

# Attachment 1

Good afternoon. Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for the opportunity to address you this morning on behalf of Boise State University. I've been in Idaho for only half of my 60 years, but my Idaho roots actually go back further than that. My mother was born in Lewiston and grew up on the edge of the Palouse in Ritzville, Washington. As a child we traveled to Idaho nearly every year, typically visiting the grandparents in Ritzville before heading to Lake Ceour d 'Alene for a week of camping, often with my older cousins from Helena, where my Dad was born and raised before heading into the Pacific for World War II.

My mom was a strong woman, full of life, and it was only after a couple years of living in Idaho that I realized where she got her spirit and her grit. I've raised two kids in Idaho – my daughter earned two degrees from Boise State, and my son is currently a Junior in the College of Engineering. Next year I'll finish my thirtieth year working for the State of Idaho, and it goes without saying that I've seen a lot of change, particularly at Boise State, which has grown over that time from a commuter school of around 10,000 students, primarily undergraduate students, into a doctoral research university that serves over 30,000 individual students during the course of a year if you include the 5-6000 high school students across Idaho earning college credit, and the largest number of graduate students of any University in Idaho, which recently exceeded 3500.

That growth and evolution, which remained steady through three recessions over those 30 years, has demanded the same determination and grit from the faculty and staff at Boise State that my mom gave me, and I am proud – and blessed – to have been part of it – starting as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry and moving through the ranks to reach this point, where I have the privilege of addressing you as Interim President.

To your questions:

What is going right in your institution?

- We are attracting young and strong faculty from top universities across the country
- These faculty see an opportunity to make a difference at an emerging national university, which has catalyzed the development of a unique culture at Boise State – one of innovation and constant change – that has earned us national awards and recognition.
- We were recently re-classified in the Carnegie system as a Doctoral Research University with High Research activity
- This is important because it attracts really talented students coming out of high school who are interested in the STEM disciplines – students who ten years ago would have gone to Salt Lake City, Seattle, Fort Collins or some other city to attend a metropolitan research university – but are instead choosing Boise State.
- For local students, that cost is lowered because they don't have to move and live away from home to go to a strong research university. But we're also attracting students from other cities across the west whose parents see a lower cost to send their students to a clean, safe city to learn and grow at an affordable cost.

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Colleges and Universities are in unique times - enrollment and costs are increasing. How is your institution addressing those issues?

- We are constantly adapting and innovating.
- Through the development of a program prioritization process, which is now integrated into a new budget model for colleges, we have institutionalized incentives for faculty to recruit, retain, and graduate students.
- As a result our faculty and staff are constantly developing new transdisciplinary degree programs that attract students so that their classrooms are full – and if they are not we either eliminate them, combine them, or reinvent them – fueling a culture of constant evolution and improvement across campus.
- We launched our new Passport to Education program last fall in partnership with CapEd Credit Union. This program provides access to an online college degree for members at a reduced cost through a monthly subscription, which can save them literally thousands of dollars over the cost of a traditional degree. As part of the package, we offer hands-on advising and guidance, to help them build a custom degree plan based on their needs or goals, and we provide workshops that help them put together portfolios that can earn them credit for workforce learning.

Advanced Opportunities has created great cost savings for students, but possible challenges for Colleges and Universities. What are the challenges for your institution and how are they be addressed?

- For Boise State, advanced opportunities for high school students have been just that – an opportunity.
- We have been steadily increasing our concurrent enrollment enterprise for over a decade – this year we will serve over 6000 such students – we even offer students in certain school districts where we have agreements in place, summer courses on campus at concurrent enrollment prices on a space-available basis. In other words, if we already have a course that is adequately enrolled to cover instructional costs, but still have a few seats available, we open that course up to high school students as concurrent enrollment.
- Percent who brought in any concurrent credits with them to Boise State in fall 2018 = 40.5% (up from 33.2% in fall 2014).
- Percent who arrived with concurrent credits from Boise State (some of whom may also have had concurrent credits from other places, too) - fall 2018 = 20.9% (up from 16.0% in fall 2014)
- This not only benefits students, it's a great recruitment tool for the local area.

What are you doing with other institutions in Idaho to enhance the learning process and increased accessibility for Idaho students?

- Concurrent Enrollment has been an ongoing effort for years.

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- Bronco Connect is a partnership with CWI and CSI which ensures that students coming out of community college with an associates degree can seamlessly transfer to Boise State and be on track to graduate with a bachelor's degree in two years.
- Students who sign up for Bronco Connect, for example, are advised on location and guaranteed transfer to Boise State under the current catalog, so even if we change degree requirements before they transfer we won't require them to follow a new catalog – it is as if they had been enrolled at Boise State all along.
- To facilitate this program, CWI and CSI provide us with office space on their campus and several classrooms so we can use Boise State faculty to cover any courses during the first two years of college that they don't offer.
- As part of this our faculties have developed articulation agreements – program by program – which we refer to as 2+2 agreements, that delineate the full four year plan for a first year student who attends two years at community college followed by two years at Boise State.
- We also made a list of the top twenty colleges and universities that send us transfer students, and over the course of a couple years systematically went through every course requirement for every degree program at Boise State and matched it to a specific course at the transfer institution, so that a transferring student would not have to duplicate any courses or march around campus from department to department to get a signature for every course equivalent they want to transfer.
- We did this to avoid the “gotcha” for students, but it's turned into a great recruitment tool for Community Colleges and Universities across the intermountain west.

When leaders from the largest universities across the country were asked by U.S. News and World Report to identify the most innovative national universities in the country, Boise State emerged in their list of the top 50 in the country — another sign that what we're doing here in Idaho is catching the nation's attention.

The nation has certainly awoken to Idaho, and the Treasure Valley and its University – and as a long-time resident and participant in the Boise State story, I feel in my heart of hearts that Boise State has played a significant role in the growth and economic vitality of this state. Thank you for listening. I'll try to answer any questions you have — and I've brought a few key campus leaders in case I need some help.