



North Idaho College

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Attachment 8

Community and Government Relations

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February 21, 2018

Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayne.

Greetings from the snow-covered, North Idaho College campus, 380 miles north of you. My apologies that North Idaho College could not be in attendance at this afternoon's Senate Education Committee but please take these written comments as our full support for Senate Bill 1279 relating to the Idaho Opportunity Scholarship and language for certain funds to be used for scholarship awards to adult completer students.

North Idaho College continues to work on ways to support adult students as they re-enter higher education on their path to completion. From the PSR-1 Fall 2017 Snapshot (lower division headcount), community colleges in Idaho serve 47% of our state's higher education students.

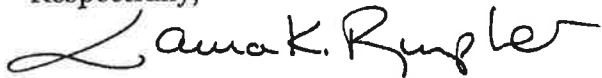
This spring we are rolling out a new multi-tiered mandatory advising model that will require any returning student, transfer student and other identified student populations that will benefit from in-person advising to meet with an advisor prior to registering for Fall semester. This will allow us to provide those needed personal touch points and advocacy/ navigation to set returning students up for success in retention and completion.

North Idaho College is also fully aware of the variety of students we serve, including those adult students who are working, juggling a family and other aspects of life. We are adapting our student services to meet the needs of our students outside of the traditional Monday through Friday, daytime hours model. We've extended hours in our offices and offered services on the weekends, during registration and the start of semesters to be here for our students, when they need us to fit their schedules. We've piloted programs in our Career and Technical Education offerings and our Health Professions to offer access to classes in the evenings and weekends. One of our campus-wide Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) initiatives is closely devising ways to remove the barriers to student completion and changing operations and processes dedicated to the ideal student experience and a student-centered focus verses employee operational ease. No student is alike. Each has a unique journey and a story to tell. As a comprehensive community college, we understand that for many of our students it is not the classroom experience or academic rigor that prevents

completion, but life and outside factors that get in the way. North Idaho College is dedicated to welcoming back students and helping them achieve their success story. Expanding the *Opportunity Scholarship* to support adult completers is a great step forward in helping more Idahoans thrive and succeed in today's current job markets and Idaho's evolving industry needs.

Thank you for all the work you do. We appreciate your consideration of Senate Bill 1279.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura K. Rumpler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "L".

Laura Rumpler
Chief Communications and Government Relations