



BOISE STATE MEDIA ADVISORY / February 3, 2014

Media Advisory

What: Boise State University President Bob Kustra's statement on proposed state legislation that would allow retired law enforcement officers and people with Idaho's enhanced concealed carry permit to bring firearms on campus

"The Presidents of Idaho's public universities and colleges work closely with our security personnel and local law enforcement agencies to assure our students, faculty and guests a safe learning environment. After the shootings at Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois University, we reported to the Idaho State Board on our security plans to keep our campuses safe and we believe that we have taken the necessary precautions to guarantee our students' safety to the very best of our ability.

We take this responsibility as our most important duty to our students, our faculty and our guests on our campuses. And we feel strongly that our campus security officers and our local law enforcement officers are in the best position to manage campus security, not a state law that does not benefit from the actual law enforcement experience of our local police force.

Notwithstanding the intentions of this legislation to arm some of our students, we can find no recorded incident in which a victim—or a spectator—of a violent crime on a campus has prevented a crime by brandishing a weapon.

In fact, professional law enforcement officials claim that increasing the number of guns on a campus would increase police problems and make it difficult for police officers in a shooting situation to tell the good shooter from the bad shooter and inadvertently shoot an innocent person.

As a former state legislator, I understand a role for state law where there is a crisis or problem that needs addressing. But here we are living in an era when all the focus is reducing the role of government in the lives of individuals and where there is no problem or crisis to be addressed on our state's campuses that would be solved by this legislation. Our Board gathered this morning and unanimously voted to oppose this measure. We urge the legislature to recognize the authority and

oversight of the Idaho State Board of Education and the many precautions Idaho's public universities take to protect our students. We will remain forever vigilant."

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About Boise State University

A public metropolitan research university with more than 22,000 students, Boise State is proud to be powered by creativity and innovation. Located in Idaho's capital city, the university has a growing research agenda and plays a crucial role in the region's knowledge economy and famed quality of life. In the past 10 years, the university has quadrupled the number of doctoral degrees, doubled its masters degrees and now offers 13 online degree programs. Learn more at www.BoiseState.edu.