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**For Immediate Release**

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## **FIRM HIRED TO FIND EFFICIENCIES ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES**

The Idaho State Board of Education has hired a consulting firm to look for ways to consolidate services and create potential efficiencies at Idaho's four-year institutions.

Huron, a Chicago, Illinois-based consulting firm, was selected through a competitive RFP process and will immediately begin visiting campuses and working with staff at the University of Idaho, Boise State University, Idaho State University and Lewis-Clark State College to look for opportunities where services could potentially be consolidated to reduce or avoid operating costs.

“They will undertake an overall macro-level review of our State’s higher education system and provide an in-depth analysis on how we can more efficiently and effectively deliver higher education to Idahoans,” Board Member Andrew Scoggin said. “This analysis will include an intensive review of all back-office functions to determine which functions can be delivered at lower cost and higher quality by consolidating services currently being managed separately at each college and university. Our intent would be to reinvest savings identified from this third party analysis to directly benefit students by reducing costs and enhancing our educational delivery systems to make higher education more accessible to all

Idahoans. Idaho has one public higher education system, and this is an important opportunity to further reflect that in how the system operates.”

Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter included \$250,000 in his budget this fiscal year to hire an operational systems integration consultant and the request was approved by the legislature. The proposal stems from recommendations made by Governor Otter’s Higher Education Task Force, a 36-member panel convened last fall.

Huron will be operating under a tight timeline; the firm will develop and present a report to the State Board at its December meeting at the College of Western Idaho. If the Board accepts recommendations, it will then decide whether the recommendations can be implemented through Board policy, or if legislative approval will also be required.

Huron has worked with more than 500 higher education institutions across the country assisting with various financial management, budgeting and resource allocation initiatives.

Six different firms submitted responses to Request for Proposal. The process, including evaluations, were managed by the State Division of Purchasing.

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