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\$4.6 million in 'Go On' Grants to Six Idaho Colleges **Grant speaks to improving state's low student retention rates**

BOISE – In an effort to increase the number of Idaho non-traditional students who go on or go back and complete degrees and certificates, and to help boost higher education's retention of these students through to graduation, the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation has announced the Continuous Enrollment Initiative.

The new program is an additional building block in the Foundation's 'Go On' Initiative to increase postsecondary success in Idaho. Current 'Go On' strategies include a statewide awareness campaign, \$11 million in targeted scholarships to 11 Idaho higher education institutions, and a high school-focused 'Go On' Challenge.

The new Continuous Enrollment strategy, with grants totaling \$4.6 million, will target the urgent need to decrease the number of college dropouts in Idaho. The national *Measuring Up 2008* Report ranks Idaho 50th in the number of first-time freshmen who return their second year of college.

"The fact that Idaho's retention rates are so low, coupled with the knowledge that by 2018, 61 percent of new jobs in Idaho will require some postsecondary education, convinced us that we needed to do more to seek a solution to this problem," said Jamie MacMillan, J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation executive director.

"If we can help more students continue their education and earn degrees and certificates, everyone benefits – businesses, the state, colleges, and especially the students, because with every year of education they complete beyond high school, they can expect to earn 10 to 20 percent more annually."

The Foundation has provided Continuous Enrollment grants to help six Idaho higher education institutions develop strategic initiatives to measurably increase non-traditional student enrollment and retention leading to credential attainment. They are:

- College of Southern Idaho
- College of Western Idaho
- **Eastern Idaho Technical College**

- Idaho State University College of Technology
- Lewis-Clark State College
- North Idaho College

The Foundation selected the institutions because they have accredited two-year programs that lead to technical certificates, associate degrees and four-year transfer options. They also have on-site Adult Basic Education programs that lead to General Education Development (GED) certification, a key college entrance portal for non-traditional students.

Furthermore, these institutions are a good match for recent job and workforce projections (Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce) that rank Idaho 3rd in the nation for the creation of jobs requiring an associate's degree.

Each of the six colleges will implement and sustain a unique Pilot Project plan focused on a specific at-risk population with significant challenges.

Expected outcomes at each institution include:

- Strong student support infrastructure
- Measurable increases in retention and completion rates
- Evidence of program sustainability

For more information about the Continuous Enrollment Initiative or the 'Go On' Initiative, contact the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation 208 424-2640 or visit www.go-on-idaho.org.

Contact information at higher education institutions:

- College of Southern Idaho – Dr. Edit Szanto, V.P. Student Services (eszanto@csi.edu) 208 732-6863
- College of Western Idaho – Susan Johnson, Director of Dual Credit and Instructional Support (susanjohnson@cwidaho.cc) 208 562-3247
- **Eastern Idaho Technical College – Melissa Bean, Executive Director, EITC Foundation (Melissa.bean@my.eitc.edu) 208 524-3398**
- Idaho State University College of Technology -- Teena Rhoades, Chair College of Technology (rhoateen@isu.edu) 208 282-5687
- Lewis-Clark State College –Dr. Andy Hanson, Dean Student Services (ahanson@lcsc.edu) 208-792-2218
- North Idaho College – Mike Mires, Dean, Professional Technical Department (jmmires@nic.edu) 208 769-7783

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Sources:

- [Measuring Up 2008](#), a biennial report from the [National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education](#).
- [Help Wanted: Projections of Jobs and Education Requirements Through 2018](#), Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, <http://cew.georgetown.edu>
- Education Pays 2010, http://trends.collegeboard.org/education_pays/report_findings/indicator/Labor_Market_Outcomes

Brief Overview of Pilot Projects at Individual Colleges:

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| <p style="text-align: center;">Lewis and Clark State College</p> <p>Target Population: Displaced workers, ABE/GED graduates, Alternative schools (seniors), conditional enrollees.</p> <p>Description: LCSC has adopted the national Circles program. Their 2 component project includes: A) programs that increase 'pre-college' readiness at ABE outreach centers across a four-county area; and B) College activities aimed at college participation, transition and retention. Their plan builds on a network of 'hands-on' student, staff and faculty activities providing a heavily monitored early warning and retention-focused approach to college success.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Eastern Idaho Technical College</p> <p>Target Population: Students from ABE program and alternative high school seniors.</p> <p>Description: EITC's plan builds on 3 existing recruitment and retention programs operated through their ABE and Center for New Directions (CND). The plan places priority emphasis on student advising, counseling, college orientation and mentoring as keys to student college transition and retention. Project also places emphasis on outreach activities to area alternative high school students with college readiness support activities.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Idaho State University, College of Technology</p> <p>Target Population: Students preparing to test for GED or who have completed the GED.</p> <p>Description: ISU CoT proposes a multi-tiered, integrated-service program to enhance access to post-secondary education by GED graduates, increase student retention once enrolled in college leading to certificate or associates degree. Their proposal builds on a coordinated platform of activities provided by ISU CoT ABE, Center for New Directions, and Technical General Education departments.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">College of Southern Idaho</p> <p>Target Population: ABE/GED, ESL students who demonstrate promise for college entrance.</p> <p>Description: CSI proposes a project that increases college readiness and success for selected GED and ESL students. Their proposal builds on a comprehensive continuum of activities to prepare, transition and retain participants in college technical and academic associate programs. They were also approved to pilot a dual credit project targeted at two alternative high schools (Hailey, Twin Falls).</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">North Idaho College</p> <p>Target Population: Students completing the ABE program.</p> <p>Description: NIC's plan expands on their Integrated Basic Education Skills Training (I-BEST) program model offering integrated basic skills and occupational training and instruction for selected participants. Their project places added priority emphasis on a case management approach that increases student progress monitoring, remediation and/or intervention.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">College of Western Idaho</p> <p>Target Population: Participating 'Go On' alternative high schools in Ada and Canyon county.</p> <p>Description: CWI's plan is to expand the dual credit and tech prep programs to alternative high school students to help prepare them for a post-high school education option. It includes: 1) collaboration between CWI faculty and high school educators to better equip them to teach college-level coursework 2) transition services including advising, 3) assistance with financial and application forms, 4) COMPASS placement testing 5) mentoring by CWI students as part of their service learning and 6) campus visits.</p> |