

IMPLEMENTING STATEWIDE IN A BIG, RURAL, DIVERSE STATE

Alissa Trollinger, Arizona

Alison Lowenthal, Idaho

About Arizona

- ❑ It's the Grand Canyon State
- ❑ Official necktie? Arizona has one....
- ❑ DST ♥ MST 4EVER!
- ❑ Last in line to the Union party
- ❑ Home to frequent *haboobs*



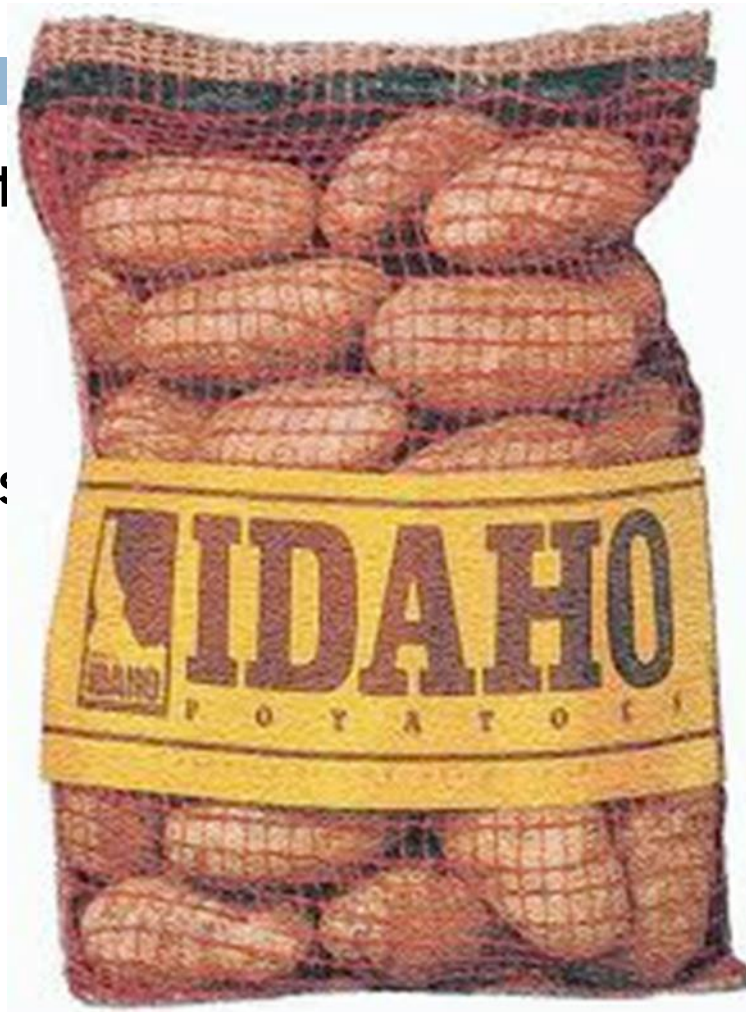


About Idaho

- Is the only state who had a woman design our state seal
- Agricultural products are cattle, milk, wheat, hay, and of course

About Idaho

- Is the only state to have a potato seal
- Agricultural and of course



design our state

wheat, hay,

About Idaho

- Is the only state who had a woman design our state seal
- Agricultural products are cattle, milk, wheat, hay, and of course potatoes
- Known for having the first ski chairlifts in 1936 in Sun Valley
- Known as the Gem State
- Known for



Micron



Last, But Not Least

- In Idaho the following things are illegal:
 - ▣ You cannot give another citizen a box of candy that weighs more than 50 pounds,
 - ▣ You may not fish on a camel's back (or giraffe's back if you are in Boise),
 - ▣ You cannot ride a merry-go-round on Sunday,
and
 - ▣ In Pocatello- A person may not be seen in public without a smile on their face.

Arizona's Demographics

- Approximately 1.1 million students
 - \approx 132,000 students with disabilities
 - \approx 40,000 students with disabilities aged 14+
- Robust charter school movement, diverse schools
 - 216 school districts / 403 charter schools
 - 53 native/BIE, 14 JTED, 39 secure care
- 6th largest state: 5/6 of population lives in metro Phoenix & Tucson, 2/3 live in metro Phoenix
- Approximately 25% of state is made of up Indian reservations

Idaho's Demographics



- There are approximately 150 districts/agencies in Idaho serving students with disabilities
- There are approximately 280,000 students enrolled in Idaho public schools
- We educate approximately 27,000 students with disabilities
- We are the 14th largest state and 39th in population
- We are approximately 30% rural, however 99.4% of the total area of Idaho is rural (Alaska, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, and South Dakota are the only states with a larger percentage).

Arizona's Organizational/Political Structure for Education

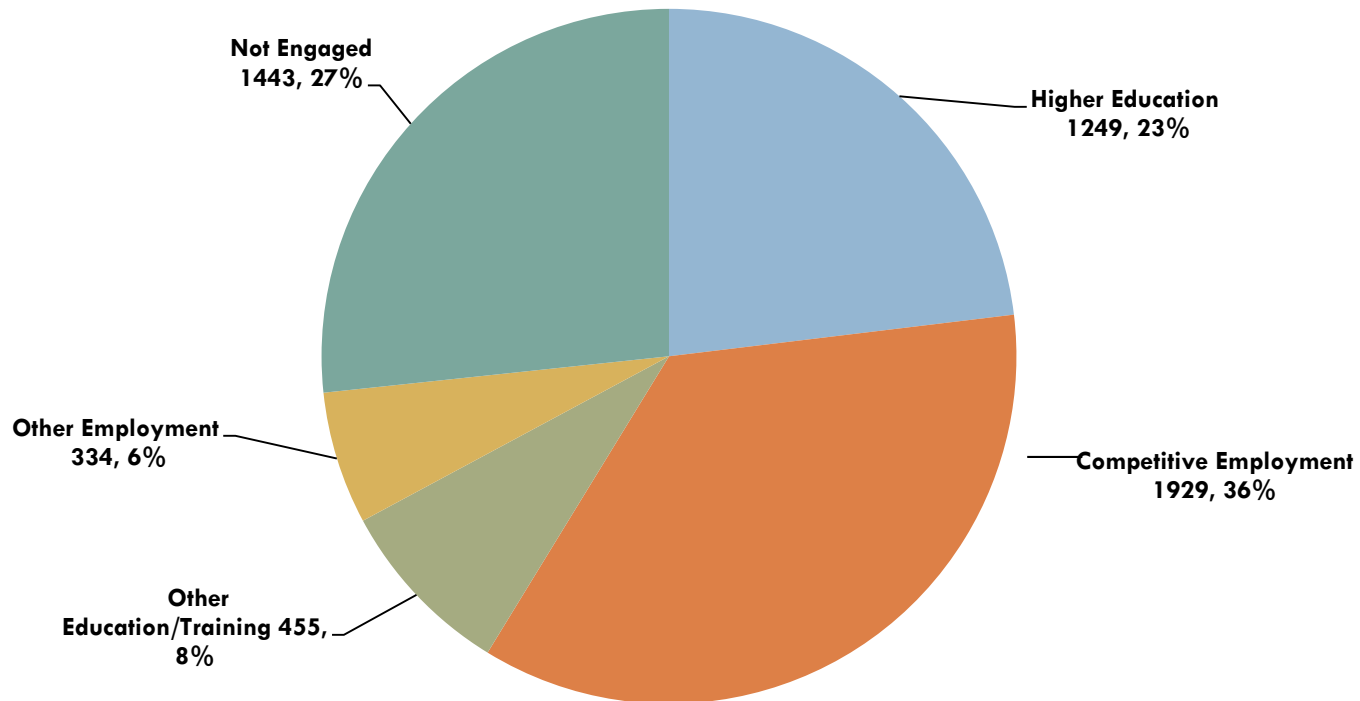
- We are a local control state
- We have a large special education section (100+ employees in three offices throughout the state)
- We elect our Superintendent of Public Instruction
 - The Superintendent/Department of Education oversees Career & Technical Ed, Special Education, and Adult Education
- Vocational Rehabilitation is housed under the Dept. of Economic Security (under the authority of the Governor)

Idaho's Organizational/Political Structure for Education

- We are a Local Control state
- We elect our Superintendent of Public Instruction
- We have the 2nd smallest special education department in the country
- We house the State Department of Education, Career Tech Ed, and Vocational Rehabilitation under the State Board of Education

Arizona's Transition Data

- Graduation rate: 63.34% / Dropout Rate: 24.09%
- Post school outcomes for SY 2013-2014 exiters (5,410 responses = 69% response rate)



Idaho's Transition Data

- Idaho reported a **59.2%** graduation rate and **6.41%** Dropout rate

	# of respondent youth	FFY 2014
A. Enrolled in higher education (1)	37	13.70%
B. Enrolled in higher education or competitively employed within one year of leaving high school (1 +2)	110	41.11%
Enrolled in higher education, or in some other postsecondary education or training program; or competitively employed or in some other employment (1+2+3+4)	148	54.81%

Arizona: Action First

- Many promising, active transition initiatives and activities already occurring within ADE
 - ▣ Commitment to secondary transition support
 - Allows for significant training/technical assistance provision via regional, direct, and webinar trainings and website resources
 - ▣ Annual, statewide PSO data collection process, *Everyone Counts, Everyone In*
 - Also, integration of STEPSS in variety of activities statewide
 - ▣ Participation in the PROMISE Initiative as a member of the ASPIRE Project multi-state consortium
 - ▣ Statewide annual transition conference with youth/family attendance funded by scholarship \$\$

Arizona: *More Action First*

- ▣ Long-running capacity-building training series for LEA teams to implement college and career readiness framework school/district-wide for all students (CCCTT)
- ▣ Robust ILP movement statewide (Arizona Career Leadership Network, AzCLN), including students with disabilities
 - Free career information system (AzCIS) provided by ADE to all Arizona public schools to support transition planning
- ▣ Active participation in state-level CoP on transition (AzCoPT), including all major stakeholders
- ▣ Active participation in Arizona's Employment First initiative

Arizona: *Even More* Action First

- Many promising initiatives & activities happening within RSA/VR
 - RSA has imbedded WIOA into its State Plan
 - Community outreach efforts
 - Collaboration with various agencies (ISAs & IGAs)
 - Creating 2 new positions, Transition Project Specialists
 - AZ@Work Partner
 - RSA has current services that meet PETS criteria
 - Comprehensive transition services

Idaho: Reasons to Act First

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

- Aims to increase access to and opportunities for employment, education, training, and support services, particularly for individuals with the greatest barriers to employment.
- Signed in law on **July 22, 2014**.
- Designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market.
- First legislative reform to the public workforce system in more than 15 years.

Idaho: Reasons to Act First

WIOA Impact on transition students

- 15% of the states allotment under the VR grant must be used for the provision of **pre-employment transition services** for students with disabilities.

“What Are Pre-Employment Transition Services?”

Pre-employment Transition Services include:

- Job exploration counseling
- Work based learning opportunities
- Counseling on post-secondary educational opportunities
- Workplace readiness training
- Instruction in self-advocacy

Arizona's Plan: Where's the Data?

- Development of data-sharing agreement with VR
 - ▣ Plan to share VR direct, YTP, and pre-employment transition services participation at a student level in exchange for student-level PSO data
 - ▣ Agreement currently in final stages – sharing anticipated in winter 2016
 - ▣ Data analysis to determine which transition “treatment(s)” had systemic impact on post school outcomes
- Future data sharing partners: Division of Developmental Disabilities, Career & Tech Ed, PROMISE (ASPIRE in Arizona) Project

Arizona's Future: Where's the Plan?

- Just selected as NTACT Intensive TA State with goals to:
 - ▣ Develop a shared transition visions across State agencies
 - ▣ Increase alignment of fragmented transition activities/initiatives
 - ▣ Effectively use student and system data to make data-based decisions to impact agency & PEA services
 - ▣ Effectively use student and system data to make data-based decisions to provide agency and LEA personnel meaningful evidence-based/promising practice PD

Idaho's Plan

- Hired a transition coordinator from education (August 2015)
- Visited 28 districts and 14 VR offices statewide to conduct an informal needs assessment
- Compiled the information and linked it to evidence based predictors of post-school success
- Developed a tiered plan of action based on the predictors
- Developed pilot activities that include outcome evaluation for both rural and urban areas
- In the process of developing a formal needs assessment that will be conducted statewide

Idaho's Plan of Action – Today

- Tools for Life and Mini Tools
- Disability Mentoring Day funds
- Self-advocacy instruction
- College tours
- High school credit linked to standards for soft skills/work experience
- Art Works Program
- **Spring** paid work experience (**limited LEAs**)
- Paid summer work experience in 11 locations across the state
- **Pilot** MOSS summer camp
- **Pilot BSU and ISU** PREP Residential Summer Academies
- **Pilot YMCA** Leadership camp
- **BSU Educational Technology**

Future Plans

- College experiences and services (potential for dual credit opportunities)
- Include additional services in independent living
- Include additional options for paid work experience in rural areas
- Partnerships with Department of Labor, SDE, the Forest Services, and more LEAs
- Juvenile corrections
- Parent outreach

How to Increase Collaboration Conversation



More pics on www.LeFunny.net

Contact Information

□ Alissa Trollinger

alissa.trollinger@azed.gov

□ Alison Lowenthal

alison.lowenthal@vr.idaho.gov