



August 19, 2020

Higher Education in Idaho

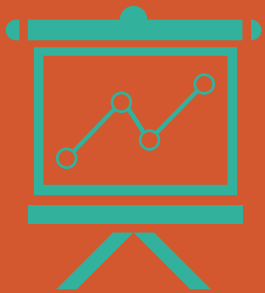
for Higher Education Connectors



Intro...

The purpose of this training module is to provide basic information about higher education opportunities in Idaho for Higher Education Connectors to help guide individuals seeking higher education opportunities.

Module Components

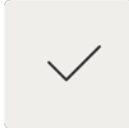


- Higher Ed Connector?
- Higher Ed in Idaho
- Exploring financial benefits
- Marketing Plan

What is a Higher Education Connector?

They act as a guide within their communities and assist community members start or continue their higher education goals.

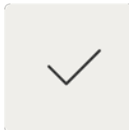
Connector Characteristics



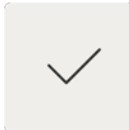
Excited to help others start a new journey



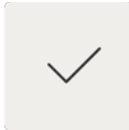
Passionate about higher education



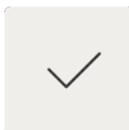
Attentive : a great listener & communicator



Knowledgeable about higher ed processes and policies in Idaho



Problem - Solver



Knows when to refer: connects students

Stories of Students



- Who are the adult learners in your community exploring higher education?
- What are the methods libraries use to help guide these adult learners to the next step?

Target Audience for the ILP



- Idaho residents living in rural communities
- Characteristics (one or more):
 - Individuals with some college but no degree
 - Individuals with no college experience
 - First-generation individuals (i.e., one or more parents/ guardians did not complete a four-year degree)
 - Working individuals
 - Individuals with families (spouse, children, and/ or extended family members in the home)
 - Veterans and current servicemembers

What is a Degree?

A degree is a credential given to students of a higher learning institution who have achieved the requirements in a specific area(s) of study.

Associates Degrees

Two - year

- *Associate of Arts (AA)*: two years and typically 60 credits, leads towards many different careers
- *Associate of Science (AS)*: two years, if attending full -time and typically 60 credits
- *Associate of Applied Science (AAS)*: two years and typically takes more than 60 credits to complete (some over 90 credits). This degree integrates technical career skills and leads to a very specific career/job track (e.g., Surgical Technology, Administrative Specialist).
- Career & Technical Education (CTE) are typically not transferable towards academic -based degrees. Students seeking a bachelor's after completing an AAS typically work towards a Bachelor of Applied Science degree or a similar track.

Baccalaureate Degrees

Four - year

- Four years (or so); 120 credits. Undergraduate. Subject-specific degrees (e.g., Political Science, Social Work, Mechanical Engineering).
- Bachelor of Arts (BA)
- Bachelor of Science (BS)
- Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS)
- Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)

Graduate Degrees

- Typically earned after a bachelors degree (or simultaneously with a bachelors) in a specific subject.
- Master of Arts (MA)
- Master of Sciences (MS)
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Future Finder

EXPLORE THE SITE

Future Finder

Take a Look at Your Future Self

Ever wonder what career might be a good fit for you? Want to make sure you're exploring all your options? Take a quick quiz about what you're good at and what you're into to see careers that are the best match for your skills and interests.

LET'S GO



Future Finder

<https://nextsteps.idaho.gov/future-finder>

Types and Examples of Public Higher Education Institutions

- Idaho Office of the State Board of Education (OSBE) oversees eight colleges and universities
- Community College / two -year: associates degrees
 - College of Southern Idaho (CSI), College of Eastern Idaho (CEI), College of Western Idaho (CWI), North Idaho College (NIC)
- College: undergraduate degrees
 - Lewis-Clark State College (LCSC)
- University: undergraduate and graduate degrees
 - Boise State University (BSU), Idaho State University (ISU), University of Idaho (UofI)

Public vs Private Institutions

- Size: Private schools tend to be smaller overall and students enjoy smaller class sizes.
- Funding: Public institutions are partially funded by state governments. Private institutions rely on tuition and private contributors. Private colleges can be not-for-profit or for profit.
- Resources and niche majors: Some prestigious private colleges offer more resources for students such as private tutors, more student activities etc. Think: Harvard, Stanford, NNU, College of Idaho, BYU-I. Many private institutions offer niche degree programs/plans. Think Juilliard School or Carnegie Mellon University (PA).

Accreditation Matters

- [Accreditation](#) is a metric used to oversee and measure the quality of education being offered at institutions nationwide.
- Accrediting agencies are private educational associations of regional or national scope, that develop an evaluation criteria and conduct peer evaluations to assess whether or not those criteria are met.
- Regional, National (institutions that offer vocational, career, or technical programs. Example: Stevens-Henager College), Programmatic (e.g., business, nursing, engineering, medical schools)
- [Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities](#): Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

Admissions Criteria

- Community colleges
 - Require the completion of high school to be a degree-seeking student (offer high school completion options)
 - SAT or ACT exams are not required for admissions
- Idaho Universities
 - SAT or ACT scores (no minimum scores) if under 21. No scores required if over 21 or if student has more than 14 transfer credits with a GPA of 2.25 or higher
 - High school diploma with at least a 3.0 GPA

Components of a Degree

- General Education (~1/3). Courses that are considered as a foundation of a degree and typically taken prior to focusing in an area of study.
- Elective courses within the degree (~1/3)
- Core courses (“upper division”) within the degree (~1/3)

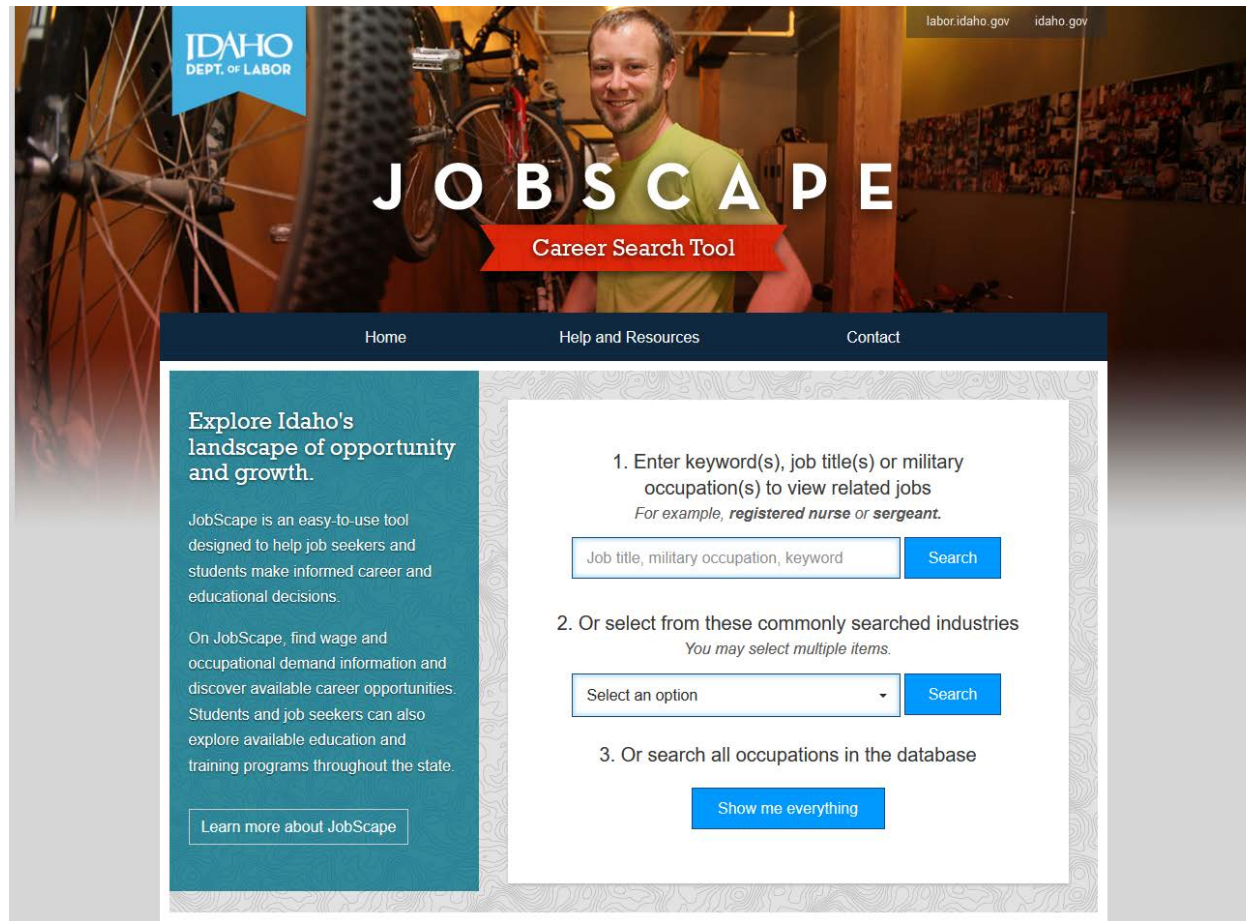
Economics of a Degree



- What is the Return on Investment (ROI): time, money, energy
- Employability
- Earnings potential
- Financial aid: scholarships, grants, loans
- Credit for prior learning
 - Military credits
 - AP exams
- Resource articles
 - [Inside Higher Ed](#)
 - [Washington Post article](#)
 - [Forbes piece on calculating ROI](#)

JobScape

EXPLORE THE SITE



[JobScapehttps://www2.labor.idaho.gov/JobScape/](https://www2.labor.idaho.gov/JobScape/)

Target Audience Educational Experiences

- Having to leave college for personal reasons (e.g., having a baby, military deployment)
- Having to leave college for financial reasons (e.g., needing to work to support a family)
- Having to leave college for academic reasons (e.g., poor academic performance)
- Never having been to college before

Target Audience Possible Fears

- Fear of not being able to balance work, life, and other commitments while in school
- Fear of not being able to afford school
- Fear of student debt
- Fear of not being able to perform academically
- Fear of being “too old” to go back to school
- Fear of the cost of a degree not being “worth it”

Target Audience Motivations

- Motivated to graduate to fulfill a personal goal
- Motivated to graduate to set an example for their family
- Motivated to graduate to improve career options and/or opportunities for advancement
- Motivated to graduate to change careers
- Motivated to graduate to better contribute to their community and/or family

Spreading the Word

Key Message: The Idaho Learning Partnership program empowers library staff to help rural Idahoans learn more about Idaho's higher education opportunities.

Values of the Idaho Learning Partnership

- The Idaho Learning Partnership Program is **nonjudgmental** .
 - Program connectors and materials do not judge community members' previous educational experience(s) or current life situation(s); instead, they focus on helping individuals pursue their future educational and career goals.
- The Idaho Learning Partnership Program is **supportive** : Connectors in the program deliver information, programs, and other resources in a helpful, friendly, and warm way.
- The Idaho Learning Partnership Program is **Idaho centric** : The Program and its connectors will present information on Idaho's higher education opportunities that is directly and uniquely **relevant** to rural Idahoans.
- The Idaho Learning Partnership Program is **individualized** : When Idaho's rural residents interact with the Program, the advice and resources they receive will be specific to their individual goals, challenges, and life circumstances.
- The Idaho Learning Partnership Program is **reliable** : individuals will come to depend on the Program's information and resources as consistently accurate, current, relevant, and helpful.

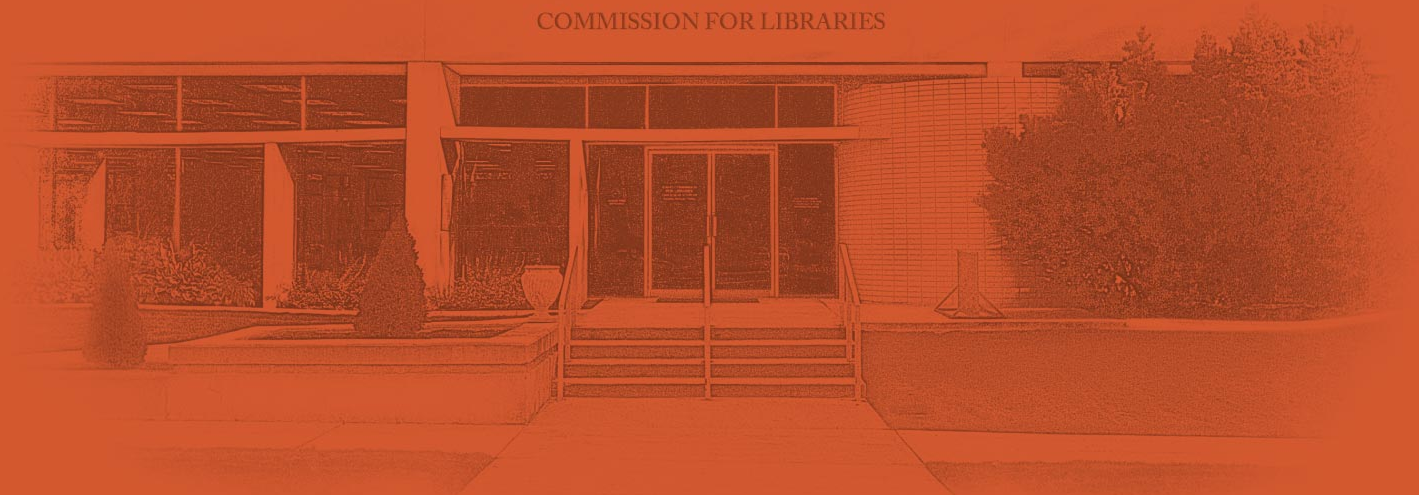
Social Media Framework



- Expanding awareness about Idaho's higher education opportunities using social media
- Customize the tone, style, and message for your community
- [Social Media Toolkit](#) provides some context in which you can create your own social media plan and activities



Questions? Insights? Needs?



Go and Connect

