



August 2013 Update

Data Protection Policy Enhanced

At their August 15th meeting, the Board approved an addition to existing policy to further protect student identifiable data and ensure the privacy of all data is held to the highest standard. The additional language stipulates that *"The privacy of all student level data that is collected by the SLDS will be protected. A list of all data fields (but not the data within the fields) collected by the SLDS will be publicly available. Only student identifiable data that is required by law will be shared with the federal government."* The [Idaho Data Management Council](#), established in 2011, makes recommendations on the oversight and development of Idaho's Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) and oversees the creation, maintenance, and use of the system. The intent of the SLDS is to provide more and better information to Idaho education leaders, policymakers, students, parents, and taxpayers to help inform decision making. The SLDS is an important tool for gathering, analyzing, and reporting progress toward the state's education goals. For more information, click [here](#).

Board Approves FY 2015 Budget Request for Higher Education

A special meeting was held on August 26th to approve the college and universities line item budget requests for Fiscal Year 2015. The resulting FY 2015 budget request for higher education is tailored to address the Board's strategic plan, particularly the goal to see 60 percent of Idahoans between the ages of 25 and 34 attain a postsecondary degree or credential by 2020. The first budget priority is a Change in Employee Compensation (CEC), followed by a line item to address the need for additional faculty in strategic areas and occupancy costs for new facilities at two of the institutions. The request also contains an additional \$400,000 for the Higher Education Research Council and \$12.5M for deferred maintenance. The overall General Fund request, including a 1% CEC as a calculator, is an 18.2% increase over the FY 2014 appropriation. For more information, click [here](#).

University Presidents update the Board on Substance Abuse Task Force Efforts

At its February 2013 meeting, the Board asked each institution to initiate efforts to address substance abuse and student safety. Following the lead of the University of Idaho, which had established two Task Forces to address student drug and alcohol use and Greek Life issues, the institutions' presidents have met regularly to discuss policies and practices to reduce drug and alcohol abuse. The presidents provided a progress report to the Board at the August 15th meeting, and UI President Don Burnett presented the recommendations, which include the following:

- Delivering mandatory, interactive education to all incoming students on risks and issues of alcohol and substance abuse – including encouragement of, and mechanisms for, voluntary disclosure of past history and self-referral for counseling.
- Establishing clear policies for referral to law enforcement of under-age drinking and other alcohol or substance-related behaviors that occur on campus and are violations of law.
- Creating -- and furnishing education to all students, staff, and faculty regarding -
- programs for bystander intervention and assistance whenever alcohol or substance abuse is observed on or off campus.

For more information on the UI Task Force recommendations, click [here](#).

Idaho College Athletes Show High Academic Performance

According to the most recent Academic Progress Rate (APR) scores reported to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), Idaho's student-athletes demonstrate high academic achievement and continued improvement in the classroom.

The NCAA tracks the classroom performance of student-athletes on every Division I team through the annual APR. Scores are determined by measuring the eligibility, graduation, and retention for each student-athlete on scholarship during a particular academic year. Numerous individual collegiate teams posted perfect scores of 1000. The overall scores, out of a possible 1000, for the three Idaho Division I institutions were 983 for Idaho State University, 977 for Boise State University, and 961 for University of Idaho. For more information, click [here](#).

Task Force for Improving Education Finalizes Recommendations

After eight months of study and deliberation, the 31-member Task Force for Improving Education finalized recommendations on August 23rd, which will go to Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter. The Task Force considered the work and recommendations of two subcommittees, whose proposals are geared toward meeting the State Board of Education's goal that 60 percent of Idaho citizens ages 25-34 attain at least a one-year postsecondary credential by 2020. Among the recommendations was a proposal to move to a system where students advance based upon content mastery, rather than seat time; a proposal to establish a career ladder for teacher compensation tied to tiered licensure for teacher progression; and recommendations for more mentoring and professional development opportunities for teachers and administrators. For more information, and a full list of the recommendations, click [here](#).

Incubation Funds Awarded and IGEM Grants renewed for FY 2014

The Higher Education Research Council has awarded Incubation Fund grants to seven projects for FY14. The Incubation Fund is a competitive grant process that makes awards of up to \$50,000 to help bridge the gap between research and development into commercialization. The awards went to:

BSU: \$50,000 to develop anticancer peptides called Nullomers (patent pending) with BSU liposomal delivery vehicles to increase efficacy and make animal testing possible.

BSU: \$45,750 to improve speed, reliability, and lifespan of redox nonvolatile conductive bridge memory (CBM) memristors.

BSU: \$45,750 to develop an integral 3-D strain sensor.

BSU: \$45,800 for SAVE: Self-organizing air vent system.

ISU: \$50,000 to develop cationic prodrugs to improve topical treatment of musculo-skeletal disorders.

U of I: \$50,000 for production of gender-sorted sperm for applications in the animal reproduction industry.

U of I: \$45,800 for prototype development of low cost thermal scour-deposition chain to monitor streambed evolution over time for effective river and watershed management with new, less expensive, sensors.

Ed Sessions 2.0 on September 10th Features Colorado State Sen. Mike Johnston

The Ed Sessions, presented by the J. A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation, return in September with "Creating a 21st Century Education System," featuring Sen. Mike Johnston, who represents Northeast Denver. Johnston has focused his recent efforts on reforming Colorado's school financing system. To register, and for more information, visit [Ed Sessions 2.0](#).

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