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Idaho's Labor Force and the University of Idaho

by

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Highlights from a recent survey

By James R. Nelson, Roxana Julia-Wise and Barbara Schnabel.*

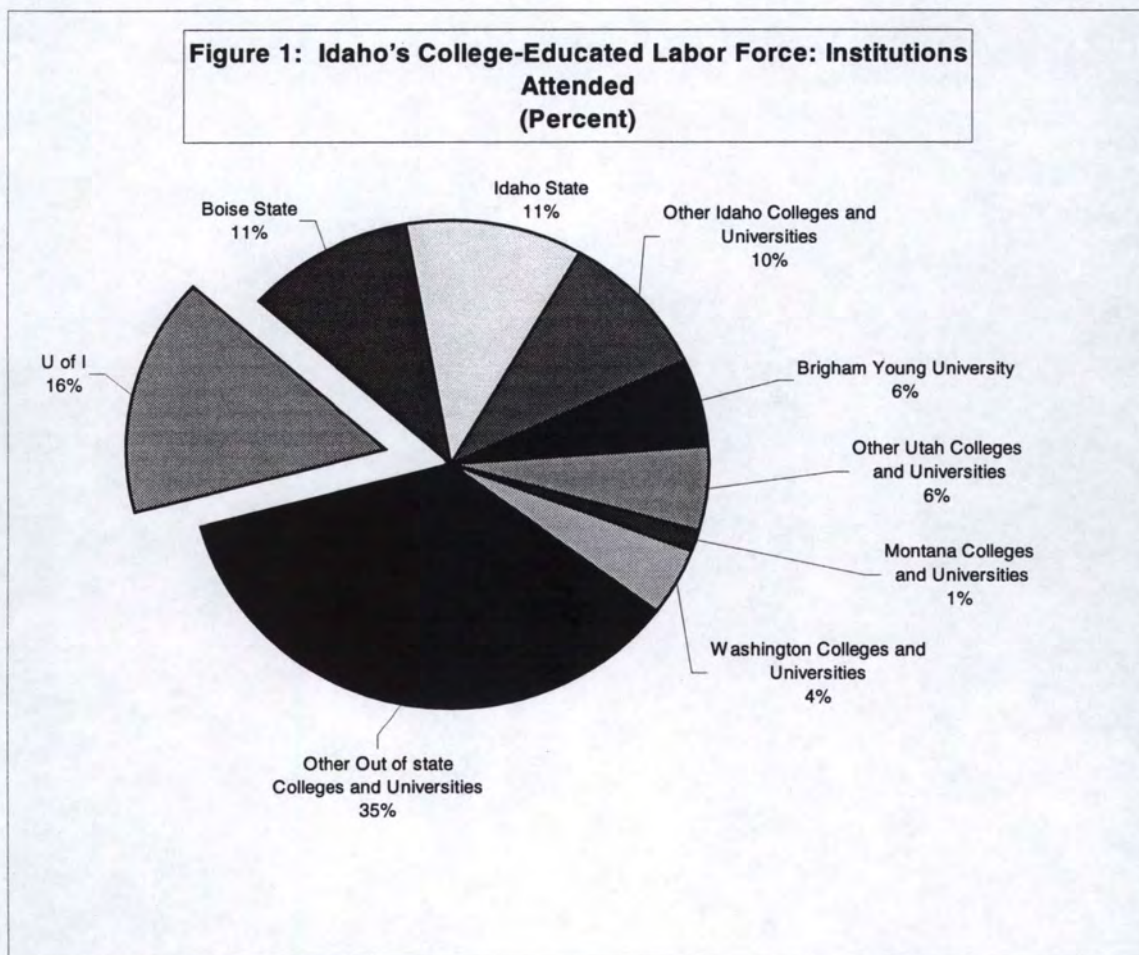
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Previous studies suggest that the demand for higher education in the state of Idaho will keep showing a marked increase in the next decade. Many of the new jobs requiring college degrees, will not happen unless workers with the necessary levels of education can be found to fill them. So the role of institutions of higher education in forming the human capital base becomes critical for Idaho's continued economic growth. This report highlights results from a survey conducted to learn about Idaho's labor force in relation to higher education, and one of the major institutions of higher education in the state-- the University of Idaho.

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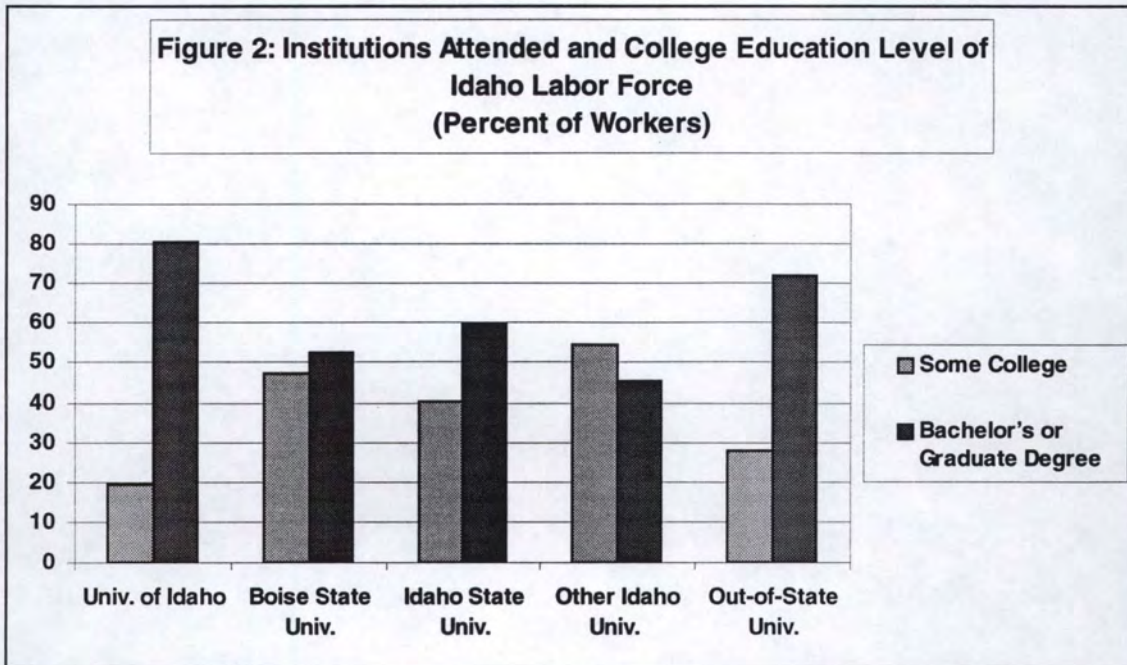
➔ **The University of Idaho plays a bigger role than any other university providing higher education to Idaho's labor force.**

More Idaho workers with university degrees received their degrees from the University of Idaho than from any other university. Recent survey data indicate that about sixteen percent of Idaho's labor force members with college degrees received those from the University of Idaho (Figure 1).



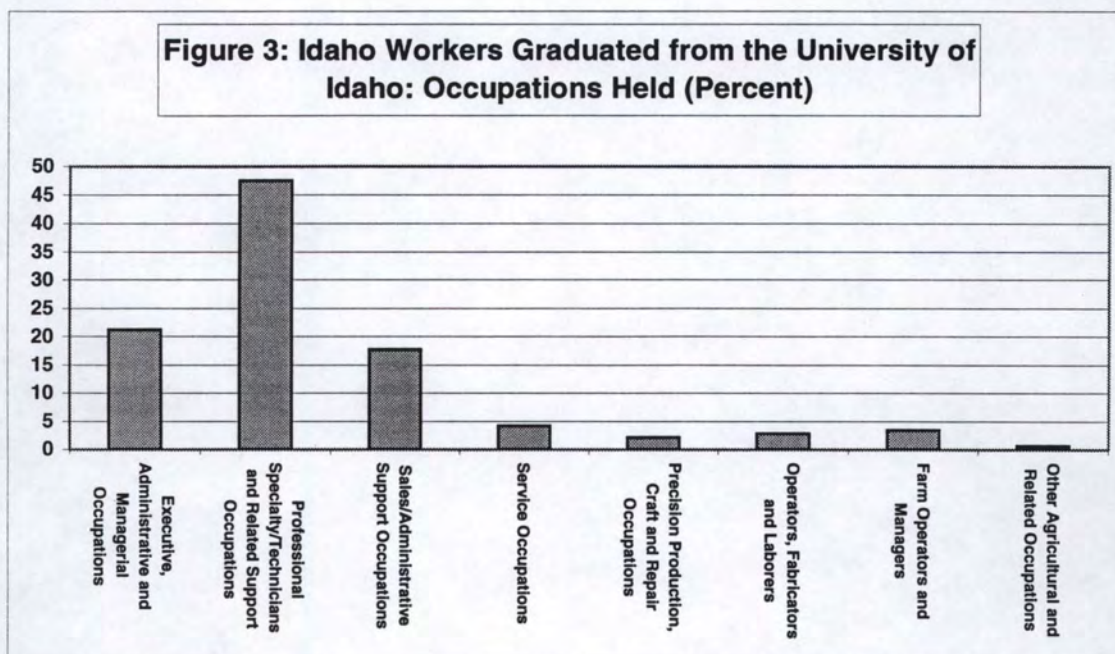
→ **Idaho workers that attended the University of Idaho are more likely to have completed their college degrees than those attending other Idaho universities.**

Out of all workers that attended the University of Idaho, 80 % completed either a bachelors or graduate degree. This percentage is greater than that for any other universities attended by significant numbers of Idaho's labor force (Figure 2).



→ **Idaho workers that graduated from the University of Idaho tend to work in occupations with the highest pay-offs to college education.**

Out of the total Idaho labor force that graduated from the University of Idaho with bachelor's or graduate degrees, 45 % work in professional and technical specialties (Figure 3). These occupations are the ones that offer the highest differential earnings between workers with college degrees and workers with high school diplomas.



→ **Idaho workers that attended the University of Idaho highly value the education received there in terms of their work performance.**

Respondents who had attended the University of Idaho were asked if they felt the education they had received from the University of Idaho was important for their success in their job or career; 90 % responded that it was (definitely or probably important; see Table 1).

Table 1: Was the Education You Received from the University of Idaho Important for Your Success in Your Job Career?

	Percentages
Definitely Yes	65
Probably Yes	25
Definitely Not	2
Probably Not	8

Respondents who had attended the University of Idaho were asked how they rate the education they received from the University of Idaho as preparation to compete for a job; 89 % responded that they rate it as excellent or good (Table 2).

Table 2: How Do You Rate the Education You Received from the University of Idaho as Preparation to Compete for a Job?

	Percentages
Excellent	42
Good	47
Fair	10
Poor	1

Respondents who had attended the University of Idaho were asked how satisfied they were with the education they received from the University of Idaho; 94 % responded that they were satisfied (very or somewhat satisfied; see Table 3).

Table 3: How Satisfied Are You with the Education You Received from the University of Idaho?

	Percentages
Very Satisfied	66
Somewhat Satisfied	28
Slightly Satisfied	5
Not Satisfied	1