

# impact

University of Idaho Extension programs that are making a difference in Idaho.

## Building a better future for Butte County youth

### AT A GLANCE

Communities thrive when young people are prepared to contribute. Post-secondary training and life skills is encouraged with weekly classes.

### The Situation

Idaho has a low “go on” rate. When youth do not continue their education following high school, it maintains the cycle of poverty in rural Idaho. Some youth do not understand the importance of continuing their education. Other youth do not think it is possible for them to afford education past high school.

Budgeting and planning are not always taught in the home or school. Without these skills, decisions are often made for short term gains at the expense of long-term goals.

### Our Response

In a partnership with the local school district, Extension educator David Callister taught weekly lessons as part of the Healthy Living class in Butte County Middle School, beginning the spring semester of 2020. The lessons used a combination of curriculum from 4-H Build Your Future, Northwest Youth Financial Education and Employment Feud. Targeted lessons and activities were designed to help youth learn the importance of post-secondary education, planning, budgeting and successfully obtaining employment. The program finished with students participating in practice job interviews.



Class picture from spring 2022. Photo from UI Extension office in Butte County.

### Program Outcomes

Students completed evaluations at the conclusion of each topic. Evaluations were developed by the authors of each lesson plan.

Reported responses come from the spring 2022 class and are representative of responses from other classes. When asked “I understand that an individual’s earning capacity and career advancement are related to their education and training,” 73% agreed with the statement before the activity and 89% agreed after the activity.

Seventy-one percent of the students felt confident that they could build a strong resume before the activity. That rose to 95% after the activity.

Fifty-four percent of the students agreed with the statement “I know what types of degrees and certifications can be attained through post-secondary education” before the activity. Seventy-seven percent agreed with the statement after the activity.

When presented with the statement “I understand the different types of requirements for post-secondary degrees and certificates,” 54% agreed with the statement before the activities and 84% agreed afterwards.

During the budgeting section of the class, students were asked to discuss what they learned with their parents. One student returned with a note from their mother expressing thanks for the class because they thought the topic was neglected in other classes.

The number of students that have been enrolled is reported in Table 1.

### The Future

Classes are expected to continue. Currently, the first students will be high school juniors in the fall of 2022. As the paths these students take are recorded, there is

hope that we will see an increase in the number of Butte County High School students taking advantage of post-secondary education.

### Cooperators and Co-Sponsors

Butte County Joint School District — Gretta Chambers and Wylee Smith.

Table 1.

Semester	Number of Students	Number of Classes
Spring 2020	9	8 (1)
Fall 2020	6	16
Spring 2021	4	14
Fall 2021	12	16
Spring 2022	18	16

(1) COVID impacted ability to work in school.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

**David Callister**, Extension Educator • University of Idaho Extension, Butte County • 208-527-8587 • dcallister@uidaho.edu

10-22-dcallister-youth-future • 7/22