



Idaho State
University



KDHS Opening Assembly

FALL 2026

ROAR



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1st GIVEAWAY!!!!



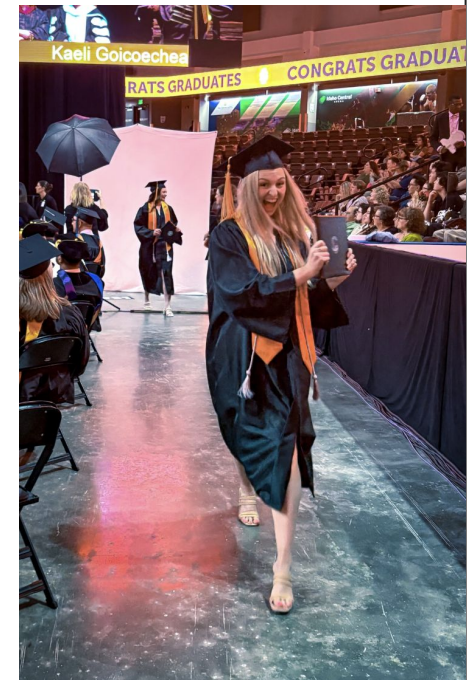
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2026 KDHS Graduates!!!!

- This Spring's graduates included 978 degrees earned by health sciences graduates
 - That is almost 100 more than 2025!



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Agenda

- Welcome
- Updates
 - Reorg
 - AHEC
 - Meridian
 - Enrollment
 - Facilities
 - Advising
 - Faculty Senate
 - Grants and Contracts
 - Budget
- Announcements
- Save the Dates
- Questions and Discussion

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A New Academic Year.....

- **Last year was hard.** We navigated change, challenges, and uncertainty—and it wasn't always easy.
- **We made it through together.** Thank you for the resilience, flexibility, and commitment you showed to our students, patients, colleagues, and mission.
- **We learned a lot.** The challenges of last year helped us identify where we can improve, where we need to focus, and what matters most.
- **A new year brings a fresh opportunity.** We have the chance to build on what we learned and move forward with purpose.
- **Let's focus on what's ahead.** Collaboration, innovation, growth, and creating an environment where our people can thrive.
- **We have a lot to be excited about.** There is real momentum, new opportunities, and incredible work happening across our organization.
- **This year, let's choose progress over perfection—and possibility over uncertainty.**

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Char Byington

For regular updates on Char's recovery, you can follow on the [CaringBridge link](#)



CARINGBRIDGE®

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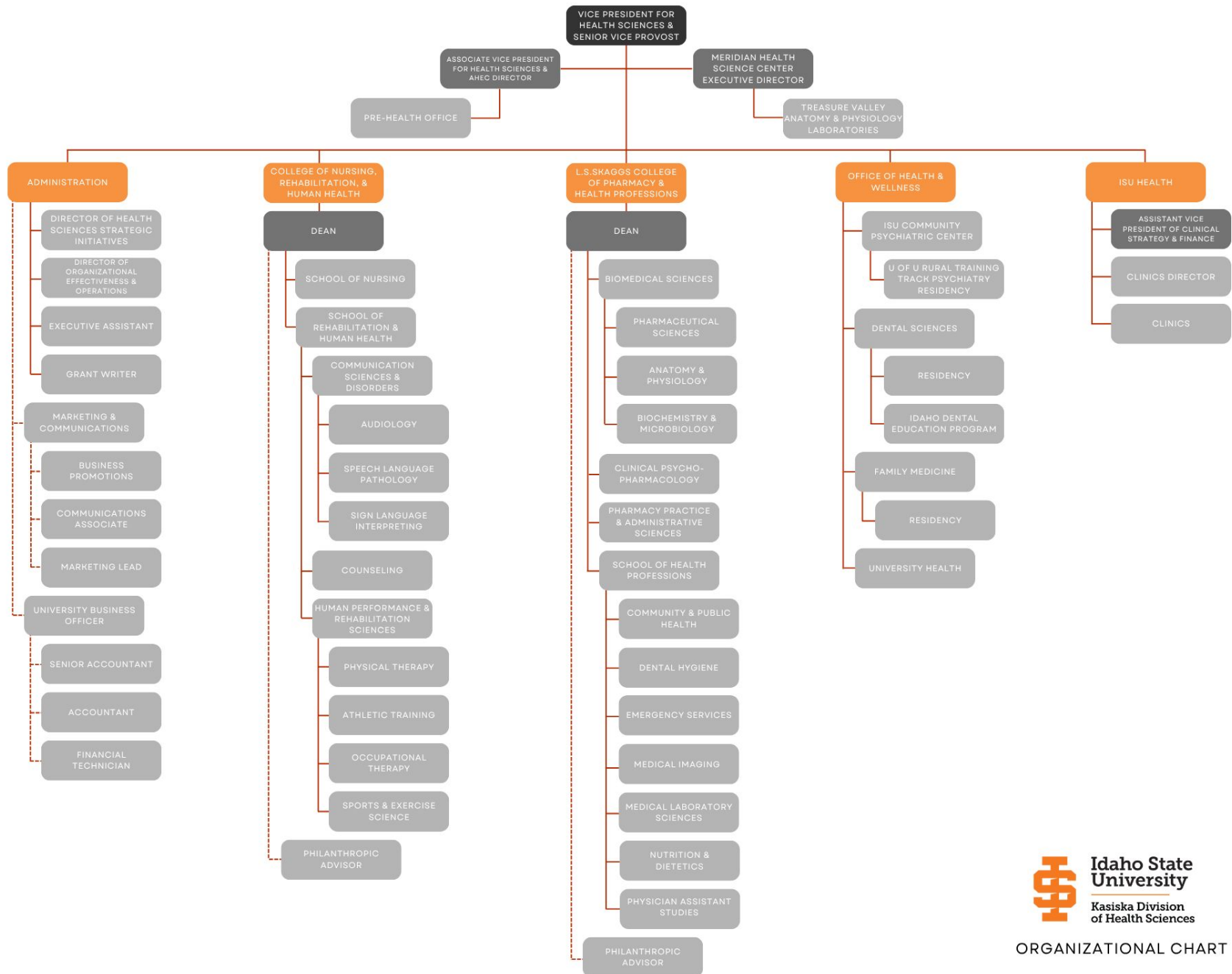


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Reorg Update

- Still lots of details...
 - Catalog changes
 - Advising
 - Faculty senate
 - Shared service models
 - Policies
 - Awareness
 - Your input and feedback is welcome...

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Reorg Update

- Welcome to our new faculty and staff in Sports and Exercise Sciences and Biomedical Sciences.
- If you are in attendance, please stand!
 - Michael Meyers - Professor
 - Shad Robinson - Clinical Instructor & Human Performance Lab Coordinator
 - Tayler Elizondo - Clinical Instructor
 - Julia Martin - Associate Professor
 - Caryn Evilia - Professor
 - Peter Sheridan - Professor
 - Michael Swenson - Assistant Lecturer

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Reorg Update

- Susan Marion - Associate Lecturer
- Ian Stewart - Associate Lecturer
- Sherry Adams - Associate Lecturer
- Jennifer Abbruzzese - Associate Lecturer
- Less than 50% appt with Biomedical Sciences
 - Heather Ray-Associate Professor
 - Devaleena Pradhan-Associate Professor
 - Jack Shurley-Senior Lecturer
 - James Groome-Professor

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Reorg Update

- Liz De La Cruz-Assistant Professor
 - Kristin Lane-Associate Professor
 - Kinta Serve-Associate Professor
-
- Welcome to the KDHS!

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Congratulations to our Recently Promoted and/or Tenured KDHS Faculty!

- Breezy Bird, promotion to Clinical Associate Professor
- Chelsie Wheatley, promotion to Clinical Associate Professor
- Jeff Johnson, promotion to Clinical Associate Professor
- Karissa Miller, promotion to Clinical Associate Professor
- Melissa Caudle, promotion to Clinical Associate Professor
- Saryu Sharma, promotion to Associate Professor w/tenure
- Ngoni Mpofu, promotion to Associate Professor w/tenure
- Omotayo Omotowa, promotion to Associate Professor w/tenure
- Ryan Lindsay, promotion to Professor

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Guiding Principle & Strategy Development for 2026-27

As we look ahead to the 2026–27 academic year, we would like each area to begin thinking about how you can operationalize some of your strategic priorities under the four guiding themes:

1. **Strengthening People**
2. **Financial Resiliency**
3. **Process Improvement**
4. **Strengthening Our Institutional Position**

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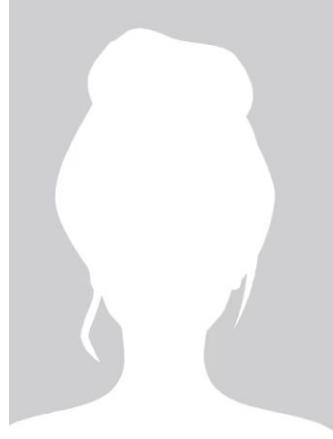
KDHS Marketing Team



Makenzie Kohler

Communications

News Stories
Press Releases
Biographies
Non-Paid Social
Media



Paige Moeller

Marketing

Promotional
Materials
Graphic Design
Paid Social Media
Advertising



Hiring Underway

Business Promotions

Clinics-focused
Promotion
Clinics Advertising
Market Research
Revenue Generation

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AHEC Update

- Idaho AHEC Program Office is entering its fifth year hosted by the ISU School of Nursing; mission is to recruit, train, and retain a qualified healthcare workforce for rural and medically underserved areas
- Coordinates four regional centers statewide (North, Southwest, Southcentral, and Southeast)
 - \$1.5M annually

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AHEC Update

- In 2025-2026, reached over 6,200 middle and high school students at 22 pipeline events, including the HOSA state conference; of those surveyed,
 - 81% reported greater interest in health careers,
 - 67% of participants were from rural areas, and
 - 71% were first-generation
- Hosted 10 continuing education events reaching almost 400 clinicians,
 - 87% of whom serve medically underserved communities;
 - new statewide CE partnership with ECHO Idaho begins next year

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AHEC Update

- 99 active Scholars completing the AHEC curriculum from 13 institutions across 8 disciplines (medicine, pharmacy, PA, nursing including DNP, dietetics, athletic training, clinical psychology, and social work), with radiographic science joining this year's cohort;
 - 98% of surveyed Scholars reported the curriculum added value to their primary program;
 - Recruiting 60 more this fall

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AHEC Update

- Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health rural placement stipends supported 48 ISU students at 30 rural and underserved sites across 8 disciplines;
 - 78% of those surveyed reported greater interest in rural practice
 - Renewed \$40k for 2026-28
- Co-leading a statewide community-based experiential training project with BSU and seven other Idaho institutions to develop additional rural practice sites, as part of the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)

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Meridian Updates

- Parking Passes for faculty/staff traveling to Meridian, stop at front desk for a day pass
- Clinical Psychology (PsyD) program starting with 7 students



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Enrollment Updates for Fall 2026 as of August 24

- Overall headcount is down 432 (-4.1%) and overall credit counts are down 4294 (-3.3%)
- Total Undergraduate: 358 (-4.5%) and overall credit counts are down 4121 (-4%).
 - College applications were down 7% statewide on Apply Idaho website
- Total Graduate: down 65 students (-3.1%) and up 95 credits (0.5%)
 - International and tuition reduction impact
- Total Professional: down 11 students (-5.6%) and down 315 credits (-8.6%)

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Enrollment Updates for Fall 2026

- Dual enrollment (Early College): Dual enrollment (Early College): down 3 students (-1.5%) and up 70 credits (26.5%) for this date
- Undergraduate (Not Early College): down 355 students (-4.6%) and down 4191 credits (-4.2%)
- Masters: down 57 students (-4%) and up 27 credits (0.2%)
- Doctoral: up 14 students (2.3%) and up 144 credits (2.3%)
 - Thank you, DNAP program (and others)!

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2nd GIVEAWAY!!!!



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Facilities Updates

- 23 acres update - active discussions about construction of first building (maintenance & operations building)
- ISU Public Safety will conduct fire evacuation drills for buildings on the Pocatello and Idaho Falls campuses from Monday, August 31 through Thursday, September 10.
 - Meridian no changes
- Lockdown drill October 20, 9am - details to come...

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Advising Updates

2025-2026

- 31 Recruitment Events Attended
- 9 Registration Events Attended
- 12 NSO Events Summer 2026 Attended
- 2 NSO Spring 2026 Events Attended
- Approved UCC BSHS Pre-Osteopathic Medicine ICOM Track for 2026-2027
- Parallel Planning for students in competitive programs (advising based on more than one program)

We are back in the Beckley Nursing Building, Room 307!

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Other Updates

- Federal Loan Updates
- Capital campaign kickoff



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Faculty Senate Updates

- ISUPP 4020: Promotion and Tenure and ISUPP 4070: Faculty Awards were passed
- ISUPP 4030: Faculty Sabbatical Leave and ISUPP 4150: Annual Faculty Evaluations are on the docket for vote on 30-day review early this year.

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KDHS Faculty Senators

- Glenda Carr, College of Pharmacy and Health Professions, May 2028
- Vacancies, vacancies, vacancies!

WE NEED SENATORS! This is a wonderful opportunity to serve. Faculty numbers for senate representation is still being worked out!

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Grants and Contracts

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Rural Health Transformation Program

- Applications for higher education vetted through OSBE
 - Encouraged inter-institutional collaboration, broad rural impacts, sustainability, equitable distribution of \$
 - Application deadline 9/4 internal, and 9/11 to OSBE
 - Must spend \$\$ by 9/30/27!!
 - **Year 2 applications should be open soon, this fall**
- Several solicitations available outside of this process

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BRING-IT Research Grant by Dr. Tori Scharp & Dr. Kristin Van De Griend



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Kasiska Division of

Health Sciences

L. S. Skaggs College of
Pharmacy and Health
Professions

College of Nursing,
Rehabilitation, and
Human Health

125
YEARS

There are **two** ways to get involved:

Your Input. Stronger Research.

We are seeking broad faculty input to help identify needs, priorities, and opportunities for improvement in the biomedical research environment at ISU.

1

Take the
Faculty Survey
about biomedical research.

Share your perspectives in a quick electronic survey and help us understand what's working, what's needed, and where we can do better.



SCAN ME



This survey will take
approximately **20 minutes or less**.

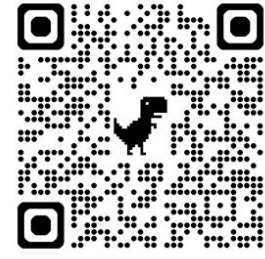


Participation is **voluntary**.

2

Join a
Faculty Focus Group

Sign up for an upcoming focus group to provide in-depth feedback about your experiences and research support needs.



SCAN ME



Participation is **voluntary**.

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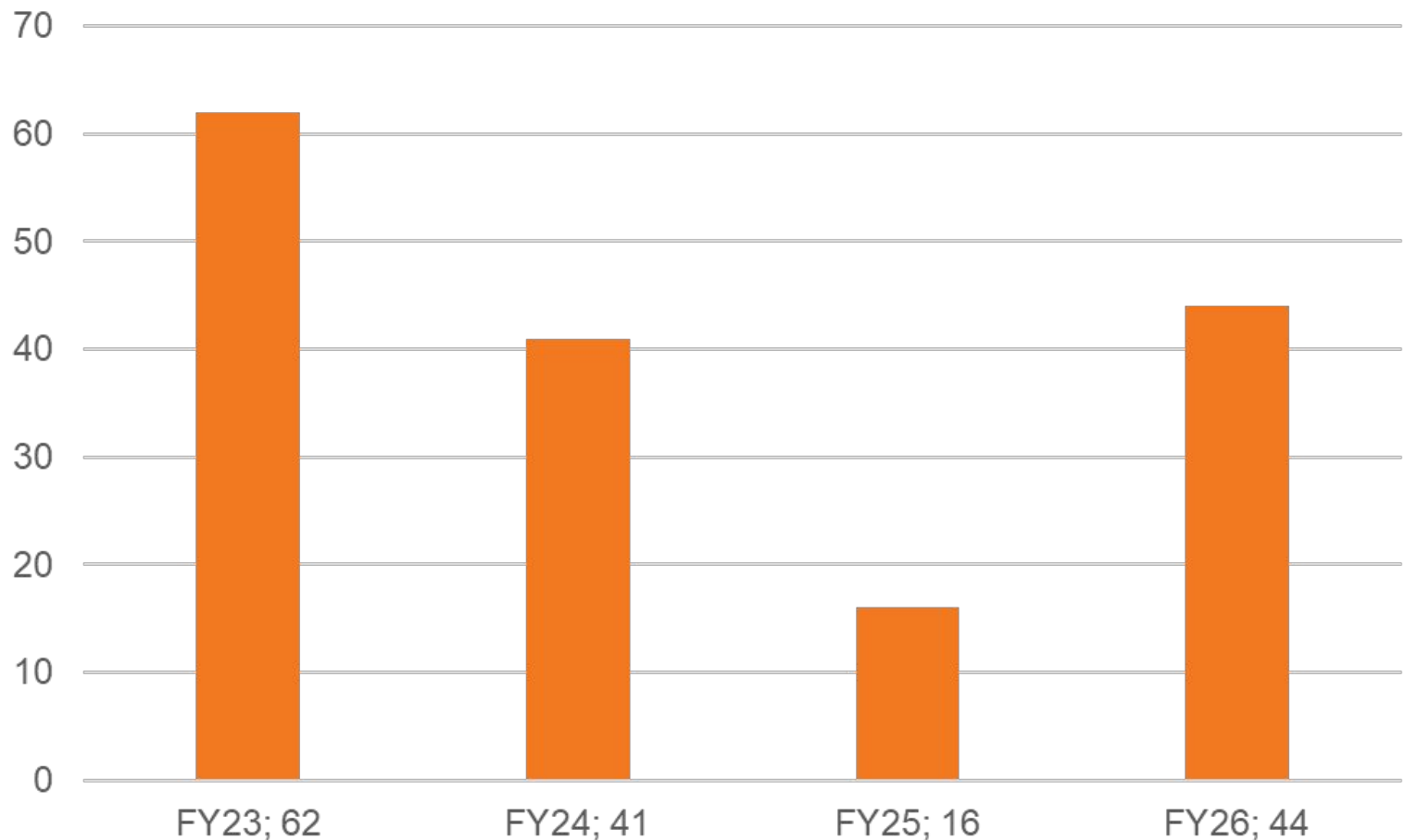


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KDHS Grants and Contracts

Awards Received

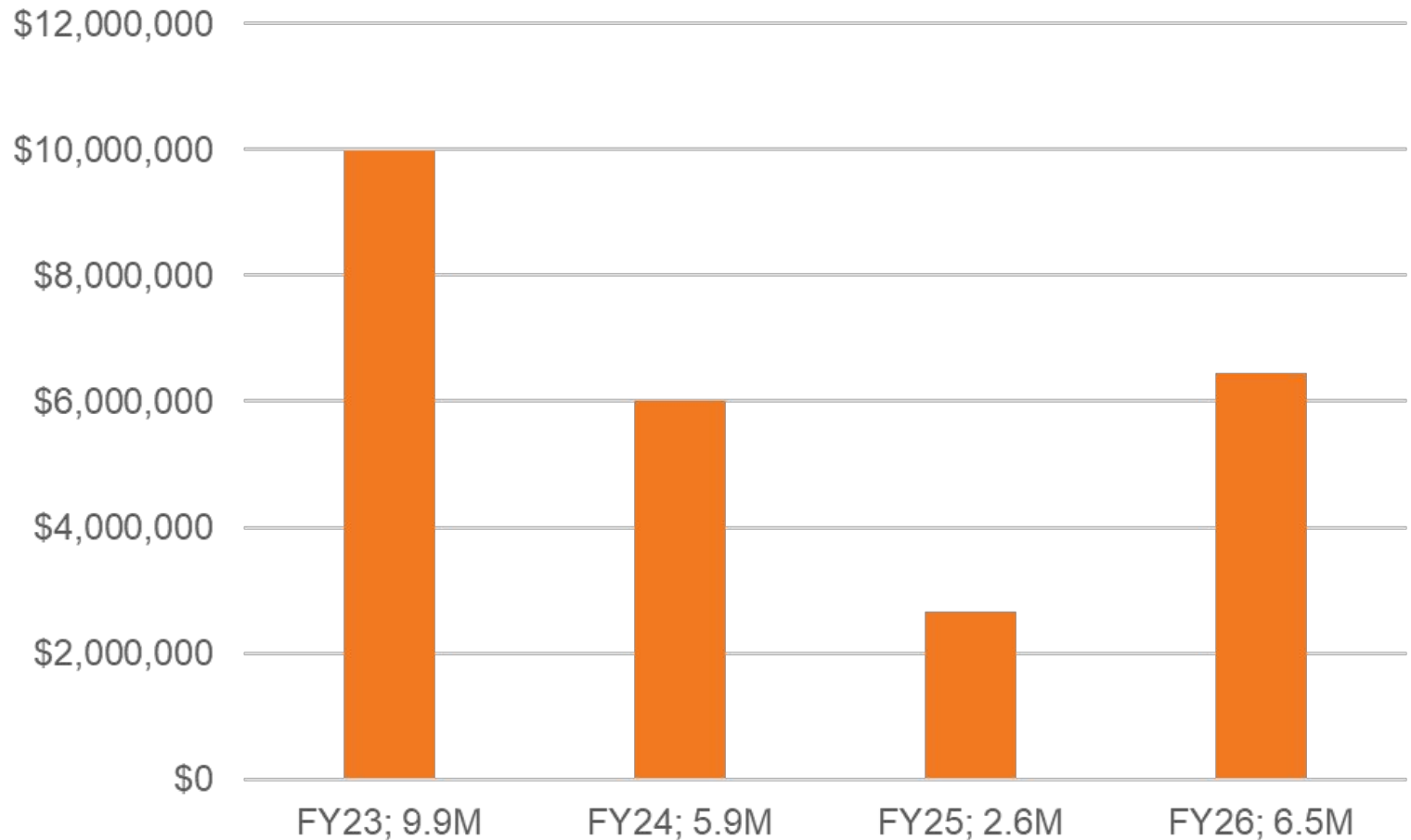




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KDHS Grants and Contracts

\$\$ Received



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3rd GIVEAWAY!!!!



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Budget

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Budget Principles

- Trust, transparency, and inclusivity in budget development and administration
- Maximization of University resources
- Budgeting and decision-making informed by data, strategic plans, and priorities
- Budget structures that foster innovation and stewardship
 - New revenue streams - clinic
- Empowerment, mutual accountability, responsiveness, and adaptation at the local level

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Budget Update - FY 2027

- State ended FY 2026 with \$250M surplus
- New holdbacks not expected, but last year's is permanent
- Budgeting for FY 2028 likely to be flat, base budget submission

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4th GIVEAWAY!!!!



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Announcements

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JOIN US FOR THE

BENGAL BLOCK PARTY

SEPT / 11 / 2026

@ MLK DRIVE | 4 PM - 7 PM

JOIN US TO ENJOY A HIGH-ENERGY STREET
FAIR WITH BOOTHS, ACTIVITIES, FOOD,
MUSIC, GIVEAWAYS, AND MORE. IT'S A FUN,
FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENT TO CELEBRATE
OUR BENGAL COMMUNITY IN STYLE!

STAY INFORMED:
[ISU.EDU/CELEBRATIONWEEK](https://isu.edu/celebrationweek)





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Free Athletics Tickets for Employees

- ISU faculty and staff can receive two free, non-priority tickets to all 2026-27 preseason and non-conference home games.
- Redeem at the door with a valid faculty/staff ID, subject to availability.
- Visit isubengals.com for team schedules and opponent details.

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Innovation Hub Launch

- **Tuesday, September 15**
9:30–11 a.m.
ICCU Bengal Alumni Center
- President Robert Wagner and Innovation Hub Director Patience Ternus will share remarks about the Hub's vision and its role in supporting collaboration, innovation, and meaningful change across the university.

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70
YEARS

of the
**SCHOOL OF
NURSING**

1956-2026

*You and your guest are invited to
celebrate with us on*

SATURDAY, SEPT. 26

2:00 - 5:00

ICCU BENGAL ALUMNI CENTER
1601 E. BONNEVILLE ST.
POCATELLO, ID



**SCAN TO RSVP
BY SEPT. 6**
OR CALL/EMAIL:
(208) 282-2429
jonerose@isu.edu



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Homecoming Week

- October 5-10, 2026
- For event and parade information, visit <https://www.isu.edu/homecoming/>

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SAVE THE DATE

GINNY THOMAS

HEALTHY AGING SYMPOSIUM

What Matters to Me: Shared
Decisions in Health and Healing

Join the Idaho Area Health Education Center and Kasiska Division of Health Sciences at Idaho State University for an afternoon of meaningful conversation. Engage with healthcare students to explore how to communicate what matters most in your senior years to both family and healthcare providers.

Your voice matters.

October 7, 2026

2 - 5 PM

Idaho State University
idahoahec@isu.edu





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Cultivating Wellbeing Under Duress: A Workshop for Health Professionals

Presenter: Dr. Charlie Clements, retired physician, human rights activist, and former Executive Director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard University.

Date & Time: Thursday, October 8th, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Location: Meridian (Room TBD). Virtual attendance is available via Zoom for all sessions.

Registration & Inquiries: For further information or to request the Zoom link, please contact Ali Crane at alocrane@isu.edu.

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Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration on Oct. 12

- This special day honors the rich histories, cultures, resilience, and enduring contributions of Indigenous peoples while recognizing the importance of Tribal sovereignty, community partnerships, and Indigenous voices in higher education.
- Date: Monday, October 12, 2026
- Location: Idaho State University – Pocatello Campus
- Event details, schedule, speakers, and registration coming soon!

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Health Science Experience Night and Experience the Roar

Meridian

- Thursday, October 15, 2026
- 6 – 9:00 p.m.
- Sam and Aline Skaggs Health Science Center at ISU-Meridian
- Watch for communications from Admissions & Recruitment on how to sign up.

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5th GIVEAWAY!!!!



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Questions and Discussion

- THANK YOU for submitting your questions!

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Questions Submitted in Advance.....

- Has a decision been made regarding offering early retirement?

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Questions Submitted in Advance.....

- This week, the PA system in Meridian was inadvertently triggered notifying some of our campus that there was an intruder, which triggered some of us to shelter in place. As we communicated with our Meridian team about the response to the incident, we learned that the Meridian campus does not have the ability to send RAVE notifications directly - we have to get in touch with the main campus to request action through them. In the event that we have an emergency situation requiring lockdown on our campus, a delay in triggering a lockdown and notifying our campus community could have significant safety implications for our community. Is there a way to enable a select group of leaders on the Meridian campus to trigger RAVE notifications in the event of an emergency so we can more quickly respond and communicate about developing situations?

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Last ONE!!!!



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