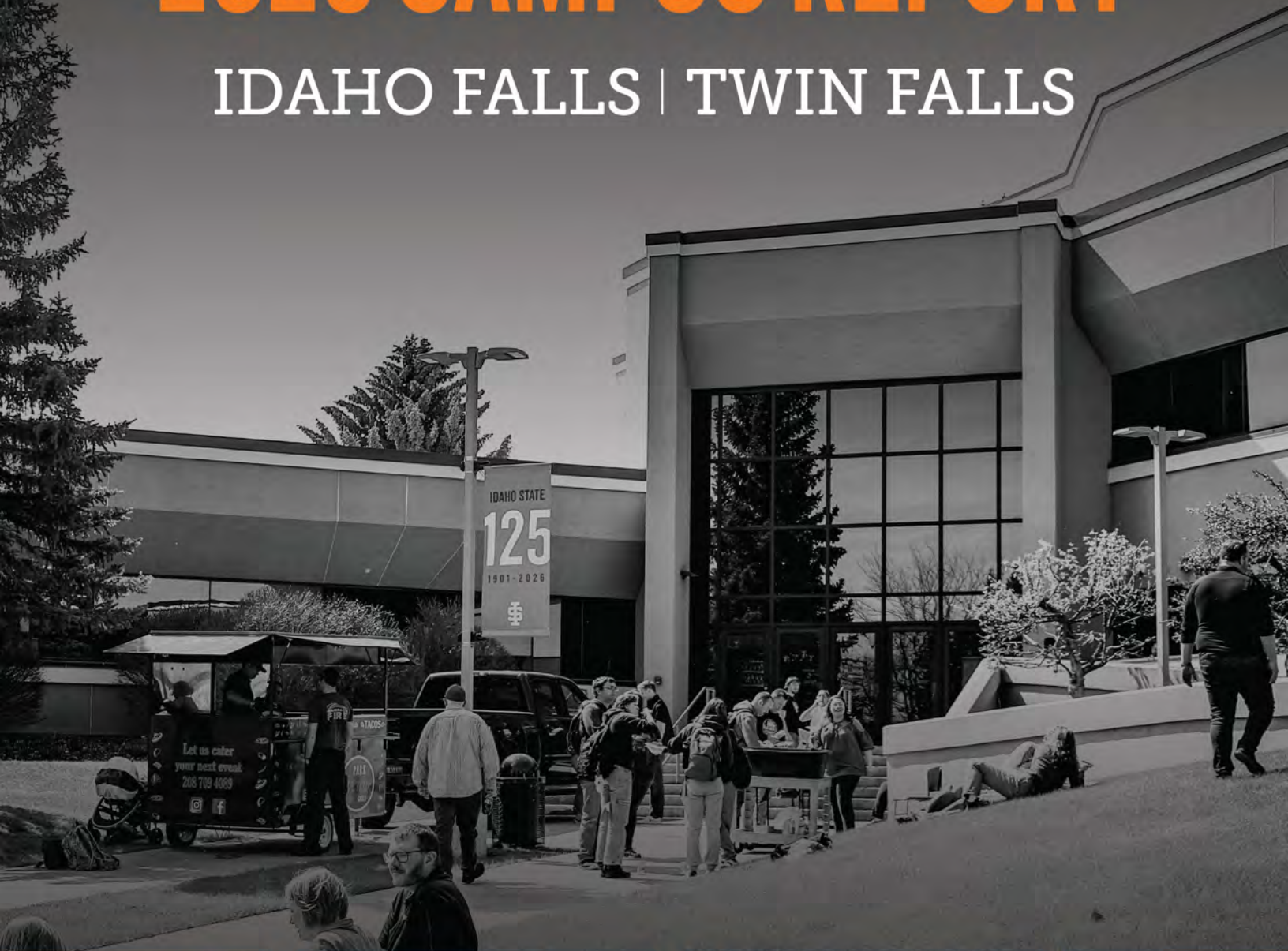




Idaho State
University

2026 CAMPUS REPORT

IDAHO FALLS | TWIN FALLS



MOMENTUM BY DESIGN



This past year marked a definitive shift for Idaho State University's **regional campuses in Idaho Falls and Twin Falls**, moving from a phase of intensive institutional assessment to one of measurable growth. The university has successfully aligned its **regional operations** with the specific needs of students, institutional partners and industry stakeholders.

This strategic repositioning was anchored by a "student and community focused" assessment of the service regions, resulting in a five-year roadmap designed to ensure ISU remains a cornerstone of academic excellence, research, and community engagement **in the Greater Idaho Falls region and across the Magic Valley.**

ENROLLMENT EXCELLENCE

The strategic efforts to optimize **regional operations** are already yielding significant dividends. Most notably, the **Idaho Falls campus reported a 5% enrollment increase for the Spring 2026 term**, and a **4.25% overall annual gain**. This upward momentum reflects a renewed confidence among students and a successful internal reorganization that matched employee skill sets to institutional objectives, creating a more efficient and responsive campus environment.



STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

IDAHO FALLS STUDENT

“My favorite part of being at ISU Idaho Falls is the professors. . . they're really knowledgeable and human. They understand that things happen in life and help you out if you're struggling more. ISU Idaho Falls has taught me to not be afraid to ask questions.”

-Moheet Suthar

TWIN FALLS STUDENT

“ISU Twin Falls has played such a meaningful role in my journey. Having support close to home and people who truly believed in me made all the difference, and I am so thankful to continue building my future through the interpreting program at Idaho State University.”

-Jessica Lucas

IDAHO FALLS BY THE NUMBERS



1,170+
Students Taking
Courses
▲ **4.25%**



7,025
Credits
Completed
▲ **3%**



5% Growth
Spring Term
Enrollment

During the 2025/26 academic year

BUILDING FOR IDAHO'S FUTURE

By prioritizing strategic programming in fields such as Engineering, Business, Education, and Health Professions, ISU is ensuring its **regional campuses** serve as engines for workforce development. The transition from assessment to action has established a sustainable model for growth, transfer pathways, and community partnerships. As ISU looks toward the future, its five-year roadmap continues to drive results for Idaho's students, ensuring greater access to higher education and a stronger pipeline for the state's evolving economy **at our regional campuses**.

IDAHO FALLS DEGREES

- 

ASSOCIATE
4 On-Campus
2 Hybrid
- 

BACHELOR'S
11 On-Campus
18 Hybrid
- 

GRADUATE
12 On-Campus
8 Hybrid

NEW PROGRAMS/RESEARCH AT ISU'S IDAHO FALLS CAMPUS

Starting Fall 2026, Idaho State University at the Idaho Falls campus will significantly elevate its research capabilities with the launch of the GEM (Generative Exascale Modeling) Cluster. Originally gifted by the Idaho National Laboratory, this reimagined high-performance computing resource is now housed within the Computer Science and Electrical and Computer Engineering Departments. Based at the ISU Idaho Falls campus, the cluster serves as a high-powered hub for faculty and students across the ISU community, fostering collaborative breakthroughs in generative AI, large-scale data science, and the development of resilient energy systems. The GEM Cluster is more than just hardware; it is

a catalyst for hands-on innovation and regional leadership. By integrating the cluster directly into advanced coursework, ISU Idaho Falls faculty are providing students with rare, direct access to the tools needed to solve real-world challenges, such as the integration of small modular nuclear reactors with renewable energy grids. This strategic investment ensures that ISU remains at the forefront of technological education, preparing the next generation of engineers and scientists to drive the future of the "Gem State" and beyond.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS EVERY STEP OF THE WAY IN IDAHO FALLS

- 

COUNSELING SERVICES
89 Students Served
301 Appointments
- 

TESTING SERVICES
2600 Exams Proctored
119 ADA Exams

IDAHO FALLS UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT: 2025–2026

The ISU Idaho Falls campus remains steadfast in its commitment to delivering high-impact academic programming and research opportunities tailored to a diverse student body. By prioritizing accessible research initiatives, our faculty provide critical hands-on experience for place-bound learners in the greater Idaho Falls region, ensuring these students remain competitive in Idaho's evolving workforce.

The following projects highlight the caliber of **undergraduate** research currently being conducted at the **Idaho Falls campus** under the supervision and support of ISU **Idaho Falls** faculty:

Athletic Performance and Recovery: Physiological Stress Response in Female Athletes - Student Heather Ahlstrom

Objective: Investigating the efficacy of cyclical hyperventilation as a pre-exercise intervention to modulate stress and enhance recovery.

Impact: By identifying how specific breathing techniques influence the body's response to physical stress, this research contributes to more sophisticated training and recovery methodologies.

Furthermore, it addresses a critical gap in exercise physiology, positioning ISU at the forefront of inclusive sports science research that can be applied to both collegiate athletics and general public health.

Ecological Innovation: Optimizing Tissue Culture for Big Sagebrush - Student Carson Nukaya

Objective: Establishing scalable propagation protocols for *Artemisia tridentata* (Big Sagebrush) to support regional conservation and land management.

Impact: Successful protocol optimization will enable the mass production of genetically identical, healthy plants. This work provides a foundation for more efficient land reclamation strategies following wildfires or industrial disturbances, directly benefiting Idaho's natural resource sectors.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. SHERRY ADAMS

Dr. Adams serves as an Associate Lecturer in Biological Sciences at the **Idaho Falls campus**, specializing in respiratory physiology research that aims to reduce anxiety and breathlessness in patients with respiratory disorders. Adams provides students with hands-on experience in clinical data collection, research grant writing and the complex IRB approval process, bridging the gap between classroom theory and life-changing health interventions.

Beyond her primary field, Adams fosters a robust culture of undergraduate mentorship on the **ISU Idaho Falls campus**, overseeing diverse student-led inquiries ranging from stress markers in female athletes to ecological studies on sagebrush and slime mold metabolism. These projects culminated in student presentations at the 2026 Research Round-Up, demonstrating Adam's commitment to developing the next generation of scientists through rigorous, independent inquiry.

Adam's investment in students and cross departmental collaborations at ISU is building a pipeline for undergraduate researchers on the **Idaho Falls campus** to achieve their educational goals while creating tangible, positive impacts on populations across Idaho.



OUTREACH AND RECRUITMENT

IDAHO FALLS TEAM

750	38	3,039	24	12
On-Campus Advising Appointments	Student Events	Event Attendance	High School Visits	Campus Tours
▲ 24%			(NEW)	(NEW)

TWIN FALLS TEAM

425	15	35	37
On-Campus Advising Appointments	Transfer Fairs	Community Events	High School Visits
▲ 45%	(NEW)	(NEW)	(NEW)



PARTNERSHIP WITH COLLEGE OF EASTERN IDAHO AND COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN IDAHO

Academic collaboration has been an anchor of this year’s success. In **Idaho Falls**, ISU and the **College of Eastern Idaho** (CEI) convened three summits in 2025/26, bringing together institutional leadership, faculty, and student service staff to develop “2+2” transfer pathways, streamlining and growing educational opportunities between CEI and ISU. In **Twin Falls**, the partnership with the **College of Southern Idaho** (CSI) has increased bachelor degree opportunities in the Magic Valley by launching new 2+2 programs in Mechanical and Civil Engineering in Fall 2025. Additional pathways are in development with program areas including Business, Education, and Health Professions. These pathways with CSI are designed to deliver programs to **place-bound students in the Magic Valley** through ISU’s location on the CSI campus.



“ONE GOOD DECISION”

A STRATEGIC TRANSFER EXCELLENCE PLAN

The Strategic Transfer Excellence Plan (STEP), also known as “One Good Decision,” represents a fundamental redesign of the transfer pipeline between the College of Southern Idaho (CSI), the College of Eastern Idaho (CEI) and Idaho State University (ISU). Historically, students face a fragmented system that often leads to credit loss and administrative hurdles. The new model will transform this process into a seamless, end-to-end pathway where a student’s initial enrollment at CSI or CEI, automatically activates a guaranteed, four-year roadmap to a bachelor’s degree at ISU. This unified ecosystem is built on the pillars of co-admission, co-enrollment, and coordinated advising, eliminating the need for a second university application or duplicative paperwork.

In Spring 2026, ISU and CSI’s “STEP” initiative was named an “initiative of excellence” by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program, highlighting the collaboration between ISU and CSI and its admission redesign approach focused on transfer students. ISU and CSI’s participation in and creation of the “One Good Decision” initiative through the Aspen Institute in 2025 led to a successful \$450k grant award from the Lumina Foundation’s Great Admission Redesign. ISU, CSI, and CEI were among 5 submissions awarded implementation grants in 2026.

A central goal of this work is the development of a technical data bridge and shared data systems that allow institutions to operate from a single dataset. This infrastructure will enable proactive, data-driven support; for instance, ISU will be able to identify and reach out to CSI students as they hit key milestones, such as completing 45 credits, to provide targeted degree planning. Furthermore, faculty and advisors from both schools have collaborated to create co-branded 4-Year Major Aligned Plans (MAPs). These maps ensure students take the correct courses at CSI or CEI that are guaranteed to count toward their ISU degree, directly addressing the socioeconomic and bureaucratic barriers that previously discouraged first-generation and under-served students from pursuing higher education.

Looking ahead, the initiative has set ambitious, measurable targets to double the number of interinstitutional transfers within five years and increase student completions by 15% annually. The work also focuses on workforce-responsive pathways, particularly in high-demand regional fields such as Nursing, Education, and Engineering. By streamlining co-enrollment and coordinating financial aid processing, the STEP framework removes the burden of administrative coordination from the student. This institutional commitment to a shared “One Good Decision” model positions CSI, CEI and ISU as powerful engines for student advancement and regional workforce development across Idaho.

ISU & CSI 2+2 PROGRAM PATHWAYS

Delivered on campus in Twin Falls and via Hybrid

- BS Civil Engineering
- BS Mechanical Engineering
- BS Elementary Education
- BS Secondary Education
- Accelerated BS Nursing

Delivered Online

- RN to BSN Bridge Program
- BS Finance
- BS General Business
- BS Health Care Administration
- BS Management
- BS Marketing
- BS Social Work
- BS Spanish
- BS Spanish for Health Professions
- Surveying and Geomatics Engineering Technology (coming soon)

ISU & CEI 2+2 PROGRAM PATHWAYS

Delivered on campus in Idaho Falls and via Hybrid

- BS Nursing
- BS Civil Engineering
- BS Mechanical Engineering
- BS Nuclear Engineering
- BS Software and Electrical Engineering
- BS Computer Science
- BS General Business
- BS or BA Secondary Education
- BS or BA Elementary Education
- BAS Industrial Cyber Security

EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS IN IDAHO FALLS



A HUB FOR THE COMMUNITY

Beyond the classroom, the **Idaho Falls campus** continues as a vibrant community hub, hosting over 135 events and welcoming more than 13,000 visitors over the 2025/26 academic year. These engagements ranged from high-level technical symposiums, like the BSides Information Security conference, to youth-focused initiatives like the INL STEM Scholars Summer Camp, which served over 350 students.

135+

COMMUNITY EVENTS

350+

YOUTH SERVED
(INL STEM CAMP)

13,000+

VISITORS



A PARTNER FOR THE REGION

By partnering with the YMCA and INL to provide area childcare and hosting critical events like the Community Suicide Prevention workshop, the **Idaho Falls campus** continues to demonstrate that its value to the region extends beyond traditional academics, serving as a vital pillar of social and economic health.



A HOST FOR LOCAL CIVIC LIFE

The **Idaho Falls campus** also provided essential space for local civic life, regularly hosting programs sponsored by the Museum of Idaho, City Club, and local k-12 school districts.



ENHANCING PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Through 2025 and 2026, ISU strengthened its physical environments in **Idaho Falls and Twin Falls** to better support its commitment to student success, academic excellence, and high-impact research practices.

IDAHO FALLS

In **Idaho Falls**, a comprehensive space audit aligned with the campus master plan established a five-year expansion and deferred maintenance roadmap (2026–2031), ensuring facilities remain strategically aligned with increasing enrollment growth and long-term campus goals.

TWIN FALLS

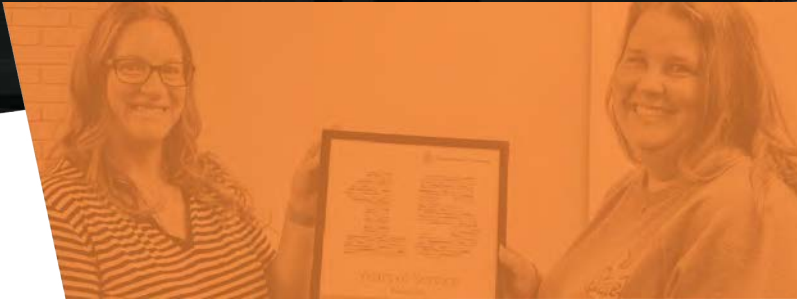
In **Twin Falls**, ISU and the College of Southern Idaho finalized an agreement for a new 10,000-square-foot ISU-dedicated building. With designs complete, the project has entered a critical fundraising phase to establish ISU's permanent presence in the Magic Valley.

\$1,940,725

Spent on 8 extensive renovation projects in **Idaho Falls** in 2025/26

Internal facility improvements further enhanced the daily experience for students and faculty on the **Idaho Falls campus**. Major HVAC components were replaced, and mechanical upgrades were completed in the Bennion Student Union Building and the Critical Materials and Energy Systems Innovation Center (CMESIC) including integrated advanced networking tools. This allows facilities teams to monitor newly installed heat pumps and boilers and adjust campus environments remotely,

ensuring optimized efficiency and comfort. To improve student navigation, Idaho Falls launched the Campus Connection Hub in the Center for Higher Education building, featuring a new storefront window and an office redesign that provides immediate technical and navigational support to students and building patrons.



CULTIVATING TALENT AND ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH

Internal reorganization was central to the year's success on the **Idaho Falls campus**, focusing on employee empowerment and operational clarity. Utilizing the university's OAR process, staffing models in **Idaho Falls** were overhauled to better support enrollment growth. This led to the approval and hiring of new full-time equivalent positions and the distribution of updated position descriptions for every role on campus. By strengthening our collective impact through tying clear milestones to the core values of our strategic plan, leadership

successfully addressed long-standing challenges in organizational culture and institutional alignment. This transformation was further bolstered by a collective commitment to professional development, ensuring every team member is equipped with the tools and expertise to grow alongside the institution. The result is a more agile, mission-driven workforce capable of delivering high-level service to students and community partners alike.



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