

# HIGHER EDUCATION TASK FORCE FINAL REPORT

## Access and Affordability

**Recommendation – Provide a statewide digital delivery system, a digital campus that integrates and incorporates the current public system and partnering private institutions.**

### Principle

Citizens of any age can now access higher education without leaving their homes and families. Time flexibility is ideal for working around a job.

### Short-term Actions

1. Leverage existing outreach centers
2. Expand dual credit offerings through IDLA
3. Bolster E-tutoring and E-mentoring

### Long-term Actions

1. Create new outreach centers
2. Expand online college delivery to non-completers or adult learners
3. Identify a degree-granting authority for online degrees

### Owner

Higher education institutions  
IDLA  
State Department of Education  
State Board of Education  
Communities

### Government & Industry Roles (if applicable)

Accreditation (Northwest and NACEP)  
Legislature (funding)  
Outreach centers (libraries, regional labor offices, etc.)

### Outcomes

The delivery of a system that attracts, supports, and makes more affordable the higher education experience for those that do not see a reason or a path to engage in higher learning today.

Improve accessibility for all levels of postsecondary instruction to a diverse range of populations.

# HIGHER EDUCATION TASK FORCE FINAL REPORT

## Access and Affordability

### **Recommendation – Systemically increase scholarship dollars.**

#### Principle

Remove affordability barriers for new and returning students who currently do not qualify for merit-based assistance.

#### Short-term Actions

1. Increase funding for merit-based and need-based state scholarships
2. Increase amounts of merit-based and need-based state scholarship awards

#### Long-term Actions

1. Increase tax credit for scholarship donations
2. Encourage businesses to participate in paid internships and apprenticeships
3. Recognize and reward institutions that increase availability of need-based funding

#### Owner

Legislature (funding)  
State Board of Education  
Higher education institutions  
Business and industry  
Idaho Tax Commission

#### Government & Industry Roles (if applicable)

#### Outcomes

Improving affordability for all student populations through increased availability of need-based and merit-based aid.

Increased participation of employer-driven programs designed to assist students in paying for postsecondary education.

# HIGHER EDUCATION TASK FORCE FINAL REPORT

## Access and Affordability

### **Recommendation – Centralizing and standardizing processes to promote system-wide efficiencies**

#### Principle

Possible benefits such economies of scale, elimination of redundancies, and organizational structures that are in the best interest of students.

#### Short-term Actions

1. Standardize financial aid deadlines
2. Standardize application deadlines
3. Establish uniform processes for dual credit registration and enrollment

#### Long-term Actions

1. Consolidate back-end processes (HR, purchasing, etc.)
2. Develop a system-wide degree audit program

#### Owner

Higher education institutions  
State Board of Education  
State Department of Education  
IDLA  
Community College Taxing Districts

#### Government & Industry Roles (if applicable)

#### Outcomes

Improved efficiencies result in a lower cost to deliver education, which can then be used to reduce the cost of instruction to the student.