

S 1279

Good Afternoon Chairman Mortimer and esteemed members of the Idaho Senate Education Committee

The College of Western Idaho stands in support of Senate Bill 1279, and its efforts to augment possibilities for Idahoans through the Opportunity Scholarship and in particular, the effort to help those termed, Adult Completers.

We've been asked to address how we would respond to this effort from a capacity standpoint- I can tell you that CWI is aggressively moving towards efforts to offer more pathways to completion be it in certificates or 2-year degrees in a number of disciplines that are more favorable to working adults. Our "Night and Weekend" effort is underway to streamline the time needed to reach completion. We hear from students that they want to come attend, they realize the value of a completion; be it a certificate or degree-- but their lives simply can't accommodate fully existing schedules. They're working, a spouse is working, there are a myriad of reasons- so by making more pathways available through night/weekend course offerings both in person, hybrid and fully online-- CWI is striving to serve these people. The Opportunity Scholarship and the effort contained within to designate funds to help those Adult Completers is a strong first step to recognize and support these Idahoans.

Thank you Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee--

I would be happy to stand for any questions you may have.

(Submitted by: J Mark Browning, Vice President Communications and Government Relations, College of Western Idaho)

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