



For Immediate Release

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BOARD APPROVES NEW HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS; WILL CREATE A MEDICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

At the conclusion of today's Idaho State Board of Education meeting, Board President Clark addressed the future of medical education in Idaho stating that the Board will be forming an undergraduate medical education committee to address ongoing issues and questions about the Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho (WWAMI) program, and what will be best for Idaho moving forward.

President Clark added that she is looking forward to working with the Governor, the Legislature, and Idaho's medical community on the future of medical health programs in the state and what that looks like for Idaho.

BOARD APPROVES NEW PROGRAMS AT IDAHO UNIVERSITIES

In other actions, the State Board of Education approved three new academic programs, at each of Idaho's public universities, during its regular Board meeting at Boise State University.

The latest programs are:

- Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence Science at Boise State University
- Doctor of Clinical Psychology (PsyD) at Idaho State University
- Doctor of Clinical Psychology (PsyD) at the University of Idaho

The Board based approval of the two PsyD programs on need throughout the state for more mental health providers, particularly in rural areas.

The University of Idaho will offer the program in Moscow for the Panhandle Region. Idaho State University will offer its program in Pocatello for Eastern Idaho, and in the Treasure Valley in collaboration with Boise State University. ISU and U of I pledged that the programs are intended to be complimentary to each other and not competitive.

ISU Life Sciences Building

The Board also approved Idaho State University’s request to begin the planning and design phase to build a new Life Sciences building on the Pocatello campus. The planning and design budget is not to exceed \$10 million. The building is estimated to cost more than \$127 million to build. ISU will need to come back and request approval from the Board before construction can begin. Groundbreaking is targeted for Fall 2026.

Career Technical Education Growth

Idaho’s Career Technical Program is impacting students’ outcomes throughout the state pursuing career technical education (CTE) courses in high school. Data from last year indicates they are more likely to go on to college or find a job after they graduate. The Board heard an update on the continued growth of CTE-related programs.

Highlights include:

- 71% of all Idaho high school students take CTE courses.
- CTE concentrators (juniors or seniors enrolled in a CTE capstone class) have increased by 19% over the last four years (7,400 students last fiscal year).
- 93% of CTE concentrators graduated from high school compared to 79% for all high school students.
- 51% of CTE concentrators went on to college compared to 42% for all high school graduates.

- 3,341 students earned CTE diplomas last year (up 98% over three years).
- 97% of CTE concentrators found a job, attended college, or joined the military after graduating from high school.

“We need to start introducing students to CTE-related instruction as early as elementary school,” Board President Dr. Linda Clark said. “We also need to provide examples to these students of various CTE pathways they can pursue as they progress through our public education system.”

“As we continue to refine our strategic direction for public education in Idaho, experiential learning, which is what CTE is all about, will be a priority across the system,” State Board Executive Director Joshua Whitworth said.

The Idaho State Board of Education’s next regular meeting is scheduled April 16-17, 2025 at the University of Idaho in Moscow.

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