

650 W. State Street • Room 307 • Boise, ID • 83702 P.O. Box 83720 • Boise, ID • 83720-0037

For Immediate Release May 3, 2019

Contact: Mike Keckler 208-332-1591 (office) 208-866-5734 (cell) <u>Mike.Keckler@osbe.idaho.gov</u>

It's Not Too Late to Enroll in a College or Career Technical Program

Now that high school graduation is just about here for approximately 22,000 Idaho high school seniors, the Idaho State Board of Education is reminding them that they can still go to college in the fall, even if they haven't yet applied.

Approximately 11,000 postcards arrived in mail boxes throughout the state this week, sent to seniors who haven't submitted applications to one or more of Idaho's eight public colleges and universities. Last fall, the State Board sent letters to Idaho's entire senior class informing them that they had already been admitted and all they had to do was apply to the school or schools of their choice using the State Board's Apply Idaho website. About half of the senior class responded, while the other half hasn't.

"The idea behind this it to put out a message to high school seniors who haven't decided if they are going to "go-on" to school this fall, be it full-time or part-time, that it isn't too late to make those plans," State Board College and Career Advising Program Manager Byron Yankey said.

The postcard contains a link to a <u>Next Steps webpage</u> designed to answer questions hesitant seniors may have about enrolling in college or a career technical program.

The State Board also sent the postcard to former students who graduated a year ago and never enrolled. "These are students who may have taken a year off to work," Yankey said. "The message is the same for former students, that it is still not too late to make plans for one's future. All told we sent out about 18,000 post cards this week and we'll follow that up next week with a personalized email to each current and former student."

The "It's not too late" campaign is modeled after a pilot project campaign Yankey spearheaded last year aimed at high school seniors who showed interest in attending community college, but hadn't enrolled by spring. "We saw a bump last year as a result of that pilot project – enough of a bump to say let's ramp this up this year and see a similar result but on a bigger scale."

#####