

ISU Alumni Insights Newsletter

August 2026

Summer Retreat!

New ISUAA Board members were welcomed and along with families and guests everyone got to know each other better at our summer retreat! Outer Limits hosted our group for food, fun, and comradery! Laser tag was a hit--and the XXX came out on top!



Red Hill Run

While in Pocatello for a recent visit from Tennessee, Jessica Sargent planned to climb up to the columns and hike along Red Hill. "I was so happy to visit campus and one of my favorite spots while here for a summer visit!"

Red Hill is one of the university's most popular and recognizable outdoor landmarks and a favorite destination for students, alumni, and community members year-round!

Quiz! What year were the Alumni Point Pillars dedicated?



Answer:
1970

Idaho State's Early College Program: Building Future Bengals

Since its beginnings in 1994 with just two local high schools, Idaho State University's Early College Program has grown into a statewide initiative serving more than 4,000 students at 43 high schools and providing more than 27,000 college credits each year. Through dual-credit courses, Idaho high school students can earn college credit before graduation, helping them save time and money as they pursue their educational goals. The program also invests in the high school educators who teach these courses, providing pathways and financial incentives to help qualified teachers earn the advanced

degrees needed to offer university-level coursework. With Idaho's Advanced Opportunities funding helping cover eligible costs, Early College makes these opportunities more accessible to students and families across the state. Beyond the credits, students gain experience with college-level academics and begin building a college transcript while educators bring new opportunities and rigor into their classrooms. By partnering with Idaho schools, educators and families, ISU is helping remove barriers to higher education—and building connections that can turn today's high school students into tomorrow's Bengals.



New Member Corner

Meet Jesse Hill

I'm a proud ISU alumna, where I earned my Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing Education and was also a member of the ISU Bengal Dancers. I'm currently pursuing my Doctor of Nursing Practice degree with the goal of becoming a Family Nurse Practitioner. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my wonderful husband and our three children.

I'm excited to serve on the Board of Directors because I'm grateful for the opportunity to give back to Idaho State University, support fellow alumni, and contribute to the community that has played such an important role in my personal and professional journey. I look forward to building connections, sharing my experiences, and helping strengthen the Idaho State alumni community for current and future generations. Go Bengals!

ISU's New Three-Year Bachelor's Degree to Meet Workforce Needs

Idaho State University broke new ground last spring by launching three accelerated Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degree programs designed to save students money and enable them to join Idaho's workforce earlier. ISU is Idaho's first public institution to offer three-year bachelor's degrees.

Here's a list of the new three-year options:

- BAS in Law Enforcement Management and Leadership
- BAS in Applied Business and Professional Sales
- BAS in Intelligent and Trustworthy Digital Systems.

Idaho State's College of Technology worked with industry partners to develop the programs, combining technical education with leadership, communication, and applied management skills to prepare graduates for advancement opportunities in high-demand industries.



If you made strong connections in college like I did, you know how important it is to continue to cultivate those relationships. College friends often come into our lives during this pivotal time- we are learning, growing, and often away from home for the first time. These friends saw you through the worst times and were there to celebrate the best times. If you have a friend from college that you haven't seen or talked to in a while, what's stopping you from reaching out? Invite them to join you at an alumni event, an ISU sporting event, or just at a local event like a show at the theater. So many ways to keep those connections strong. With the Homecoming season quickly approaching there will be so many ways to reconnect and catch up with fellow Bengals! Homecoming may just be the jumping off point you need to renew and strengthen old friendships!

Jamie Howerton



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Earlier in July, Board Member Roshan Kumar's Pocatello restaurant, Himalayan Flavor won Idaho State Journal's Reader's Choice Award! Roshan owns three locations of the restaurant (the other two are in Idaho Falls and Logan, UT). Roshan has been the owner of these restaurants since 2018. He is one Bengal Entrepreneur Idaho State U and our community can be especially proud of! Congratulations, Roshan and your team!