



For Immediate Release

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U of I STUDENTS TOUT THE VALUE PROPOSITION OF ATTENDING COLLEGE IN IDAHO

Several University of Idaho students told Idaho State Board of Education members that resident tuition costs and scholarship support are reasons why they chose to enroll at the U of I instead of attending college out of state.

Sitting as the Board of Regents of the University of Idaho during the Board meeting that ended today in Moscow, the Regents listened to students from the Panhandle to the Treasure Valley. Most acknowledged initially wanting to attend college out of state but changed their minds after visiting campuses and comparing the costs.

“I really had my heart set on Baylor University in Texas,” said Bryant Sitts, a U of I student from Parma. “That was my goal until I saw the price tag and I said I can’t afford that unless I cut off my leg,” (drawing laughs). “The University of Idaho offered enough scholarship opportunity for me as a 4.0 student to attend the University almost debt free.”

“It was a no brainer for me to put myself in a good financial position by attending the University of Idaho after I graduated,” said U of I student Martha Smith from Kooskia.

“I came here mainly for financial reasons, said Anna Bliss, a U of I student from Bonners Ferry. “Without the University of Idaho and its financial program I don’t think I would have been able to come to college without much debt as I do now.”

“University of Idaho was not my main choice, I was looking at other schools like MIT and UCLA,” said Chadwick Goodall, a graduate student from Post Falls,”
“However, one of the main factors that affected my decision was the affordability given how expensive other schools are.”

Afterward, Board Member Bill Gilbert observed that the students’ reasons for staying in Idaho for college aren’t unique just at the University of Idaho.

“Our students come to Idaho institutions, so they are *not* saddled with a financial burden the rest of their lives,” Gilbert said. “We hear this from students at every institution where we hold State Board meetings, at Boise State, Idaho State, Lewis-Clark State and here at the U of I, time and time again.”

University of Idaho President C. Scott Green later told Board members that U of I students receive on average \$7,300 in scholarship funding per student, per year. Fall 2024 enrollment at the institution increased by five percent compared to the prior year.

Board Authorizes Lewis-Clark State College to Pursue Name Change

The State Board approved a request by Lewis-Clark State College to present its proposal to the Idaho Legislature to change the institution’s name from Lewis-Clark State College to Lewis-Clark State *University*.

As Idaho’s smallest public four-year institution, Lewis-Clark State College President Dr. Cynthia Pemberton and institution leaders say the proposed name change is expected to better represent the full range, scope and quality of the education programs offered at LC State – including GED, certificate, associate, baccalaureate, and graduate programs.

If approved by the Legislature, institution leaders assured the Board that the name change would not change LC State's mission or scope, and that the institution will continue to occupy the "small college space" within Idaho's higher education system.

More information about the proposal is available at:

<https://www.lcsc.edu/university>

Other Board actions during the meeting include:

- Reappointed Interim Administrator Judy Taylor to continue leading the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation until a permanent leadership is appointed.
- Approved the University of Idaho's request to create a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (BSEE-Global) in partnership with Hiroshima University in Japan. Students will focus on national security interests of both countries. They will spend their first two years studying at Hiroshima University and the final two years at the University of Idaho campus in Moscow.
- Approved an extended 5 year contract for Idaho State University Head Football Coach Cody Hawkins. The coach's annual salary is now \$230,000 per year with the potential to earn up to \$108,000 in additional pay based on the number of wins achieved by the Bengal football team.

The Board's next regular meeting is scheduled June 17-18, 2025 on the campus of Idaho State University in Pocatello.

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