



IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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IDAHO REGIONAL OPTICAL NETWORK (IRON) RECOGNIZES UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

(Lewiston). Representatives of the Idaho Regional Optical Network (IRON) today recognized Idaho's higher education institutions for their support of the high-speed fiber optic research network.

Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, who helped launch the network on October 9, 2008, provided a greeting and congratulatory remarks via video.

IRON connects Idaho to the ultra-high-speed research computer network The National Lambda Rail. This connection allows researchers in state government, research institutions, education institutions, and health care facilities across Idaho to collaborate on regional, national and international projects.

By increasing both speed and reliability, IRON provides cost-effective access to national research and education networks. IRON bridges the digital divide and provides increased opportunities for research and funding at universities and laboratories in Idaho.

Stacey Carson, IRON President and CEO, provided the State Board with an update on the network and recognized the state's higher education partners. "*Boise State University, Idaho State University and the University of Idaho have been instrumental in creating a valuable and lasting strategic asset for the state of Idaho,*" said Carson.

In addition to the state's public higher education institutions, IRON partners include other state and regional universities, the State of Idaho, the Idaho Hospital Association and the Idaho National Laboratory (INL).

To learn more about the Idaho Regional Optical Network, visit <http://www.ironforidaho.net/>.

To learn more about the Idaho State Board of Education, visit www.boardofed.idaho.gov.

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