

Education Discussion Forum

Meeting Notes, Apr 23



Find/register for upcoming forums via the Next Steps Idaho calendar.

Educator Support & Breakout Sessions

Dozens of Idaho counselors and educators tuned in this week to learn what was working for others, and share their own experiences.

The Education Discussion Forums started with a message from the Office of the State Board of Education Scholarship Program Manager, Joy Miller. Award offers for the Idaho Opportunity Scholarship were emailed to students on Tuesday, April 21. That list of students was also sent to counselors, in order to confirm receipt and follow-up with the student(s) if necessary. Many counselors have responded with questions about the reduced number of offers for their school as compared to previous years. Miller disclosed the following statement.

“ THE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP IS DESIGNED AS A FOUR-YEAR AWARD GEARED TOWARD HELPING STUDENTS TO COMPLETE A CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE. THE SCHOLARSHIP RECEIVED AN INCREASE OF FUNDING IN THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR THAT ALLOWED THE OFFICE OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (OSBE) TO AWARD MORE NEW SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS THAN WE COULD HAVE IN A YEAR WITHOUT NEW FUNDING. THEREFORE, WE WERE ABLE TO OFFER MORE FIRST TIME SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL IN 2019. BECAUSE THE FOCUS IS

ON STUDENTS GOING TO COLLEGE AND COMPLETING THEIR CHOSEN CREDENTIAL, RENEWAL AWARDS ARE MADE PRIOR TO ANY NEW APPLICANT AWARDS. ADDITIONALLY, FOR THE CURRENT FUNDING CYCLE ALL STATE AGENCIES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO PLAN FOR A 5% HOLDBACK OF GENERAL FUNDS, THIS INCLUDES THE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP. MEANING THAT LESS FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR FIRST-TIME AWARD OFFERS THIS SPRING (2020) THAN WERE AVAILABLE LAST YEAR AT THIS TIME.

“ ONCE THE RENEWAL PROCESS IS COMPLETED ON JUNE 1, OSBE WILL MAKE A SECOND ROUND OF OFFERS. THERE MAY EVEN BE A THIRD ROUND OF OFFERS LATER IN THE SUMMER AS WE REVIEW OUR BUDGET.

“ WE APPRECIATE THE WORK YOU DO TO HELP STUDENTS SUCCEED AND GO ON AFTER HIGH SCHOOL. PLEASE REMIND YOUR STUDENTS KEEP AN EYE ON THEIR EMAIL AS WE WORK THROUGH THE ANNUAL AWARD PROCESS. ”

* * *

Six guest speakers shared online resources, clever tricks, and introduced their at-home coworkers all while talking college and career development. Life skills were a common theme. As were resiliency and adaptability.

This record will introduce each speaker, summarize their presentations, and provide links to all of the resources discussed during the April 23 Education Discussion Forum meetings.

Thank you for reading!



Presenter 1 JACQUE DEAHL

GEAR UP IDAHO STATE COORDINATOR
EMAIL: JDEAHL@SDE.IDAHO.GOV

Deahl described the overnight-zeitgeist that has led to a switch in focus. Family enrichment and engagement is now tangled with education, which has resulted in some interesting adaptations in curriculum. She commended regular parent and student contact with teachers and recommended individual planning sessions via Zoom or Google Meetups. Deahl also discussed the merits of using Khan Academy and taking other practice tests. Facebook Live and Zoom test-prep sessions can make it easier.

Presenter 2 DANIELLE TAYLOR

GEAR UP IDAHO PROGRAM COORDINATOR
EMAIL: DTAYLOR@SDE.IDAHO.GOV

Taylor introduced viewers to a Self-Guided Activity Resource Book, produced by GEAR UP Idaho. It includes instructions and materials around Virtual College Tours, Budgeting for College, STEM Careers, Life Skills Lessons, Goal Setting, Time Capsules, and Table Talk Starters.

Explore this Self-Guided Activity Book

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13UDWhZsyF...>

FREE ONLINE RESOURCES

Road Trip Nation (collection of activities and videos on different careers)

<https://roadtripnation.com/explore>

Claim your Future Game (life choices and financial literacy game)

<https://www.claimyourfuture.com/>

Method Test Prep (free test prep lessons on facebook live)

<https://tinyurl.com/yanej9rn>

Schmoop (lots of free help for students looking at attending college)

<https://www.shmoop.com/college-prep>

Mooc (free classes on college prep, and career exploration, soft skills)

<https://www.mooc.org/>

Before College TV (YouTube channel, college transition topics)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdpy4zqRk...>

Big Future (college preparation resources)

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

Khan Academy (FAFSA walkthrough w/ videos)

<https://www.khanacademy.org/college-careers-more...>



Presenter 3 JULES ISAACS

ROBERT STUART MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNSELOR
FIND VIA: [HTTPS://RS.TFSD.ORG/STAFF-DIRECTORY/](https://rs.tfsd.org/staff-directory/)

Isaacs is a counselor in the Twin Falls School District who spoke about two successful and easily-replicated college and career assignments that she developed for this unusual time. The first is a self-guided scholarship lesson. She adapted this so that even students without internet can be exposed to and complete a worksheet on the material. The second is a job interview game that offers a low-stakes way for students to practice answering questions on the fly. Twist: this is also a career *guessing* game.

View her full presentation for details.

[*https://www.yo...\(available Monday\)*](https://www.yo...(available Monday))

Next Steps Training | Ed Discussion Forum

The next Education Discussion Forum will introduce new COVID-19 FAQ resource pages and self-guided lessons around college/career development. All produced by the Office of the State Board of Education.



Register for this Forum (at one of two times) via the Next Steps Idaho calendar.

Presenter 4 JAYCEE ATKINS

BONNERS FERRY HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR
FIND VIA: [HTTPS://BFHS-BCSD-ID.SCHOOLLOOP.COM/CO...](https://bfhs-bcsd-id.schoolloop.com/co...)

Atkins is a counselor in the Twin Falls School District who spoke about GEAR UP services at her school, especially now that learning has migrated online. She uses weekly email newsletters to stay in touch with her students and their families. One day a week she is available for (virtual) office hours.

Atkins shared a few at-home activities that have been working wonders for students under her purview. As with all education now, parental contact and supervision are required. So Atkins suggests turning that stressful new learning expectation into an opportunity for QT. Conduct a life skills cooking project; discuss the math, English, science, and geography that affects the culinary or baking process.

Sharing family recipes with your kids is just the icing on the cake. Or, rather, the homemade apple butter on the bread.

Another suggestion? “**Thursday Career Cafe**”

Watch her full presentation for more info.

[*https://www.yo...\(available Monday\)*](https://www.yo...(available Monday))



Presenter 5 JEFF SIMMONS

DIRECTOR OF SUPERVISION AND INSTRUCTION (IDLA)
EMAIL: JEFF.SIMMONS@IDLA.K12.ID.US

Simmons discussed the many materials, mediums, and manipulatives that the Idaho Digital Learning Alliance (IDLA) can offer students. That list includes:

- DIRECT INSTRUCTION
- CLASSROOM DISCUSSION
- TEST REVIEW
- GUEST SPEAKER
- READ ALOUDS
- GUIDED PRACTICE
- PRACTICE SETS
- CLASS PROJECT
- STUDENT PRESENTATIONS/SPEECHES
- VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP
- SHORT VIDEOS
- STUDENT INTERVIEWS
- SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS
- STORY BUILDING
- ASK AND ANSWER
- WHITEBOARD PRACTICE
- MANIPULATIVES/SHOW-&-TELL
- 1:1 TUTORING
- WEB SCAVENGER HUNT
- ASK AN EXPERT
- GAMES

View his full presentation for details.

[https://www.yo...\(available Monday\)](https://www.yo...(available Monday))

Want to see the slides?

| Download the week's Ed Forum deck [HERE](#).

Presenter 6 DARCI PETERSON

VALLIVUE HIGH SCHOOL CAREER COUNSELOR
EMAIL: DARCI.PETERSON@VALLIVUE.ORG

Peterson shared a comprehensive overview of effective communication and activities. It is important that all messaging be Clear, Concise, and Consistent. Be aware of what else is being communicated to students—from other teachers, admin, and even local government—so you don't overwhelm them. Peterson shares a weekly update with her seniors and makes a point of understanding each one's ability to access technology. When possible, she tries to personally connect (e-introduce) students with admissions reps.

Peterson re-shared the list of district-approved outreach platforms before diving into meaningful activities she relies on weekly. From frequent check-ins via Google Surveys to scholarship tasks in Google Classroom, most emphasize communication and goal setting. When available, bolster efforts by working with AVID and/or TRiO programs.

Above all, she says, give grace and understanding in all communications. Watch her full presentation for more details.

[https://www.yo...\(available Monday\)](https://www.yo...(available Monday))



Breakout Sessions

Two Education Discussion Forum meetings were held at 10 AM and 12 PM, respectively. During both, participants joined breakout rooms to discuss four pressing issues facing high school students this spring. Seniors, in particular, demanded much of the focus. In groups of 5–9, counselors shared and brainstormed ideas. The result was a cross-pollination of ingenuity as bold plans from isolated districts were traded with out-of-the-box thinking in others.

The four topic-prompts were:

- ➔ CELEBRATING SENIOR GRADUATION
- ➔ REDUCING SUMMER MELT FOR GRADUATING CLASS
- ➔ RESOURCES FOR ENGAGING SENIORS
- ➔ IDEAS FOR FAMILY SUPPORT AND ENGAGEMENT

Each breakout room assigned one group member to record the group's thoughts in a shared Google Doc. Thank you to all contributors and participants!

View the results & pick up new ideas at:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation...>





Resources

The resources provided here are an aggregation of tools recommended by forum participants, discussed during the Q&A portion of the meeting(s), or may be a post-facto response to issues that were mentioned in the Chat.

This list does NOT imply endorsement by the Office of the State Board of Education, the State Department of Education, or Next Steps Idaho. Resources given in no particular order.

<https://www.uidaho.edu/>
<https://cwi.edu/>
<https://www.csi.edu/>
<https://www.boisestate.edu/>
<https://www.nic.edu/>
<http://www.cei.edu/>
<https://www.lcsc.edu/>
<https://www.isu.edu/>
<https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/resources-for-schools/>
<https://www.sde.idaho.gov/>
<https://www.sde.idaho.gov/student-engagement/advanced-ops/>
<https://boardofed.idaho.gov/>
<https://nextsteps.idaho.gov/>

<https://www.nacacnet.org/news--publications/newsroom/virus-response-resource-directory/>
<https://www.facebook.com/PathwaysInEducationID/>
<https://www.schoolcounselor.org/>
<https://www.smore.com/>
<https://www.unitedwaytv.org/covid-19-treasure-valley-community-resource-page>
<https://www.edx.org/>
<https://zoom.us/>
<https://www.scholar-box.com/>
<https://hope4college.com/>
<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/covid19.html>
<https://web.seesaw.me/>
<https://www.idahodigitallearning.org/>

"We are a Google School and it serves us well with the online. All the functions work great."

<https://www.google.com/forms/about/>
<https://voice.google.com/about>

"Adobe Connect. It is free for 90 days, is 504 compliant and has tools such as a whiteboard, chat, video, recording, etc..."

<https://www.adobe.com/products/adobeconnect.html>

"Calendly is a virtual scheduler. You can get a free account to set meetings without an email/phone back-and-forth."

<https://calendly.com/>