEMIC AND CAREER COACHING IN POSTSECONDARY:** Our postsecondary institutions must make student retention and completion their highest priority. Our fail-to-finish rates are too high. We can't achieve the 60 percent goal without systemic change at the postsecondary institutions.