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NEW From Your Education Policy Team.



Education Commission of the States is pleased to announce Idaho as the 2019 recipient of the Frank Newman Award for State Innovation for its collaborative approach and progress toward increasing the number of students who pursue and acquire a postsecondary credential.



Since the state set a goal to have 60 percent of adults between the ages of 25 and 34 with a postsecondary certificate or degree by 2025, the Idaho State Board of Education has implemented several strategies both to remove barriers that have prevented high school graduates from enrolling in postsecondary education and to encourage them to further their education.

Specifically, those strategies have included a new online resource to help students and families understand the postsecondary options available in Idaho; a direct admissions policy for all Idaho high school seniors to the state's public colleges and universities; and a single, online college application that is accepted statewide. The board also invested in technical support services to scale evidence-based, completion strategies across the state's public colleges and universities.

"Degree attainment is a major priority for states, as leaders look to both strengthen their workforce and boost their economy," says Education Commission of the States President Jeremy Anderson. "We are honored to recognize Idaho's bold, innovative approach to make the connection and process from high school to college not only easier and smoother, but also more attractive and informed."

Idaho says much of its progress would not be possible without collaboration between the board of education, department of education, public colleges and universities, and the Idaho Digital Learning Academy.

The Frank Newman Award for State Innovation — created in 2005 in honor of the late Frank Newman, president of Education Commission of the States for 14 years — recognizes states or territories for demonstrated excellence in shaping education policy. The award will be presented at the 2019 National Forum on Education Policy, taking place July 10-12 in Denver, Colorado.

For questions or additional information, contact Education Commission of the States Director of Communications Amy Skinner at askinner@ecs.org or 303.299.3609.



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