

# impact

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

## Idaho's 4-H State Teen Association Convention; STAC's new name and vision

### AT A GLANCE

A new name and vision were developed for the 4-H teens' on-campus conference. Now, with an emphasis of post-secondary education and careers, it aligns with the U of I strategic plan.

### The Situation

Idaho's "Go-On" rate is among the lowest in the nation with 45 percent of 2017 high school graduates enrolling in college within a year of getting a high school diploma. According to the Idaho Department of Labor, by 2022, higher education will be required for 60 percent of projected job openings in Idaho, with 27 percent requiring a bachelor's degree or greater. At the Idaho's 4-H State Teen Association Convention (STAC) both 4-H and non-4-H youth are provided an opportunity to explore career opportunities, visit the University of Idaho campus and begin visualizing a prosperous future.

### Our Response

The new vision for STAC, including new partnerships with Build Your Future (started in 2017) and Juntos (starting in 2019), is building relationships with Idaho youth who would otherwise not look to higher education as part of their future. STAC is held on the U of I campus the last week of June. U of I academic departments are contacted to provide workshop classes and local businesses to provide career tours. Certified college staff serve as mentors to youth delegates and share personal success stories of college experiences and career exploration. During workshops participants



STAC teens at the U of I School of Journalism and Mass Media workshop gained knowledge in video production.

explore the university campus, learn about educational options, and consider careers. During the convention, delegates reside in a university dormitory, eat at the student dining hall, participate in career focused workshop tracks, local community business tours, service projects and assemblies. The four-day schedule includes:

- District meetings and orientations
- Campus tours and opening ceremony
- Floor meetings with college staff
- A nationally recognized youth leadership speaker
- A total of six hours of on-campus workshops; three two-hour sessions or one six-hour session

- Career tours to local businesses, organizations or university programs
- Service projects
- State 4-H officer assembly and elections
- Evening banquet and dance
- Group team working activity
- Closing ceremony and evaluation

The STAC steering committee recognized and met the challenges that came with including youth in the convention with no experience with the culture of 4-H. Now new partnerships have been formed to provide opportunities to broaden the reach of Idaho’s 4-H to underserved populations and for STAC to become more diverse and inclusive.

### Program Outcomes

Youth who attended STAC in 2018 participated in an end of conference survey (Turning Point clicker system) which included 4-H Common Measures 1.0 questions from the Building Connections block and Career Development block. The results are shown in Table 1 as means of a one-four Likert scale (one = Never; two = Sometimes; three = Usually; and four = Always).

An additional question was asked in 2017. Because of attending STAC, were the youth considering attending the University of Idaho or another school? 50 percent indicated the U of I was on their list and 18 percent said they were planning on attending the U of I. Only 5 percent indicated they were not planning on attending some type of post-secondary education, which is a much higher “Go-On” rate than currently reported in Idaho. Workshops and tours are also evaluated by

participants to determine if the information provided was of interest to them and useful in their career choices. Changes to the workshop and tour offerings are made based on evaluation results.

Table 1. Responses from teens as a result of attending 2018 STAC at the University of Idaho

Common Measures Question	n	Youth Mean
I can work successfully with adults.	166	3.17
I have adults in my life who care about me and are interested in my success.	164	3.60
I know where to look for information to make college decisions.	165	2.96
I can weigh pros and cons of my future college options.	165	3.02
I can identify important information when deciding about college options.	162	2.84
I can solve problems at school.	167	2.94

### The Future

“Brave and Bold, Silver and Gold... We are Idaho’s Future” is the theme selected by the STAC steering committee for 2019.

University of Idaho Extension 4-H Youth Development is excited to welcome all youth from across Idaho, including an estimated 100 additional youth from the Build Your Future and Juntos programs, to participate in the opportunity to visit the U of I and learn more about their own skills and talents, prepare for the work force and explore job and career opportunities.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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