

**2006 Spring Update**  
**Bob Kustra, President**  
**Boise State University**

Good morning and welcome to our Spring Update gathering. In keeping with tradition, it is my pleasure to introduce Dr. Nicole Molumby, flute professor in the Department of Music enjoying her first year at Boise State and Irena Ravitskaya, her accompanist.

They will be performing *Madrigal* by Gaubert.

It is my pleasure to welcome you back for our 2006 Spring Semester and wish you all a very productive and collegial New Year. Welcome also to our retired faculty and staff – thank you for joining us today. What I would like to do this morning is bring you an update on a number of subjects, including

- The role that our own individual achievements play in reaching our organizational goals
- Our progress in fulfilling our metropolitan mission, including the community college
- The strengthening of our undergraduate teaching mission
- The growth of our graduate and research programs
- Some thoughts on the Governor's proposed 2007 budget for higher education
- The latest on our preparation for a comprehensive campaign

## **INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

First, allow me to comment on what our working together at this time of great opportunity means to me personally and to Boise State. I must admit to making no New Year's resolutions, but I have spent considerable time in the last few weeks reflecting on our good fortune. After all, we are engaged in shaping the future, in molding the lives of our students into success stories that we may never see or experience, but that will change the course of history somewhere and sometime.

We work in the present, but the impact we have on our students and each other, lives on for years and years to come, one life at a time.

Let me begin with a story about a kid from Meridian, or at least someone who started out as a kid from Meridian. I recently interviewed Bill Laurence on my radio show. Bill is currently a senior scientist with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute based in Panama. He is also president of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, the world's largest scientific organization devoted to the student and preservation of tropical ecosystems, including the Amazon Rainforest. He was recently appointed a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and is an honorary fellow of the World Innovation Foundation.

Bill got his start as an undergraduate student here at Boise State, and eventually went on to earn his Ph.D. from UC-Berkeley. Bill came to Boise State, not unlike most of our students, to fulfill

a dream, and I know he was impacted and encouraged by a number of very special professors along the way. His experiences here contributed significantly to where he is today.

Whether we are in the classroom, an office, on the grounds, in maintenance, or wherever our contribution takes place, we all play a role in putting a face and a heart on Boise State. Boise State is more than an **institution** of higher learning, it is a personality, perhaps an organizational personality, but nonetheless a personality. It has a reputation, an image, an identity that allows people to form judgments about its performance, its effectiveness in teaching and learning, the compassion and concern it shows towards its students and employees.

So often we underestimate how the image of Boise State and the work we do here is formed one person at a time by those who interact with our students and members of the larger community. When we care, when we come to a student's aid, when we befriend a co-worker, we are creating a standard of behavior to be emulated by those with whom we work. We are creating an image in the eyes of those who observe our work--the media, our neighbors, prospective students, prospective faculty and staff, our sister institutions, the local community, alumni.

I recently had my own reminder of how much influence as individuals we have over the perception of a university when I visited two rural communities recently with Mark Wheeler to meet with high school principals and counselors. The express purpose of our visit was to see how Boise State was viewed in these two communities just far enough away from Boise that students had other reasonable choices in postsecondary education. The good news is that Boise State has a positive image in those high schools, but the more interesting part of the day was listening to the counselors talk about how inhospitable the climate is at another university. These high school counselors painted a picture of an organizational climate and culture that seemed to focus more on the barriers to enrolling and on the relative indifference directed at students seeking more information about the school and visiting the campus for the first time.

Now I don't think we have that problem at Boise State because I often hear compliments from visitors about their reception on our campus and I seldom hear complaints, but I just think it is helpful now and then to be reminded of how each of us plays a role in weaving this tapestry of good will that becomes the doormat to welcome those who come to visit.

So I would like to take just a few minutes to talk about people, who in their own way create a positive image for Boise State, encourage our students to study and learn at the university level and who create a welcoming, warm and collegial environment on our campus. It is so important that we know our colleagues and the work they do.

**Cheryl Schrader**, Dean of the College of Engineering, was one of 11 recipients nationwide of the 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring, which honors individuals and institutions that have enhanced the participation of underrepresented groups, such as women, minorities and people with disabilities, in science, mathematics and engineering at all levels. Thanks to Cheryl, she and her faculty have become national role models for how to attract underrepresented groups and provide a nurturing environment for all students.

Speaking of Deans, we look forward to welcoming a new Dean to the College of Business and Economics in June. **Howard Smith**, former Business School Dean from the University of New Mexico, is with us today and he will join me later today to promote Boise State to one of our most generous supporters. Thanks for joining us today and welcome to Boise State!

I also want to acknowledge **Bill Lathen** for his leadership of the College these past years. Thank you for all of the hard work and dedication to your faculty and students.

Allow me to also introduce **our new Dean of the Library--Marilyn Moody**, currently Associate Director of Libraries at UC Santa Barbara, who will begin on May 1. During our search, Gloria Ostrander-Dykstra has provided outstanding leadership in the interim – Gloria, we thank you for that.

We are in the midst of our search for the Dean of Arts & Sciences. Five candidates will be on campus in January and February. I encourage you to attend the open sessions and seek out more information about the candidates and their schedules on the Provost's webpage.

I would like to **compliment and congratulate Sona and her teams of search committees** that have done such an outstanding job of finding the very best qualified for these positions.

We hosted another Frank Church Conference last fall, the theme of which was “Global Flash Points”. Our three special guests included a former diplomat turned international relations scholar, an international attorney and an ambassador. Thanks for Garry Wenske for your leadership and coordination of another very successful Conference, and also to Bethine Church, who provides the vision and many of the contacts to make these events a success. The contributions of all presenters were outstanding, they sparked considerable debate and discussion, but all managed to agree that Boise State's own **Greg Raymond** contributions were invaluable to the success of the conference and a real credit to the quality of our academic programs in international relations.

I'd like to plug the **Idaho Yesterdays** magazine. Idaho Yesterdays publishes peer-reviewed historical research about Idaho and the region. Edited by **Laura Woodworth-Ney** at Idaho State University, it is produced through the Boise State Center for Idaho History and Politics, with **Todd Shallat** serving as production editor.

**Idaho Yesterdays** is a truly collaborative venture, a publication for the Idaho State Historical Society, with participation from BSU, ISU, UI, CSI, BYU-Idaho, LCSC, the Idaho Humanities Council and the City of Boise. You can learn more at [www.idahoyesterdays.com](http://www.idahoyesterdays.com).

Todd also produces **Idaho Issues Online** through the Idaho Center for History and Politics. Check out the **Five Tribes of Idaho**.

Professor **Anika Smulovitz's** Art 307 class worked with local businesses last semester to create metal work for their doors. The students first wrote proposals to interested local businesses, and

then created the artwork free of charge. You can see the pieces at the **Dragonfly on Main St, the Gallery at Hyde Park**, and inside the **Natural Therapy Center** on Cole Road.

In addition, 7 projects from Professor Smulovitz's Art 221 class in Metalsmithing were donated to the Idaho Humane Society for fund-raising. Its no wonder that Anika was nominated for NICHE magazine's first ever **Arts Educator of the Year Award**. The nomination letter states: "NICHE magazine recognizes you for your unwavering dedication to the promotion of the arts. We believe that craft is more than technique; it's about creating community. On a daily basis you teach and mentor students on what it takes to be a successful craft artist."

A word about our **Service-Learning Program**. **Kara Brascia** does an outstanding job facilitating campus/community partnerships for over 90 classes, over 60 faculty, over 100 community agencies, and over 1700 students. Students in Service-Learning classes *last semester alone* contributed over **17,267 hours** to their communities. This is an equivalent of \$172, 670.00 @ \$10/hour just for one semester.

A word of congratulations and "be careful out there" to Professor **Werner Hoeger**, who is off to Torino to represent his native land of Venezuela in the Olympic luge competition. A professor in the Boise State University Department of Kinesiology since 1986, Werner made his first Olympic appearance at the 2002 Games in Salt Lake City.

In addition to his undergraduate and graduate courses in exercise physiology, athletic conditioning procedures and fitness-related topics, he is well known for his nine textbooks on physical fitness (a total of 36 editions have been published). One of the three most widely read fitness and wellness college authors in the United States, Werner has received grants to conduct research in the areas of body composition changes, water aerobics, strength training, muscular flexibility and the assessment of physical fitness.

You'd think there would be an early chapter in Werner's book entitled, "To Stay Physically Fit, Stay Away From the Luge." Good luck, God speed and safe travels to Werner.

Congratulations to the Idaho Nurse of the Year for Academic Education, **Ingrid Brudenell**, a Boise State faculty member since 1981.

Under the category of getting the job done, making a difference in how Boise State is perceived by our students and visitors to the College of Business and Economics building, I would like to mention the work of **Orie Schreve**. He makes sure that our building is tidied up. Here's a guy who takes pride in his work, approaches every project with the intensity of the Olympic athlete and is always there with a friendly greeting for those who pass by.

**Kenny Wiscombe** was sidelined in December with an illness and has a slow recovery ahead of him. But we are confident that Kenny will be back among us, and I do want Kenny to know we are thinking of him and I can't run this place without him for too much longer.

**Liz Wiatr**, a member of the Art faculty, had major surgery in December and is recovering and getting treatment in Los Angeles. We wish her well and I know Richard Young would be glad to give you her address if you would like to drop her an email or note.

**Julie Hahn** joined us only in the past year in University Relations. Julie is to undergo major surgery in the near future. She is expected to make a full recovery and we wish her our best, but she will be out for a period of time. Her colleagues in News Services got together and pooled their leave allowances to ensure she would be able to take as much time as is needed.

One by one, we can and do make a difference in each other's lives and the lives of those we serve and you all in your own ways demonstrate that on a daily basis.

### **Climate Taskforce**

Speaking of making a difference in the lives of others, a healthy campus climate is absolutely critical to our success as a university. It is not enough to teach diversity, civil and equal rights for all, tolerance, fairness and justice, we must practice these as well in our everyday relationships with each other and they must be markers for all of us to follow in our daily work lives. Those of us serving in administrative positions have a special responsibility to maintain a campus climate that respects the individual, treats one as equally as another and provides a nurturing environment for all of our campus partners. To that end, Provost Sona Andrews commissioned a Campus Climate Committee, chaired by Professor Alicia Garza, to conduct a survey to gauge how hospitable a work and learning environment we have at Boise State.

The survey was completed in November. 1,038 faculty, professional and classified staff completed the survey (28%) 3,300 students completed the survey (18%)

Results are being analyzed and will be made available to the campus when the work is complete. Preliminary information shows that **an overwhelming majority of faculty, staff and students find Boise State a very hospitable place to be.** The current analysis is focusing on areas where we may need improvement.

Thanks to the members of the Campus Climate Committee, especially Alicia Garza, for her leadership and hard work on this most important project for our campus.

### **FULFILLING OUR METROPOLITAN MISSION**

I am delighted to report on a number of initiatives that fortify our metropolitan mission and implement the responsibilities assigned us by the State Board of Education.

Our new **Institute for Urban & Regional Planning** will present the first Annual **Treasure Valley State of the Region Report**, expected to be completed and presented at the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Conference in April. This is a regional report on performance indicators such as education, crime, housing, the local economy, transportation, the environment, land use, government, and other quality of life indicators. Local governments and businesses are funding

it. I can think of nothing more important in fulfilling our metropolitan mission than playing a leadership role in planning for the community and region.

### **Addressing the Projected Nursing Shortage in Idaho**

One of the most critical problems facing our health care community in the Treasure Valley is the projected shortage of nurses here in Idaho and across the nation. The national nursing shortage is expected to exceed 800,000 by year 2020. Idaho is currently ranked 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation for registered nurses per capita.

Boise State has the largest nursing program in the state with 479 current students. The Department of Nursing introduced a **new baccalaureate curriculum in Fall 2002**. It is an innovative, community-focused curriculum with an emphasis on health promotion and wellness. The first class of 44 students completing the new curriculum with a BS will graduate this year.

To meet the increased demands for nurses, the Larry Selland College in collaboration with the College of Health Sciences Department of Nursing reactivated the **Practical Nursing program**. A class of 31 students will begin spring semester at the Canyon County Center, growing access to health programs in the western end of the valley.

Finally, in the area of Education, in response to the changing needs of elementary and secondary education in the Valley, the College of Education is offering a new "fast-track" secondary certification program. The "fast track" is the new **Graduate Certificate in Secondary/K-12 Teaching** program for individuals with at least a bachelor's degree who wish to qualify for a secondary teaching certificate. The new program can be completed in 12 months.

### **A Community College for Southwestern Idaho**

There was good news Monday night in the Governor's State of the State message for our plans to create a community college on our West campus and distributed classroom sites across the Valley. As you may remember, we had plans on the drawing board for a limited number of students last January, but chose to hold off on its implementation pending the Governor's leadership on a statewide community college system.

It was wise to wait. The Governor's new community college initiative includes opportunities for state and local funding for our new community college students. If the legislature approves his plan, we should be able to start up a contingent of community college students this fall with discounted tuition on our West campus and other select sites. Such a plan holds us financially harmless so no current university funds are diverted to the new community college mission. The State Board will set up an RFP process and universities will receive funding based on the number of new community college students.

I am also pleased to announce our partners in our new community college venture will be the Boise and Meridian school districts, thanks to the leadership of Superintendents Stan Olson and

Linda Clark respectively. They stand ready to support us by sharing their high school classroom and technical facilities as well.

I understand that some who heard the Governor's State of the State thought he was proposing an online community college when he said that the \$5 million appropriation to support staffing this year would not be used for brick and mortar. As the Governor clarified to the media yesterday, his initial proposal is to create small contingents of community college students in existing facilities, but he understands on campuses such as ours in Nampa, future plans will include new buildings to accommodate what is sure to be increased enrollments over the years.

We do hope that you contact your legislators to register your support of the Governor's plan. If you do not know who your legislators are and would like to contact them, please call Mark Dunham's office and he can supply you with the information.

## **IMPROVING THE UNDERGRADUATE EXPERIENCE**

Over a year ago, the Freshman Success Task Force was commissioned as a joint effort between the Provost and Vice President for Student Affairs. The Committee was charged with making recommendations for creating a campus environment that will enhance transition to university life for first year students and recommending new or revised programs and services that may increase the likelihood of retention of these students. The Committee completed its work on schedule and submitted a report to Provost Sona Andrews and Vice President for Student Affairs Mark Wheeler.

First, let me thank the committee for their service, with special acknowledgement to Susan McCorkle, who served as Chair.

Freshman Success is everyone's responsibility. The recommendations developed by the Task Force include a variety of units and individuals on campus, including:

- **Expanding orientation options** and offering web-based orientation programs
- Ensuring that the information given at orientation ties directly to University 101
- Developing a **full-fledged parent program** to enlist the support of parents during the freshman transition process
- Continuing and expanding **learning communities** at Boise State (evidence suggests that cluster courses and cohort programs help some freshmen toward success and assist in the development of meaningful relationships with university employees)
- Continuing and expanding the **faculty-in-residence program**, and implementing a program around a required reading that all freshman students would have in common

- Creating a **hotline for faculty and staff** that will provide quick and accurate answers to questions students ask, but which require information we may not have.
- Create **incentives** to encourage departments to place the best full-time teachers in freshman classes
- And finally, addressing the **math challenges** that our students face
  - One of the highest predictors of poor GPA is taking Math 108
  - On-line math was cited as a significant problem by those who did not return for the Sophomore year
  - The failure rates in core Math classes are too high

I do understand the challenges we face in Idaho with under-prepared students who come to us with minimal preparation in science and math. For that reason, I strongly support the high school reform recommendations of the State Board of Education that the Governor asked the legislature to approve.

In short, the new requirements **increase the number of years of math from two to four in high school**, and **require all students to take pre-Algebra before entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade**. The proposal also would **increase the number of years in science from two to three**.

There are also a number of recommendations in the report to address our Math challenges, including:

- Ensuring that we offer multiple methods of instruction and delivery
- Using the same standard instrument to measure student learning in math
- Training core math instructors on student-centered learning

Later today, you can visit the Provost's web site to read the entire Freshman Success report. Perhaps the most important message we can all internalize today is that Freshman Success is not solved with these Task Force recommendations alone. Freshman Success is everyone's responsibility and we must as a campus learn to live freshman success.

### **Addressing the Needs of our Minority Students**

For most of us who attended college, we probably had a fairly traditional experience. I assume that for most of you the undergraduate experience was on a campus where your fellow students came from similar socio-economic backgrounds, shared a common cultural heritage, tuition represented a smaller share of your income and that of your parents than it does today, and you certainly did not have a language barrier placed between you and your studies.

Now let's take a look at 21<sup>st</sup> century Boise. Bosnians, Somalians, Afghans, Pakistanis, Hispanics, Latinos and others have immigrated to the Valley from around the world and present

us with an interesting challenge. 44 nations are represented at the Boise mosque. There are 4000 Bosnians and 2000 Somalians in Boise. And, of course, we have a large population of Latinos and Hispanics, some of whom are seasonal workers, but a growing number are settling into the Treasure Valley and have the same hopes and dreams for their children that our parents had for us.

Either we can conduct business as usual at the traditional, largely white and English-speaking Boise campus and lose future generations of leaders and workforce partners. Or we can make a commitment to welcome, accommodate and assist students from other cultures who join us under circumstances and conditions that challenge their ability to succeed.

Boise State must choose the latter course and I believe we are, thanks to your efforts. Let me share a few examples. Thanks to a \$750,000 five year grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of English Language Acquisition, our **Department of Bilingual Education awarded the first 22 graduate scholarships** to support the pedagogical development of teachers who work with English Language Learners. These students are enrolled in the Master Programs in ESL or Bilingual Education offered both at the West Campus and CSI in Twin Falls.

The Department of Bilingual Education was also awarded the **Grow Your Own Teacher Program** grant from the Idaho State Department of Education in an effort to assist underrepresented and underprivileged students who are interested in pursuing a baccalaureate degree in the field of bilingual education.

The National Institute of Health awarded Boise State a \$1.17 million grant for the **Idaho Partnership for Hispanic Health Project** to decrease Hispanic health disparities in Southwest Idaho. A member of our Department of Nursing faculty, Daisy Garcia, will be the project coordinator to work with other grant partners on this project.

### **Academic Advising**

One of the focus areas in the Freshman Success Report is the importance of quality advising – not only to freshman students, but for all students. This past year, the Provost created a new initiative to acknowledge individuals who have made a difference in the lives of our students through advising and mentoring.

Nominations were solicited from students. A selection committee reviewed nominations and selected winners based on the evidence of effective advising qualities and practices distinguishing the nominee as an outstanding advisor. Those selected for the honor are:

College of Applied Technology - Victor Watson  
 College of Arts and Sciences - Susan Shadle  
 College of Business and Economics - Jan Centanni  
 College of Education - Rickie Miller  
 College of Engineering - Elisa Barney-Smith  
 College of Health Sciences - Glenda Hill

College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs - Richard Kinney

Before I leave the subject of student success, I would like to commend our athletic program and the Bronco Football Team for achieving the Western Athletic Conference's Top Graduation Success Rate in a recently released NCAA report. While winning four consecutive WAC Championships and 63 games since the 2000 season, the Broncos have also excelled in the classroom posting the league's top graduation success rate.

Our Women's Gymnastics and Volleyball teams scored a perfect 100% graduation success rate. Women's basketball had an 86% rating and Women's Cross Country/Track had an 89% rate. The Graduation Success rate measures the percentage of student-athletes who began their first fulltime enrollment at the institution and those who received a degree from the institution within six years, taking into account students who transfer in and out.

As much as we struggle in Idaho to achieve a modest measure of diversity in our student body, I must say it is impressive to see how successful the athletic program has been at attracting student-athletes from a variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds.

I commend Gene Bleymaier on his success in these areas, and in one other – integrity. The integrity of our athletic program and the true effort that they make to ensure that our student-athletes are as successful in academics as they are on the field is outstanding. I don't have to worry, as some institutions do, about our program slighting the rules or conducting themselves in a manner that is less than honest or, in the long run, in the best interest of our student-athletes, athletic program, and university.

And one final observation. I don't know whether you see saw it or not, but we lost a coach. I wish Dan Hawkins well, but also welcome Chris Peterson as our new head football coach. I am confident that he will have the same positive influence on the reputation and image of Boise State as Dan had.

### **Internationalizing our Campus**

David Ward, the President of the American Council on Education described the internationalization of the campus as an effort to prepare graduates who are proficient in foreign languages, aware of different peoples and cultures and literate in issues of common global concern.

In 2004, we created a university task force in response to a call for greater internationalization of the campus by the American Council on Education.

Later this month, the Task Force will be issuing a survey on campus to assess the international activities of faculty – I urge your participation. The Task Force also asks that you consider undertaking one or more of the following activities:

- teaching and/or research experiences outside the U.S.
- international study or research opportunities for students
- creating international affiliations with faculty or institutions

- international conferences
- creating international content in your academic courses

## **GRADUATE PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH**

We continue to make substantial progress toward our goals of enhancing graduate study at Boise State and increasing funding derived from externally sponsored projects.

For the first half of FY2006, we are up 17% in the number of sponsored project awards, and up 32% in total grant value as compared to the first half of FY 2005 – equaling \$17,840,068.

**That's almost as much as the annual grant value when I started here just two and half years ago.** Credit for this certainly goes to our incredible research faculty.

I understand that FY 2005 was also a record year for grants to the College of Social Science and Public Affairs as well, with a total of \$2.3 million. In addition, they have already recorded \$1.3 million in FY 2006, including an \$829,000 grant from the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare. This grant will cover administrative costs of the **Child Welfare Center (a part of the School of Social Work)**, student stipends for students who want to become child welfare workers, training for foster parents, and training for existing child welfare workers throughout the state.

As for new programs in the area of graduate doctoral education, the State Board of Education unanimously approved a new doctoral program in electrical and computer engineering, and the admittance of students will begin in spring 2006.

In other graduate programming news, the Mathematics Department accepted its first nine graduate students in their new MS in Mathematics program in fall of 2005. We expect to double that number by the time that we get a full class going in the fall of 2006.

The College of Education has just graduated the largest number of doctoral students in the history of the university, and, at the same time, we have the largest incoming class. This promises good things for the future.

## **GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATION FOR FY 2007**

For those of you who listened to the Governor's Address on Monday, you know that he had a very positive message to send in regard to higher education. In addition to supporting our interest in a community college effort, his budget recommendation is favorable to us as well. Overall, he has **recommended a 4.8% increase for higher education – the last time we enjoyed that sort of increase was six years ago – in FY 01**, and if funded, this increase would double what we have received for each of the last three years. More specifically, it includes:

**Salary Increase.** The Governor recommends a 3%, ongoing, merit-based pay increase for state employees. The Governor will be asking the Legislature to provide supplemental funding for the increase so that instead of waiting until July 1 for employees to be affected, it would begin on

January 29. We won't know the final outcome and specifics until the Legislature has a chance to act, but we will do our part in supporting the Governor in this request.

**Enrollment Workload Adjustment.** The Governor recommends \$351,900 to **fully fund** Boise State's Enrollment Workload Adjustment formula-driven request, and nearly \$1 million (\$976,300) to all the institutions to help cover significantly increased utility costs.

**Inflationary Increase.** The Governor recommends a 1.9% inflationary increase to cover the increased operating costs such as postage, fuel, supplies, etc. The last time an general inflationary increase was funded was FY 2002.

**Health Insurance.** The Governor recommends fully funding the 3.5% increased cost of health insurance, which equates to \$250 per employee.

We are privileged in that the Legislature has funded these sort of health benefit cost increases consistently, even during the recent lean years, which has not always been the case in places where I have worked before coming here.

**Equipment Replacement.** The Governor recommended over \$2 million for Boise State to replace computer, lab and distance learning, and space remodels for classrooms and faculty offices.

**Research.** The Governor recommends \$1 million for research activities related to Idaho's science and technology core competencies of power and energy; agriculture/biosciences; imaging; and nanosciences and materials.

**Occupancy Costs.** Boise State was the only institution to receive funding for **Occupancy Costs**. The Governor recommends fully funding the \$411,400 associated with occupying the Art Studio and classrooms in Capitol Village, academic space in the Residence Halls, and the Interactive Learning Center which is currently under construction and due to open in mid-FY07. The last time occupancy costs were funded for Boise State was FY 2004 for the Student Recreation Center.

**Capital Budget.** The Governor recommends earmarking \$9 million of the \$25.1 million total for Alterations & Repair funding in the Capital Budget exclusively for higher education, which will help us in the area of deferred maintenance project and remodels.

I appreciate the Governor's support of higher education this year, and I urge you to contact your legislators in regard to these proposals.

## **COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN PREPARATION**

As you know from our announcements last fall, with the State Board's approval of our Campus Master Plan, we have embarked on an ambitious journey to transform the physical layout of our campus to conform to our goal of becoming a metropolitan research university of distinction. Historically, buildings on this campus have been built with bonds backed up by pledges to repay

with student fees. Generous donors have also matched their interests with our academic goals and objectives. Very little support for capital construction has come from the State of Idaho. As we look to the future, there is no reason to think that the State can play a larger role in capital construction. It is also unlikely that we can continue increasing student fees indefinitely without impacting our students' ability to pay and attend. Consequently, donors, both those who have already shown their generosity and those who still remain to be cultivated and solicited on behalf of our students, will be our principal source of future capital construction funding.

For that reason and others, we have been planning a comprehensive campaign that, in addition to raising funds for programming and scholarships, will help us build the infrastructure required of a 21<sup>st</sup> century metropolitan university. A major part of those plans includes adding development staff members who can assist me, our Vice Presidents, Deans, department chairs and faculty members in prospecting and cultivating new donors.

Joining us today are Barbara Myhre, our new development officer who will be working with the College of Health Sciences, and our new Director of Donor Relations, Barbara Ferguson.

I might offer an observation about our priorities in fundraising. I wish I could tell you that donors were lined up at the door and our major challenge was figuring out what to do with their money. But as you know, it doesn't work that way. Donors who can help us build large projects are scarce and when they do offer to help, or are persuaded to give, it is often in areas that are common across American higher education—athletics, business and science and technology. With the high-tech focus of our economy locally, contributions for science and technology are clearly easier to find. That is one of the reasons why I predicted last fall that as Boise State gradually appears on the national scene in academics, it will be for its faculty's research and graduate programming in science and technology.

That should in no way be interpreted as our waving a white flag over our vision for strong programs in the education, social science, the arts and humanities. It should certainly alert us to the special challenges we have in identifying donors in those areas. We must and we will develop strategies to attract donors to areas often passed by in the traditional comprehensive campaign.

Our comprehensive campaign will, indeed, be comprehensive; first, in the sense that it will raise funds for programs, scholarships and capital construction, second, in the sense that it will engage all of our Colleges and programs in an equal opportunity strategy to identify funding for priorities across the campus. That's not to say that we will be equally successful, but we will employ every strategy we can uncover to help you identify funding opportunities.

One thing is for sure. This upcoming comprehensive campaign will not succeed if left to the President's office and the Office of University of Advancement alone. It will take the creative energy and intellects of our faculty and staff who can help us engage our prospective donors. Now is the time for departments and Colleges to have conversations about what you expect of the comprehensive campaign for your area and what you and your colleagues can do to assist in the effort. Please invite Rick Frisch or his staff to your meetings if you have not done so. This

will be a team effort and the more closely we work together, the more successful we will be in reaching the goals and objectives of your college or department.

## **CONCLUSION**

You have been patient and I do appreciate your interest in this update and what it means for Boise State's very bright future. As I attempted to say at the beginning of my remarks, each and every one of you leaves your personal imprint on our work. I know I speak for Sona, Stacy, Mark, Rick and Jack when I say how honored we are to be a part of a learning community so dedicated to excellence and so committed to the students who come here to learn.

Thanks for all you do for Boise State.