As is the case at most institutions, ISU earmarks a large percentage of scholarships to incoming freshman and transfer students for recruitment purposes. Few scholarships are earmarked specifically for non-traditional students or former students returning after a break in their post-secondary education. Expansion of the Opportunity Scholarship for awarding to non-traditional students who completed 24 or more post-secondary credits and stopped out (due to various reasons) would be a huge incentive to this population of students.

- Approximately 40% of ISU undergraduate degree-seeking students are non-traditional. (Note: Non-traditional is defined as a student who is over the age of 24 or the student is considered independent for FAFSA purposes, and has a family size > 1 as determined by their FAFSA Application).

- Many of these students face a variety of life barriers which prevent them from completing an undergraduate degree or certificate. For Academic Year 2017-2018, 3,131 (47%) of enrolled, undergraduate ISU students are
independent. Of these, 2,249 (71%) qualified and were offered pell grants (showing high financial need).

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-Survey results:

In late September 2015, a survey was conducted to target students that attended ISU fall 2010 through summer 2014 and had not re-enrolled by fall of 2015. The analysis was based on Idaho degree seeking undergraduate students.

-Our survey data indicates that for adult learners, life gets in the way—children, jobs, family obligations—and that they often leave in good academic standing. In fact, the overall GPA for Sophomores (27 credits or greater) who left ISU was 2.5 or greater; Juniors was 2.7 or greater, and Seniors was 2.75 or greater.

-Based on the survey results, a total of 4,910 (63%) did not return to college. The other 37% were attending another institution. Of the 63% that did not return to college, the primary issue was related to tuition and funding resources.