



November 2013 Update

Dr. Chuck Staben named 18th President of University of Idaho

After an eight-month national search, the State Board of Education appointed Chuck Staben as President of the University of Idaho on November 18 with a unanimous vote of the full Board. Dr. Staben has served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of South Dakota since August 2008. He brings a background in biology and research and experience in industry and higher education administration. Dr. Staben and his wife Mary Beth, who currently practices internal medicine as a hospitalist in Lexington, Kentucky, will make the move to Idaho when Dr. Staben takes the helm at UI on March 1, 2014. For more information on Dr. Staben, click [here](#).

Ken Edmunds named Director of Department of Labor

On November 15th, Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter announced the appointment of Twin Falls businessman and State Board of Education member Ken Edmunds to succeed Roger Madsen as director of the Idaho Department of Labor. Mr. Edmunds resigned from the Board of Education effective November 25th. Governor Otter will appoint a successor to fill the remainder of Mr. Edmunds' second five-year term on the Board of Education, which expires March 1, 2018. The new appointee is subject to Idaho Senate confirmation. The deadline to apply for the position is close of business on Monday, December 9.

Scholarship Application Window Opens

High school students are invited to apply for the new Opportunity Scholarship beginning December 2nd. The 2013 Legislature approved a consolidation of state scholarships to provide a renewable, merit- and need-based award focused on helping students complete their postsecondary education. More information about the Opportunity Scholarship and other financial aid resources, including a calendar of events to help students fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), is located on the Board's website at www.fafsa.idaho.gov.

Distinguished School Awards

Schools from across the state were recognized in October and November as Distinguished Schools for the 2012-2013 school year. These schools met rigorous performance requirements including meeting Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) and being among the top 5 percent of schools in all students' proficiency.

The Distinguished Schools for 2013 are:

Thatcher Elementary School, Grace Joint School District
Ramsey Elementary School, Coeur d'Alene School District
Leadore School District, South Lemhi School District
Kennedy Elementary School, Madison School District
Donnelly Elementary School, McCall-Donnelley School District
Prairie Elementary School, Cottonwood Joint School District

The Board congratulates the students, parents, teachers, administrators and staff of these schools for their achievements. For more information, click [here](#).

December 18-19th Board Meeting at CWI

The Board will meet in Nampa on the campus of the College of Western Idaho on December 18th and 19th. The work session Wednesday will focus on an update of the Board's strategic plan. Thursday's agenda includes annual reports from the Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA) and the Higher Education Research Council (HERC). The Board will also review the new state Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education strategic plan. For more information on upcoming Board meetings, click [here](#).

Board's Legislative Agenda

The Board approved its 2014 legislative agenda at its October 17th meeting. Among the legislation being brought forward is a change to the timing of Board member appointments, a bill to move the Public Charter School Commission (PCSC) to self-governing agency status, and legislation to provide the four-year public higher education institutions with greater administrative flexibility. A summary of the Board's legislative agenda is [here](#).

Save the Date – Legislative Luncheon February 3, 2014

The Board and the Presidents of Lewis-Clark State College, Boise State University, Idaho State University and the University of Idaho will hold a luncheon for legislators on Monday, February 3, 2014, in the Crystal Ballroom of the Hoff Building from noon – 1:00 p.m. The Presidents will highlight their work on economic development initiatives throughout the state.

Program Prioritization

In May 2013, the Board directed the four-year higher education institutions to conduct a comprehensive Program Prioritization. The institutions presented implementation schedules at the October Board meeting. All four institutions are on track to meet the Board's overall timeline, which calls for a final report to the Board at its August 2014 meeting. The final report will include both proposed program actions (e.g. expand, consolidate, restructure, probation, discontinue), as well as recommendations for use of any savings/efficiencies achieved or other desired outcomes.

College Application Week

During the week of November 11-15, the State Board held its first Idaho College Application Week. The goal of College Application Week is to provide an opportunity for all Idaho seniors to explore postsecondary opportunities and to complete a college application. The State Board selected 21 high schools to participate in the pilot program and provided site coordinators to assist seniors in completing and submitting at least one college application at school during the school day. Students could apply to any state college or university as well as private institutions. The Board plans to expand its support of the program statewide next year. More information is available at www.gotocollege.idaho.gov.

Web Portal Development

The Office of the State Board is developing a web portal to address articulation and transfer as part of the Complete College Idaho Plan. The Board has contracted with Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA) to work with a taskforce consisting of the Registrars from Idaho's public institutions. The scope of the taskforce is to address transfer issues and agree upon a single infrastructure where students can assess how courses transfer between institutions.

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