

Senator Dean Mortimer
Chairman
Senate Education Committee
Idaho State Senate
WW55
700 W Jefferson
Boise Idaho 83720

Chairman Mortimer and members of the Senate Education Committee:

This letter is in support of Senate Bill 1291, also known as The Adult Degree Completion Scholarship.

In the College of Southern Idaho's eight-county service region, business and industry depend on a trained and skilled workforce, and many employees are graduates of one of CSI's programs, whether that be a professional technical program with a degree or certificate or whether that be post-employment non-degree training. Many of our regional employers find value in ongoing educational opportunities for their employees post-hire, and we often hear the completion of a degree or certificate results in better employees who are committed to their companies, who increase their advancement opportunities, and who can command a higher wage based on educational attainment. This scholarship will be a boon to employers and would enhance this workforce population by supporting those already working but who may not have completed a post-secondary degree before joining the workforce. Indeed, the opportunity for increased education serves the 60% Goal as well, bringing more Idahoans between the ages of 25-34 to attain a post-secondary degree or certificate by 2020.

The Adult Degree Completion Scholarship supports opportunities for working Idahoans to further their education, enhancing the state's existing workforce by helping workers to finish their Associate-level degree.

Sincerely,

Jeff Fox
President
College of Southern Idaho