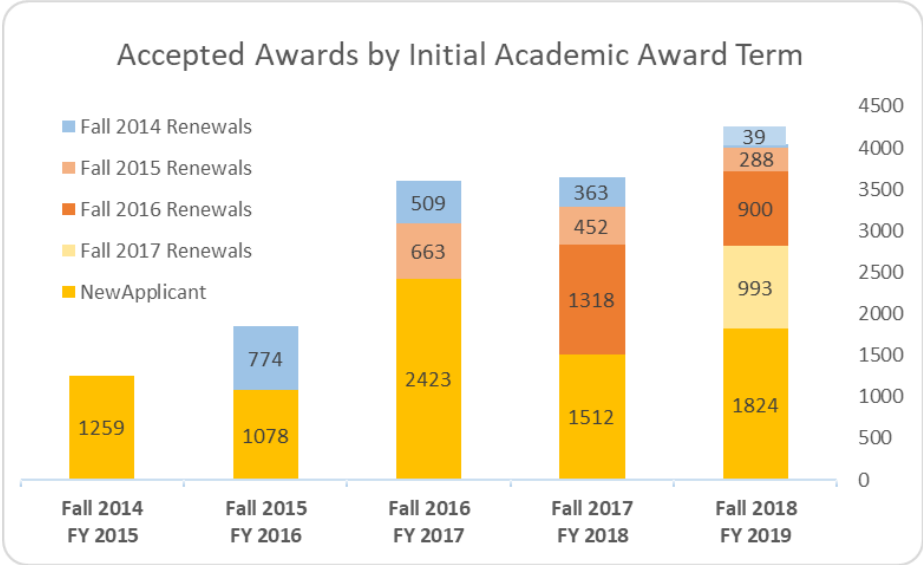


**Idaho Opportunity Scholarship Evaluation – 2018**  
**Bill Laude, Principal Research Analyst    November 15, 2018**

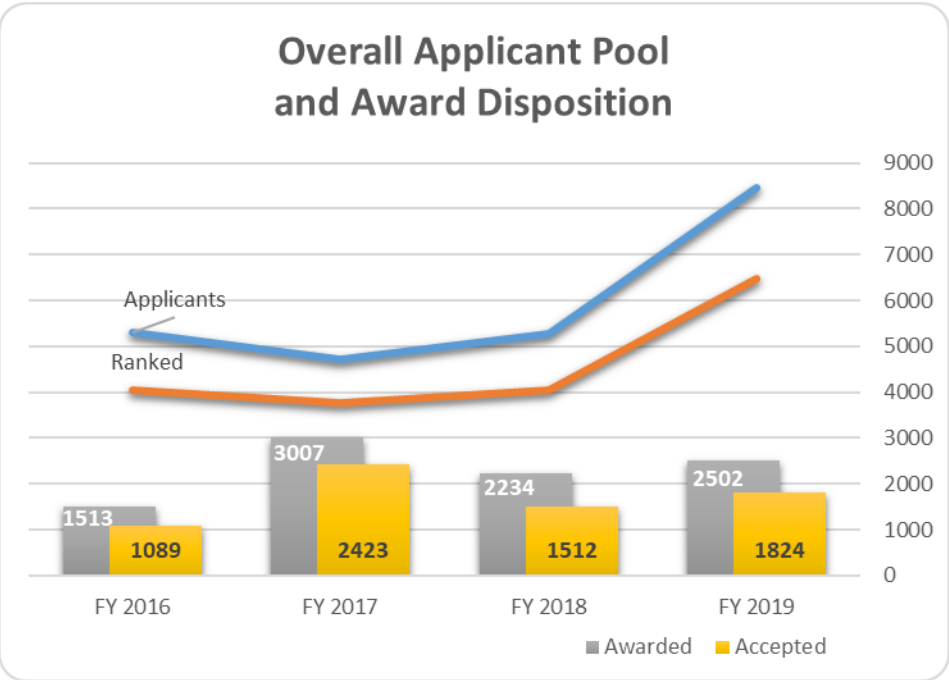
Developed to assist economically disadvantaged Idaho students attend college, the Idaho Opportunity Scholarship has helped support over 8,000 Idaho students in their postsecondary careers over the last five years. From a budget of \$5.127 million in Fiscal Year 2015 that supported just over 1,200 students, the scholarship budget has increased to \$13.78 million in this most recent fiscal year, in support of over 4,000 students. The effectiveness of this program in reaching and supporting the intended population of economically disadvantaged students is the subject of this evaluation.



**Accessibility for Target Populations**

Overall application volumes for the scholarship have increased by 159% over the past four years, with applicants who meet the financial reporting requirements (FAFSA completion) and in-state eligibility requirements of the program, holding pace at a 160% increase. This resultant group of applicants who meet all eligibility requirements are ranked for evaluation through the awarding process. The accessibility of the scholarship for racial and ethnic subsets will leverage this subset of Ranked applicants who successfully met submission criteria.

In evaluating the diversity of the applicant pool over this four year period, minority populations display significant



increases in their representation in the applicant pool, with the Hispanic population exhibiting a 236% increase in volume, and a 191% increase in Ranked, Eligible Applicants. Overall, the growth of minority groups within the ranked, or eligible applicant pool has increased at an accelerated rate, relative to the overall increase in ranked applicants.

Percentage Growth from Base Year 2016							
Race Ethnicity	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	Change to 2016	Change to 2016	Change to 2016
	Eligible (Ranked)	Eligible (Ranked)	Eligible (Ranked)	Eligible (Ranked)			
American Indian or Alaska Native	28	26	92.86%	26	92.86%	43	153.57%
Asian	57	59	103.51%	56	98.25%	118	207.02%
Black or African American	36	43	119.44%	29	80.56%	67	186.11%
Hispanic or Latino	445	398	89.44%	479	107.64%	852	191.46%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	7	6	85.71%	11	157.14%	20	285.71%
Two or more	62	17	27.42%	9	14.52%	8	12.90%
White	2,655	2,516	94.76%	2,915	109.79%	4,433	166.97%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3,290</b>	<b>3,065</b>	<b>93.16%</b>	<b>3,525</b>	<b>107.14%</b>	<b>5,541</b>	<b>168.42%</b>

Taken as a composite, non-Hispanic minority students represent 4.62% of the ranked applicants in Fiscal Year 2019, as compared to the overall 4.17% presence in the 2017-18 high school senior class.<sup>1</sup> The percentage of ranked Hispanic applicants is also comparable to their overall presence in the high school Senior Class population, at 15.28% ranked applicants to 15.61% Senior Class enrolled. Upon a resulting award offer, those rates net out to 6.43% non-Hispanic minorities, and 20.85% Hispanic; award rates that exceed the presence in the overall Senior Class population.

An additional factor in evaluating the accessibility of the scholarship concerns the geographic area from which those students are applying. In Fiscal Years 2015, 2017 and 2018, just under 16,000 high school seniors applied for the Idaho Opportunity Scholarship, approximately 25% of the Senior Classes over that period of time. The US. Census categorizes Urban and Rural Areas by both population clusters and distance from more densely populated areas<sup>2</sup>. The area designated as

Locale	Seniors	Applicants	Applicant Rate
City: Midsize	7,035	1,369	19.5%
City: Small	9,387	1,601	17.1%
Suburb: Large	8,839	2,266	25.6%
Suburb: Midsize	7,260	1,918	26.4%
Suburb: Small	3,540	957	27.0%
Town: Fringe	1,512	394	26.1%
Town: Distant	8,399	2,157	25.7%
Town: Remote	7,466	2,049	27.4%
<b>Rural: Fringe</b>	<b>3,361</b>	<b>1,071</b>	<b>31.9%</b>
<b>Rural: Distant</b>	<b>4,123</b>	<b>1,230</b>	<b>29.8%</b>
<b>Rural: Remote</b>	<b>2,707</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>31.9%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>63,629</b>	<b>15,875</b>	<b>24.9%</b>

<sup>1</sup> While contrary to federal reporting standards, due to significant year over year fluctuation in students who did not indicate or had no presence of this data point have been excluded from calculations in order to provide more consistent longitudinal evaluations.

<sup>2</sup> Rural and Urban designations derived from National Center for Education Statistics using US Census definitions.

Small City shows the lowest rates of applicants within the state at 17.1%, with the primary constraining driver being Pocatello with only 7.2% of seniors applying for the scholarship. Rural area students as a whole are more

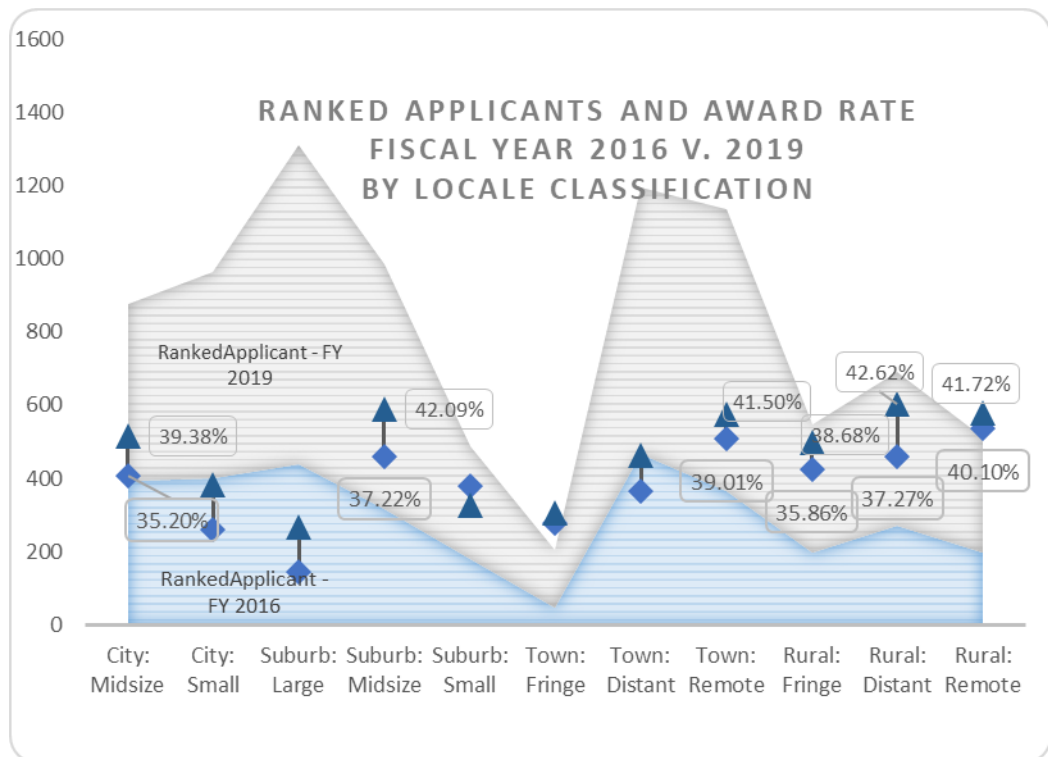
Locale	Aggregate	FY 2016	FY 2019	Change
City: Midsize	78	22.1%	21.8%	98.8%
City: Small	206	17.5%	21.6%	123.4%
Suburb: Large	532	21.1%	32.2%	152.8%
<b>Suburb: Midsize</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>16.8%</b>	<b>36.1%</b>	<b>214.8%</b>
Suburb: Small	129	23.8%	30.4%	127.9%
<b>Town: Fringe</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>12.9%</b>	<b>39.9%</b>	<b>309.3%</b>
Town: Distant	333	23.4%	31.7%	135.7%
<b>Town: Remote</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>20.1%</b>	<b>41.6%</b>	<b>207.0%</b>
Rural: Fringe	233	22.3%	40.0%	179.4%
Rural: Distant	195	25.1%	40.3%	160.4%
Rural: Remote	137	28.5%	39.5%	138.8%
<b>GrandTotal</b>	<b>3,229</b>	<b>21.0%</b>	<b>32.3%</b>	<b>153.9%</b>

likely to apply for the scholarship, with approximately 31% of those students applying for the scholarship. From Fiscal Year 2016 to 2019, the average increase in application rates among high school seniors was 154% across all locales, with Fringe Town showing the greatest increase at 307%, followed by Midsize Suburb and Remote Town at 215% and 207%, respectively.

The geographic locales with the highest award rates from the overall applicant pools were in the mid-size city category (Boise) at 37% and the outlying rural areas, averaging just over 36%. The locale with the lowest rate awarded at 26.14% was the Fringe Town, with Kuna at 26.17% and Shelley at 26.09%; though for Fiscal Year 2019, Shelley is at 28.75%.

From Fiscal year 2016 through 2019, the number of ranked applicants increased significantly across all geographic locales. The chart below details the number of student who successfully applied and were ranked for the Fiscal Years 2016 and 2019, along with the percentage of those applicants who were offered an award. The applicants most likely to receive an award offer are again from rural areas, though midsize suburb locales saw an increase in

award rate of 37.2% in 2016 to 42.09% in the most recent award cycle; with Caldwell and Middleton award rates peaking at 46.95% and 45.16%, respectively. No outliers presented within the Remote Town category through all three Rural categories where population sizes were adequate for that evaluation. During this period, the most significant increase to Senior



Class high school populations occurred in the Large Suburb category, the highest aggregate increases

presented within four high schools; Centennial in Boise and Mountain View, Rocky Mountain and Rebound School of Opportunity in Meridian.

Historically, assessment of Free and Reduced Lunch eligible students has been included, in part, in the evaluation to determine the success of the scholarship program in targeting economically disadvantaged students. While certain attributes that trigger this classification are indicative of a student's need for the scholarship, the overall evaluation of this population is less indicative of need than other, available attributes. Over the previous seven years, Free and Reduced Lunch eligible high school seniors represent approximately 36% of the Senior Class population, with the highest concentration being in the Midsize Suburb, representing 17.47% of the Free and Reduced Lunch eligible students; and in the Remote Town locale at 14.6% presence. However, these two locales have only a 45% Award rate from application as compared to an average award rate of 51.3% over the entire Free and Reduced Lunch eligible population. This disparity in award remains constant when controlling for both GPA and the application ranking process.

Free and Reduced Lunch Eligible		
Ranked		
EFC Range	Applicant	Award Rate
Zero	1,869	82.1%
1-4999	1,350	68.5%
5000-10000	287	20.6%
Over 10k	301	0.0%
Overall Award Rate	3,807	66.2%

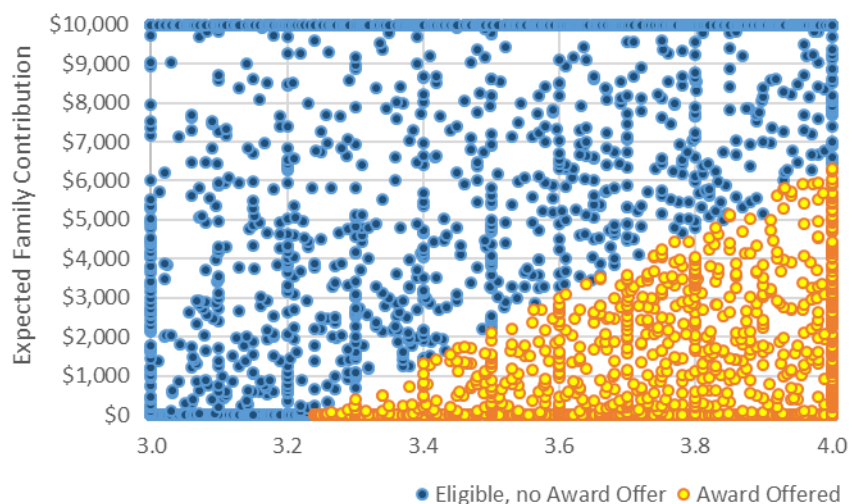
But when the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from the FAFSA is introduced to these populations, awarding normalizes across the various locales. A student with an EFC from \$0 to \$5,000 who has successfully met application criteria within these two locales has an award rate within 2/100<sup>ths</sup> of a percent of the award rates of that locale population subset, at approximately 76.42%. Across all locales and EFC values, the award rate for Free and Reduced Lunch eligible students

averages 66.2% and ranges from 0% for students with and EFC greater than or equal to \$10,000; and up to 82.1% for applicants with a zero EFC.<sup>3</sup>

## Immediate College Attendance

Upon successful submission, an applicant is scored on two categories; 0-70 points for financial need, and 0-30 point for GPA, with those students receiving the highest aggregate scores in a given year being offered a scholarship award. This ranking of applicants creates natural clusters in award and non-award categories which illustrate the relationship between GPA and financial need. In Fiscal Year 2016 (Fall 2015 awardees in the diagram to the right), a student with a 3.1 GPA would not have been awarded at any financial need level, though a student with a 3.4 GPA would have been awarded, provided their expected EFC was below \$1,300. However, as funding for the scholarship has increased over time,

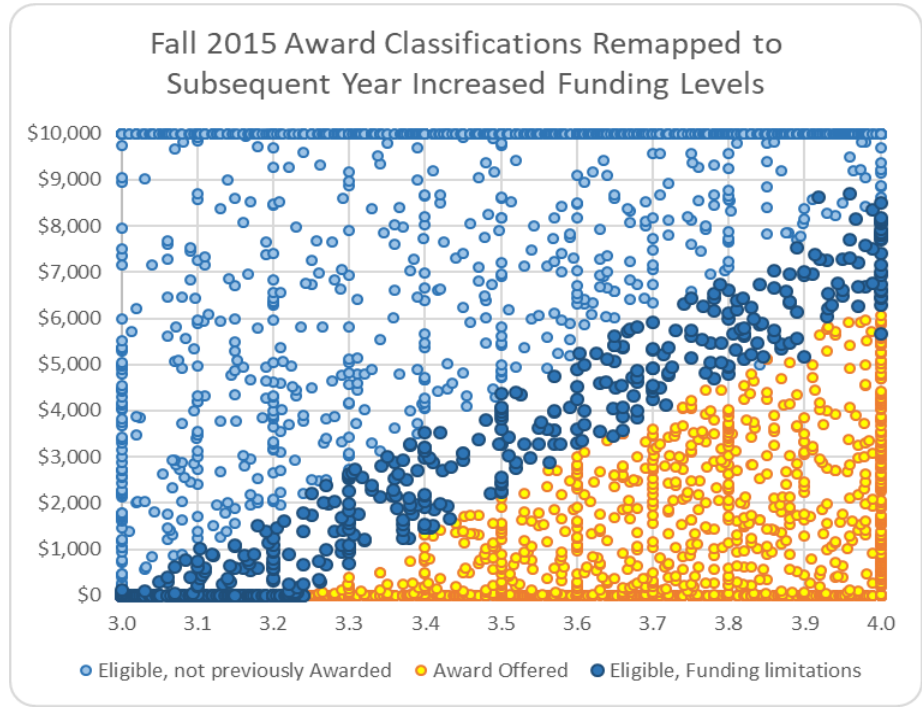
Scatter Diagram: GPA and Financial Need Award Classification (Offered) for Fall 2015



<sup>3</sup> Aggregate calculation exclude Fiscal Year 2017. Due to an increase in funding for that year, students were awarded outside standard awarding bands relative to other years.

there has been some year over year variance in the attributes of awarded students due to the increased availability of funds; so a student applying in a later year with a GPA of 3.4 and an EFC greater than \$1,300 might be awarded if funds were still available at that level of ranking, where they would not have been awarded in Fiscal Year 2016. In simple terms, the diagonal line between awarded and non-awarded applicants would move up or down depending upon the availability of funds in any given year. By identifying this year over year variance in student attributes, the impact on student behaviors in relation to immediate go on behavior can be evaluated.

The year over year funding variance can be leveraged by evaluating student populations that had different award classification but shared similar ranking attributes. This evaluative methodology not only creates



discreet clusters that are illustrative of the EFC and GPA attributes of historically awarded and non-awarded applicants, but also a band of students who would have received a scholarship in Fall 2015 (Fiscal Year 2016) had there been sufficient funds available at the time. This population of students can then be compared to students with comparable attributes from Fiscal year 2017 (Fall of 2016) to determine whether or not the scholarship had an impact on their likeliness to go on to college.

On previous award cycles where funding was significantly increased, this evaluation showed a statistically significant impact that the Opportunity Scholarship had on a student’s decision to attend college. Based on the analysis, the Opportunity scholarship increases the immediate college attendance rate for high school seniors. As the scholarship continues to grow, evaluations will be enhanced to determine if there is an impact on a student’s decisions to choose a four year over a community college, or to attend full or part time; as well as evaluating the relative cost by institution and the impact the scholarship has on a student’s school choice when overall cost of attendance and on-campus housing requirements are factored.

### Renewal Persistence

While longitudinal evaluations of the efficacy of the scholarship as it relates to actual degree production are still somewhat limited due to the time required to achieve a degree, evaluations of renewal behaviors subsequent to acceptance of an award can be leveraged to determine characteristics that are indicative of student success as they persist in their utilization of funds over their college career.

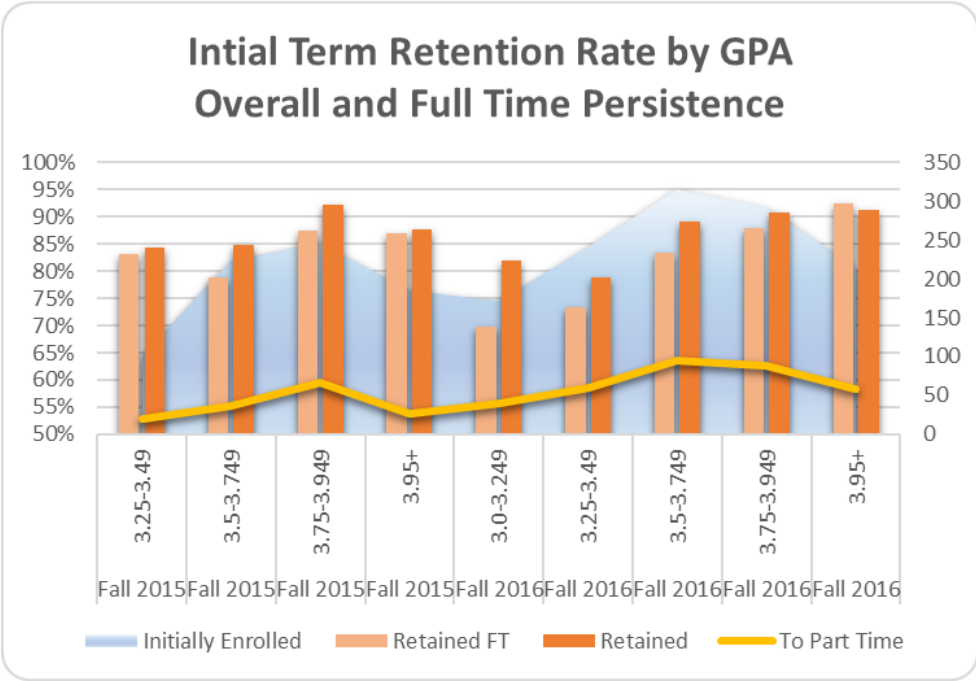
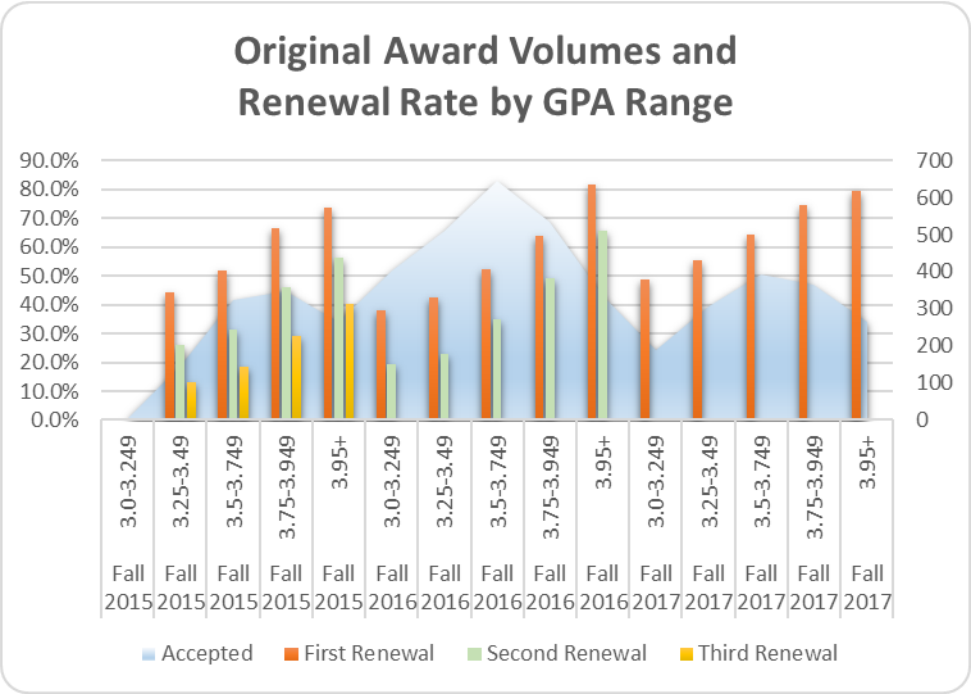
As a condition of the application process, the student is required to submit their high school GPA and their FAFSA application with EFC which can then be leveraged in the analysis of future utilization of the award to



determine if distinct characteristics of a high school senior are indicative of continued post secondary success or award utilization.

Until this most recent awarding cycle, the minimum GPA for the scholarship had been set at 3.0; and in reviewing the distribution of grade point averages within the applicant population, the requirements of the scholarship have somewhat skewed the distribution of GPAs in the pool of applicants, with a significant clustering of students at or above a 3.5. Because of this, a modified band was derived that grouped GPAs in .25 grade point increments up to

3.95, where an additional classification was then introduced. This modified distribution smooths the population into more typical groupings so subsequent behaviors could be more readily displayed. Over a three year span from Fiscal Year 2016 through 2018, 59% of students who accepted an award renewed that award in their subsequent year in the scholarship. That rate was at 60.7% in Fiscal Year 2016 and improved to 65.6% in



2018. As can be seen in the graph above, there is a strong correlation between a student’s high school GPA and the likelihood they will successfully persist in the scholarship program.

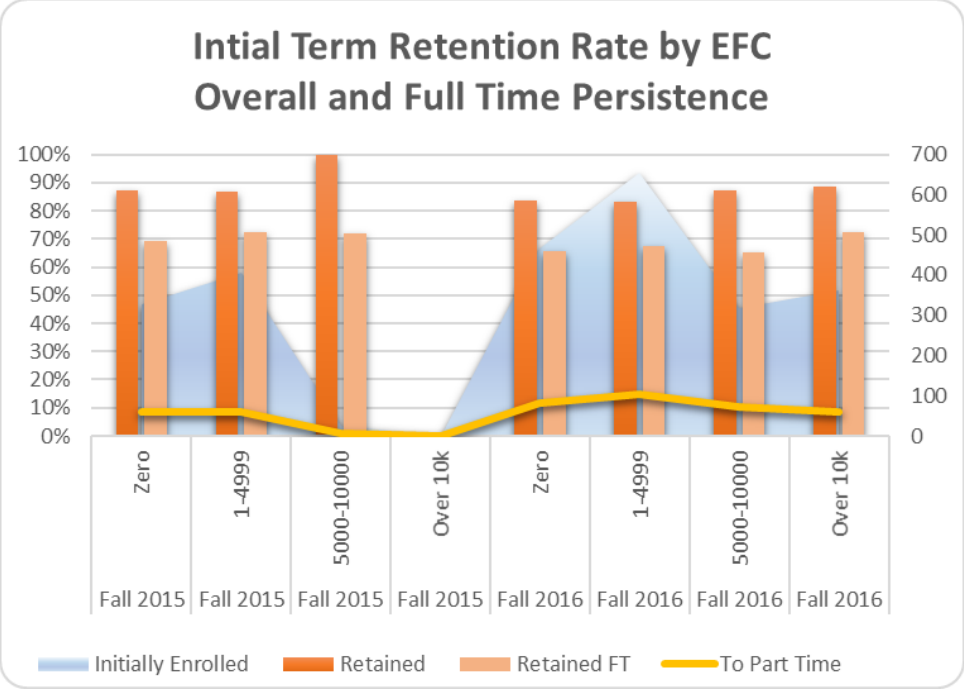
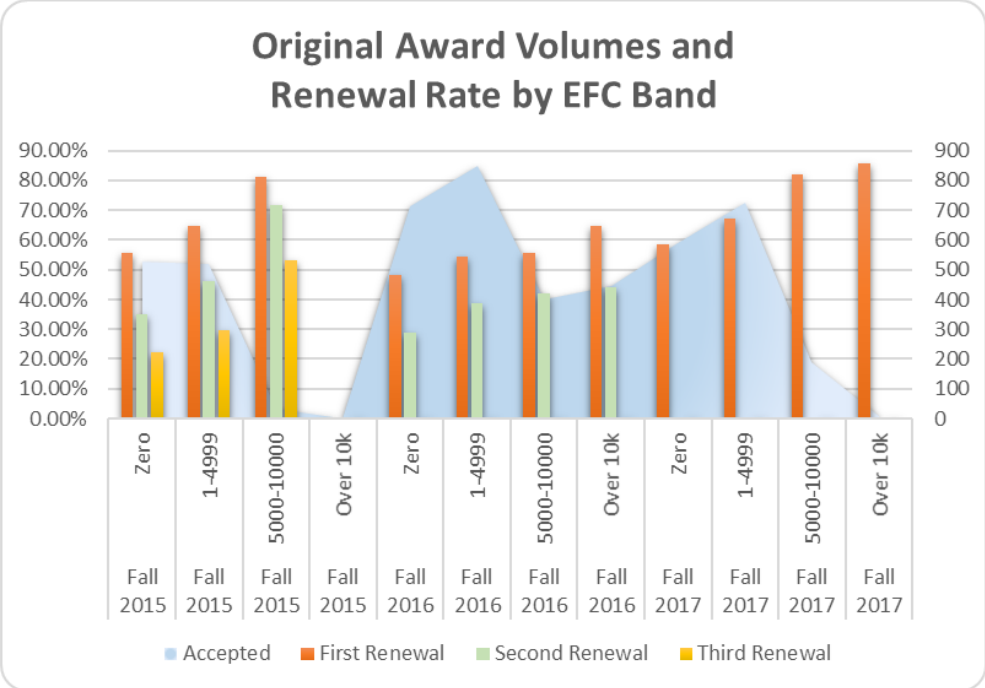
In contrast, the Fall to Fall Retention Rate for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017<sup>4</sup> for scholarship awardees is significantly higher, at 85.7%. As a condition of the scholarship, students must not only maintain a minimum GPA, but enroll in a minimum of 24 credits

<sup>4</sup> 2018 data is not currently available for retention rate calculations.

per year<sup>5</sup>, approximating full time status. The graph to the left illustrates that variance in retention rates over GPA bands when Part Time status is factored into the subsequent year’s enrollment. When evaluating Fiscal Year 2016 awardees, persistence into year three remains relatively high at 73.7% from the original enrollment cohort, but the percentage of full time students drops to 57.7%, leaving 28% of the original enrolled awardees still enrolled but ineligible for the scholarship.

A similar but slightly less pronounced trend can be seen in the Expected Family Contribution of the awarded applicants. In review of the EFC, a high volume of awarded applicants, relative to the overall award pool, had an EFC of zero; and because of this significant cluster, the next band was capped at \$5,000 in order to provide a relatively comparable comparison set, with subsequent grouping from \$5,000 and \$10,000. Some inconsistencies in groupings year over year are

the result of years where budgeted dollars were more limited and few or no applicants were awarded with an EFC in excess of \$10,000, though in years where additional funding were available, awards were generated within that category. While the scholarship renewal shows discreet variances by EFC ranges, the correlations



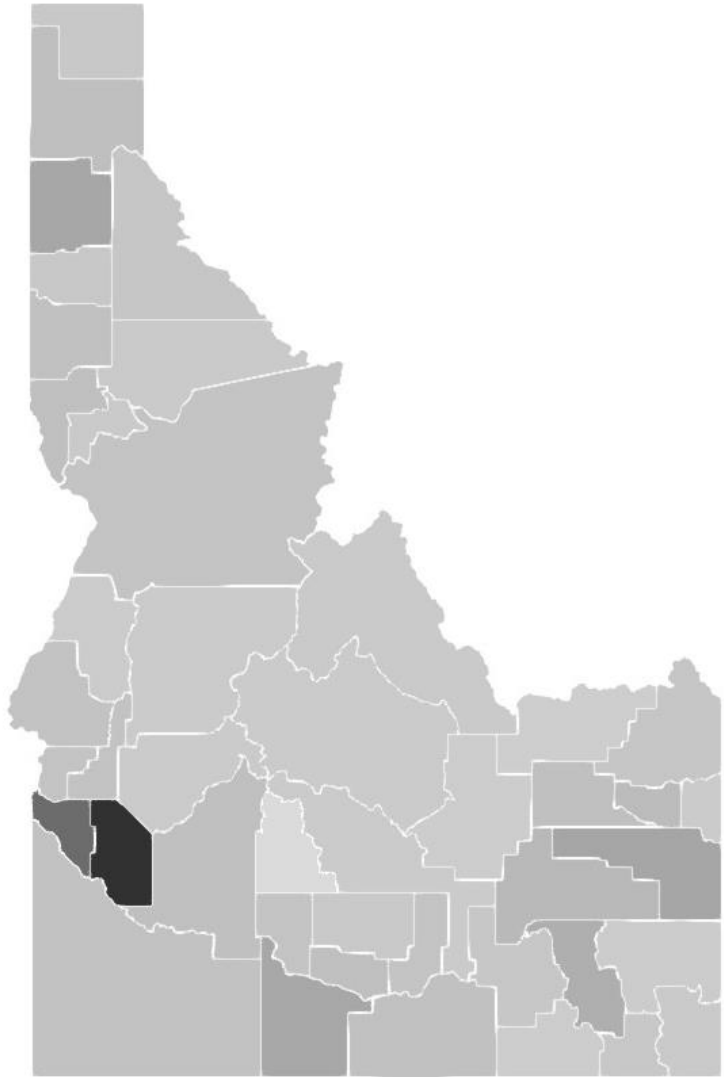
weaken significantly in the evaluation of renewals, where again the presence of the part time subsequent is displayed, but with significantly less correlation to the family contribution. In conclusion, while there is some modest impact within the limited EFC ranges that are captured in the application process, the student’s intial high school GPA is much more indicative of retention in their post secondary endeavors.

<sup>5</sup> 24 credits at a four year institution, 18 credits at a two year institution.

## Additional Demographic

### Awards By County

County	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	Total Awards
Ada, ID	398	787	540	643	2,368
Adams, ID	6	9	5	5	25
Bannock, ID	68	130	80	134	412
Bear Lake, ID	1	8	13	18	40
Benewah, ID	15	15	18	14	62
Bingham, ID	39	66	52	91	248
Blaine, ID	2	12	7	10	31
Boise, ID	6	11	9	7	33
Bonner, ID	38	61	41	35	175
Bonneville, ID	72	163	150	120	505
Boundary, ID	8	15	10	31	64
Butte, ID	6	9	6	1	22
Camas, ID		4		1	5
Canyon , ID			11	25	36
Canyon, ID	198	495	318	336	1,347
Caribou, ID		7	9	6	22
Cassia, ID	29	32	37	45	143
Clark, ID	1	4	3	4	12
Clearwater, ID	7	23	11	6	47
Custer, ID	10	6	6	8	30
Elmore, ID	25	47	34	46	152
Franklin, ID	3	13	21	27	64
Fremont, ID	9	29	27	15	80
Gem, ID	25	20	39	34	118
Gooding, ID	13	29	34	41	117
Idaho, ID	21	34	32	20	107
Jefferson, ID	27	64	39	30	160
Jerome, ID	28	40	50	41	159
Kootenai , ID				1	1
Kootenai, ID	111	226	106	90	533
Latah, ID	46	118	65	46	275
Lemhi , ID				3	3
Lemhi, ID	5	9	11	21	46
Lewis, ID	2	19	7	12	40
Lincoln, ID	2	21	15	10	48
Madison, ID	48	45	69	82	244
Minidoka, ID	15	24	22	48	109
Nez Perce, ID	30	48	43	55	176
Oneida, ID	1	2	2	8	13
Owyhee, ID	24	49	26	32	131
Payette, ID	17	34	27	28	106
Power, ID	7	23	25	25	80
Shoshone, ID	12	36	20	22	90
Teton, ID	4	12	10	7	33
Twin Falls, ID	86	122	127	168	503
Valley, ID	5	16	9	8	38
Washington, ID	22	39	29	28	118



Tribal Affiliated Applicants		
Fiscal Year	RankedApplicant	AwardedApplicant
FY 2016	21	3
FY 2017	13	9
FY 2018	26	19
FY 2019	42	21
Grand Total	102	52



**Facts on Idaho's Postsecondary Credit Scholarship**  
**Bill Laude**  
**December 11, 2018**

Idaho's postsecondary credit scholarship rewards is available for students who earn postsecondary credits (dual credits) while in high school. To be eligible, the student must be awarded a matching scholarship (based on academic merit) from a business or industry. The amount of the scholarship a student receives depends not only on the amount of dual credits the student has earned but also on the amount of the matching scholarship. In example, a student who receives a matching scholarship of \$200 is only eligible for a Postsecondary Credit Scholarship of \$200 regardless of the amount of dual credits earned.

There were 57 Idaho Postsecondary Credit scholarship awarded in 2018 (awarded in spring/summer 2018 and disbursed starting in fall 2018). Table 1 shows the number of scholarships over the previous three award cycles by Dual Credit accumulation:

Number of dual credits earned in high school	Award Term	Number with completed applications	Number awarded scholarship
10-19 credits	FA16	41	4
	FA17	50	17
	FA18	43	15
20 or more credits	FA16	61	10
	FA17	75	26
	FA18	68	33
Associate degree	FA16	3	1
	FA17	7	2
	FA18	5	3

The application for the Postsecondary Credit Scholarship requires the answer to two questions – the number of dual credits earned and the postsecondary institution the student plans to attend. Furthermore, it requires three pieces of documentation – an unofficial transcript of those dual credits earned, a high school transcript, and documentation of their matching scholarship.

For the 2018 scholarship, there were 278 students who started the application process. Of those, 10 were deemed ineligible for the scholarship. Of the 268 remaining applicants, only 111 actually completed the application. Of the 162 applications who did not provide all three measures of documentation, 159 were missing documentation on the matching scholarship; 114 of whom also did not load their high school transcript.

## Facts on Other Idaho Scholarships

Bill Laude

December 11, 2018

### Armed Forces/Public Safety Officer Dependent Scholarship

The Idaho Armed Forces/Public Safety Officer Dependent Scholarship is awarded to dependents (spouse or children) of Idaho military members who died or were permanently disabled as a result of armed conflict in which the United States is a party or to dependents (spouse or children) of Idaho public safety officers who were killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty. The scholarship provides a waiver of tuition and fees, \$500 per semester for books, and on-campus food and housing for awardees.

There were 13 Idaho Armed Forces Scholarship awarded for the 2018-2019 academic year.

### Gear Up Idaho Scholarship 2

The GEAR UP Idaho Scholarship 2 is open to Idaho students who participated in an Idaho GEAR UP program between Fall 2011-Spring 2019 at an eligible school (see Table 1), who graduate or receive their GED in 2017 or 2018, who are less than 22 years old when they first received the scholarship award, who are accepted and enrolled in an eligible Idaho institution (see Table 2), and who complete the application and the FAFSA prior to March 1. The amount of the scholarship will vary based on available funds and eligible applicants. For awards disbursed in academic year 2018-2019, the award amount was \$ 2,000 for the entire school year.

Table 1: Eligible High School for GEAR UP Idaho Scholarship 2

Eligible High Schools	
Aberdeen High School	Lapwai Middle/High School
American Falls High School	Marsing High School
Black Canyon High School	Meadows Valley School
Bonnars Ferry High School	Minico Senior High School
Buhl High School	Notus Jr/Sr High School
Canyon Ridge High School	Prairie Jr/Sr High School
Clark County Jr/Sr High School	Priest River Lammana High
Clark Fork Jr/Sr High School	Ririe Jr/Sr High School
Culdesac School	Salmon Jr/Sr High School
Emmett High School	Sugar-Salem High School
Gooding High School	Vallivue High School
Homedale High School	Weiser High School
Kellogg High School	West Side Senior High School
Lakeside High School	

Table 2: Eligible Postsecondary Institutions for GEAR UP Idaho Scholarship 2

Eligible postsecondary institutions	
Boise State University	Idaho State University
BYU Idaho	Lewis-Clark State College
College of Idaho	North Idaho College
College of Southern Idaho	Northwest Nazarene University
College of Western Idaho	University of Idaho
Eastern Idaho Technical College	

There were 1,250 awards between the renewals for 2017 graduates who initially accepted a scholarship in the 2017/18 academic year and newly awarded applicant who graduated in 2018. There were an additional 73 awards that were offered to new applicants that were declined by the student.