

Idaho State UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
921 South 8th Avenue, Stop 8063 • Pocatello, Idaho 83209-8063

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Faculty and Staff

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing with very good news for Idaho State University and the state of Idaho.

As you know, the gold standard of university ratings is the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Every six or seven years, the Foundation assesses all institutions of higher education in the United States and publishes its influential Carnegie Classifications of Institutions of Higher Education. For many years, ISU has been listed as a DRU, or Doctoral Research University. This classification is one level above Master's L (Master's Colleges and Universities), such as Boise State University, and one level below RU-H (Research University-High), such as the University of Idaho.

Carnegie has just released its newest rankings, and ISU has catapulted to Research University-High status. This classification is second only to the highest category: Research University-Very High. This is a great distinction for ISU and a real tribute to our excellent faculty and staff.

This new distinction will have many material consequences for ISU. Obviously, our university will enjoy more prestige nationally in the eyes of those in higher education. The state, too, will benefit by being able to boast that it now supports two RU-H institutions. Because Carnegie is the standard of university performance and a measure of its competitiveness, attaining this distinction is a sign of ISU's growing institutional maturity.

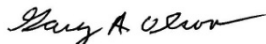
This higher status enhances our ability to attract increased externally funded research (because external funding agencies tend to have more confidence in grant proposals from faculty at higher ranked institutions). It also makes us more attractive as a partner to industry, and it increases our ability to negotiate a higher indirect cost rate for our grants from the federal government.

This higher status not only improves our ability to recruit high quality faculty, postdocs and graduate students, but it strengthens our justification for increased salary for faculty and staff when funding becomes available. It also enhances our graduates' attractiveness to prospective employers and prestigious graduate and professional schools.

For your information, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching is a research and policy center dedicated to improving education in the United States. It was founded by Andrew Carnegie and chartered in 1906 by an Act of Congress. Our new status puts Idaho State University in some very good company: about a hundred institutions that include Auburn, Clemson, Fordham, Kent, and Old Dominion Universities. In the west, we are in the company of Utah State, Northern Arizona, and New Mexico State Universities.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication in contributing to the achievement of this high distinction for ISU.

Cordially,



Gary A. Olson
Provost and Professor

The Carnegie Classifications

The Carnegie Classification is based on an analysis of existing national data. The focus is on empirical indicators of institutional activity, not on a subjective rating, as in a number of national ranking systems.

Carnegie classifies all accredited public and private institutions on an analysis of specific institutional characteristics related to six key areas: undergraduate instructional programs; graduate instructional programs; enrollment profile; undergraduate students profile; institution size and setting; and level of research activity.

Based on Carnegie's analysis of these six characteristics, doctoral institutions are categorized as:

- Research University, Very High Research Activity (RU-VH)
- Research University, High Research Activity (RU-H)
- Doctoral Research University (DRU)

The profile of characteristics describing ISU are:

- a. Undergraduate Instructional Program: Professions plus Arts & Science, with some graduate coexistence
- b. Graduate Instructional Program: Comprehensive doctoral (no medicine or veterinary)
- c. Enrollment profile: High undergraduate
- d. Undergraduate profile: Medium, full-time, four-year, selective, higher transfer-in
- e. Size and setting: Medium four-year, primarily nonresidential

The current Carnegie listing includes 4,633 institutions. Research University-High institutions account for 98 of those institutions, and Research University-Very High institutions account for 108. Combined, these two research categories represent less than five percent of the nation's institutions of higher education.