



Idaho State Senate

SENATOR BERT BRACKETT

March 9, 2020

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee
Office of Performance Evaluations
Idaho Legislature
HAND DELIVERED

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Harris and Representative Rubel,

Idaho is missing a long-term vision for the state regarding expectations, funding, and informed policy decision for public post-secondary education in Idaho. This study proposal is a two-part request.

PART I: Policy

- Establish a baseline of how these programs are working so we're able to set new goals, determine progress and measure future success. The report should also consider return on investment, cost-benefit comparisons, and program impact on Idaho students.
- Evaluate the outcome of students who attend a community college and then transfer to complete their baccalaureate degree at one of our universities versus students who complete their entire education at a four-year institution. Understanding more about how community colleges and colleges/universities interact could help us identify best practices.
- Evaluate the results of Advanced Opportunity (dual credit) courses taken by high school students and how they contribute to degree completion.

PART II: Funding

- Our taxpayers are investing heavily in programs designed to improve the path to complete a certificate, associate or bachelor's degree. Some of the strategies utilized to accomplish these goals are Advanced Opportunities (dual credit) Programs, Opportunity Scholarships, and Adult Completer Scholarships.
- Determine the extent of the cost shift that's underway from the state to the institutions on building occupancy costs, and the impact of that shift on student programs.

- Develop recommendations and, ultimately, a model for stable long-term funding of public higher education in Idaho including endowments. Review the evaluations, studies, and surveys that have already been performed. Assess whether they have led to action or indicate whether further evaluation is needed.

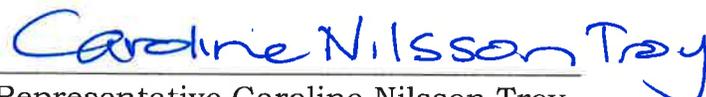
The report will provide current, unbiased, in-depth information to help policy makers (i.e., the SBOE, ISDE, legislators, educators, and administrators) make informed decisions that will help provide long-term direction for public higher education in Idaho.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,



Senator Bert Brackett



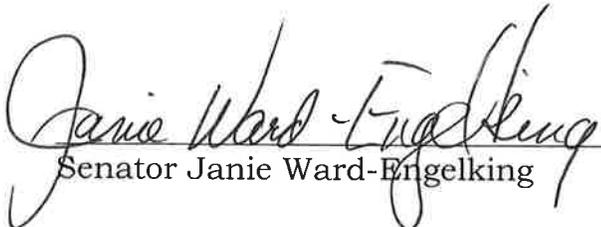
Representative Caroline Nilsson Troy



Senator Mark Harris



Senator Michelle Stennett



Senator Janie Ward-Engelking



Representative Paul Amador



Representative Britt Raybould



Representative Sally Toone