

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

President Chuck Staben

April 14, 2016

Mr. President, Members of the Board.

Thanks for the opportunity to present our annual progress report.

This report basically covers my second year in office as the 18<sup>th</sup> president of the University of Idaho.

This morning I will describe to you our progress in key areas such as enrollment, research, and student success.

OUR NEXT 10 YEARS

We are in the process of **developing our strategic plan** that will guide our university for the next 10 years.

Today I want to treat with special emphasis our vision to make higher education accessible and affordable, especially for Idaho students.

Over the next 10 years, we can **change our college-going culture in Idaho**.

I view our job as building one of the nation's great public research university.

A university that excels in its broad, land-grant mission of transforming lives through education and scholarship.

A university that leads Idaho in building a college-going culture that transforms the lives of individual students, assures the prosperity of families, and strengthens Idaho communities.

A university that takes its place among top research universities, not because we seek a particular label, but because we seek excellence and impact for our scholarship.

A university that engages deeply with its constituents across the range of university activity. A "Beacon for Mountain and Plain."

That will be transformative for the lives of individual students, who find opportunity for lives of financial stability and personal satisfaction.

It will help shape communities, who prosper with college graduates that bring skills and innovation to endeavors.

It will help forge a thriving economy and quality of life for the state of Idaho.

You will hear more about our plan from Provost John Wienczek.

I want to show you today how we are already working to strengthen our state through the transformative impact of a leading, national research university.

### UI AT A GLANCE

Our enrollment is statewide, including our main campus in Moscow and our centers statewide in Coeur d'Alene, Boise, Twin Falls and Idaho Falls, as well as distance learning and other opportunities across the state.

We serve many students who are the **first in their family to go to college**.

We serve many students who are in financial need – **39% Pell recipients**.

We serve those students well: Our **57 percent graduation rate** is the highest in the state.

Our **80 percent freshman-to-sophomore retention rate** is the highest in the state.

We achieve that through the efforts of dedicated Vandal faculty and staff – **3,000 full- and part-time**.

Some of those faculty and staff members are helping deliver high-impact **research** in innovation and discovery – **more than \$100 million**.

That contributes to more than **\$1.1 billion of total economic impact** that the University of Idaho brings to the University of Idaho.

### ENROLLMENT

Our enrollment is relatively stable in our Moscow campus.

We have experienced **slight declines over time in our centers**.

That aligns with a national trend of students taking distance education and relying less on physical branch campuses or centers.

Regardless, we continue to deliver educational opportunities across the state of Idaho, **the only institution with that breadth and depth.**

## DIVERSITY

As the state's land-grant university, we have a special mission to reach all the citizens of our state.

We want our university to reflect the state's diversity in racial and ethnic terms, to be an inclusive institution.

We want our campus to be a **cross-section of Idaho.**

In many instances, among our undergraduates, we do reflect the state's diversity

We want to **make gains among our Hispanic and Native American students.**

Our **Latino Advisory Council** has helped us locate where we can more effectively deliver resources to reach more Hispanic students.

Our **Native American Advisory Council** has steered us to making very aggressive use of our **MOU relationship with area tribes.**

At our annual pow wow on campus two weeks ago, we asked all participating MOU tribes to bring **flags to our campus.**

We'll put those flags in our Pitman Center right outside our Admissions Office.

That symbolizes our commitment to our Native American population and to diversity in all its forms.

## ACCESSIBILITY AND AFFORDABILITY

We've streamlined our **Go Idaho! Program** for Idaho students.

This is a simple program, consistent and persistent.

Students and parents can have predictability about their scholarship support throughout their college careers.

Our **VandaLink program** facilitates transferring from an Idaho community college with scholarship support and other services.

We recently bolstered our VandaLink program with an additional \$185,000.

We brought this up to the Go Idaho! Level – transfer students will now be treated more like an entering student.

Our **President's Tribal Excellence Scholarship** offers in-state tuition to MOU tribal members and transfer students from tribal colleges.

### SCHOLARSHIPS TO IDAHO RESIDENTS

This year we awarded **\$14.9 million in institutional support to students.**

The Pell Grant program makes awards based on financial need.

The maximum is \$5,815, and our students high awards average (above \$4,000) means that we are reaching students with serious financial need.

As you can see, **many of our students find institutional support and Pell Grants cover their tuition and fees.**

We are proud to make that investment in our state's students, and believe it is our mission to offer that support.

When they succeed, we all succeed.

There are many pieces of investment that need to come together to help students achieve, but we are making sure that we take leadership in supporting students.

### DIRECT ADMISSIONS AND ENROLL IDAHO

Last fall we worked with you to create a new pathway to high school for Idaho students to enter college.

We are now able to **offer qualified students direct admission** to public Idaho institutions.

We share your belief that this will encourage more young people to go on to postsecondary education.

We followed up on that with an “Enroll Idaho” event in November, fanning out across Idaho.

We took the message of the value of a college education directly to Idaho students.

We continued that work with statewide FAFSA workshops.

We are trying to eliminate as many roadblocks as we can for students. There are many hurdle on the way to college, but students don't have to trip on simple process steps.

We will continue to look to work with you on better implementing those programs in the future.

### LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

We are aware that as a state we need more information about what drives students' decisions.

As a research university, we realized we could do ... research on the subject.

I commissioned our James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research to study the issue.

This unique study captured 2015 high school seniors and followed their decision making.

It sought a diverse range of school settings to as to form a representative sample.

The results will help guide decision-making and inform policy.

You can **see some of the conclusions listed here**.

Unfortunately, **too many students don't see college as worth the cost**.

We need to continue to communicate the value of a college education.

We are dedicated to applying our resources toward understanding our college-going culture, and using that knowledge to change the culture.

## COMPLETE COLLEGE IDAHO

We are 100 percent committed to helping the state achieve its **Complete College Idaho goal** of having 60 percent of Idaho residents aged 25-34 possess a degree or certificate by 2020.

Our legislative requests the past three years have reflected that emphasis.

We have sought to bolster our advising, to keep more students on track to graduate.

We have boosted our freshman-to-sophomore retention to 80 percent, and know that this year's funding can help us continue to improve.

This is a critical goal for our state, and **you have a committed partner in the University of Idaho.**

## COLLEGE SCORECARD

I mentioned our student retention success

The federal government's new College Scorecard offers a **simple, valuable way to think about higher education and compare institutions.**

This tool is based on students who received federal financial aid – a population that needs support in making college a reality.

The chart at right shows UI success in affordability, graduation success, and career outcomes after graduating.

We are below the national average – the black line in each bar – for **average annual cost**. That is also the lowest cost in Idaho among public universities.

We are above the line in the **national graduation rate**.

We're above the line in the **national average for graduate salaries**.

In both the latter categories, we are the leading public institution in Idaho.

We're very **proud of the value we bring to the state**, and feel we are offering affordability and positive outcomes that offer return on investment for students and for state funding.

## STATEWIDE ECONOMIC IMPACT

This slide shows our university's statewide economic impact, as determined by our 2015 study by Economic Modeling Specialists International, a leader in economic modeling based right here in Moscow.

The University offers return on investment for a variety of stakeholders, including taxpayers and businesses.

Students enjoy enhanced lifetime earnings.

As you can see, the greatest impact is their impact, the workforce of Idaho – a **\$782 million wage differential** enjoyed by UI alumni compared to not having a college degree.

But the impact on our workforce also matters for our towns and for our industries who thrive with skilled, innovative employees.

## IMPACT FOR STUDENTS

This slide shows more about the return on investment for students that our EMSI study catalogues.

This is a **great rate of return**. College pays off in the long run for students.

We'd all like to see this rate of return on our retirement plans, for instance.

That money makes a difference in students' financial lives.

**Gallup polling** also shows that college-educated student with good jobs also go on to enjoy enhanced well-being in their personal lives and in other areas such as civic participation.

We must **continue to push this message** about the outstanding return on investment for earning a college degree.

## IDEAS THAT MATTER – HIGH-IMPACT RESEARCH

I've talked about education; another component of our land-grant mission is a commitment to research, scholarly activity and creative work.

We continue to **partner with key industries**: Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories (who recently endowed with \$2.2 million our first Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories Chair in Power Engineering, helmed by Brian Johnson), Micron, Idaho Power and more.

We have enjoyed a lot of **research success in the past year**.

**Holly Wichman** (pictured above) leads our Complex Modeling efforts – awarded a \$10.6 million COBRE grant last fall for our Collaboratorium, where laboratory scientists and modelers communicate with one another in a common language — the language of modeling, statistics, mathematics and visualization – to address ideas that matter for Idaho.

We continue to succeed in cybersecurity. **Jim Alves-Foss and Jia Song** in our Center for Secure and Dependable Systems (computer science) are one of seven finalists in the DARPA (Pentagon) Cyber Grand Challenge – they’re the “scrappy underdogs” taking on teams from major research institutions like MIT. They will compete for a grand prize of \$2 million at DEF CON 2016, one of the world's largest hacker conventions, in Las Vegas. Second place receives a \$1 million prize and third place \$750,000.

We are continuing to excel in **wildfire research**, a key area for Idaho, with more large fires than any other state in the lower 48.

**STEM outreach** is also important – a new **\$1.1 million National Science Foundation grant** means 30 students at Lapwai High School will attend a camp in summer 2017 at UI’s McCall Outdoor Science School, or MOSS.

This program is designed to help Nez Perce high school students form an identity as scientists while learning to use cutting-edge remote sensing technologies such as unmanned aerial vehicles.

We also lead in **scholarly activity in the humanities**. The chair of our English department, **Scott Slovic**, was instrumental in bringing the **Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment** – more than 900 people – to Moscow last year for their annual conference. Professor Slovic cofounded that organization and is a leader in this emerging field of study.

**WIDE – Western Initiative for the Dairy Environments**. You learned about this yesterday on your tour. This is about more than supporting the dairy industry,



though we want to do that. This is about a sustainable source of protein for our world.

**VIP – the Vandal Ideas Project** – we have made an internal investment in our research excellence with a competition meant to invite interdisciplinary collaboration. We will be announcing funded projects April 18.

This is an exciting time for research in many areas at UI.

### IDEAS THAT MATTER – HIGH-IMPACT RESEARCH

We continue to be Idaho’s research leader, with **more than twice the research expenditures** of all Idaho institutions combined.

We are **Idaho’s only R1 “higher research” activity institution**, as classified by the Carnegie Foundation.

That ranking is based on our research expenditures, our doctoral offerings, and more.

It gives you an indication of the breadth and depth of our research and scholarly activity – we are working on a scale and caliber that is unmatched in Idaho.

We will continue to use those research capabilities to address ideas that matter for our state.

### IDEAS THAT MATTER VIDEO

This video shares a few stories that demonstrate facets of our research impact.

It is a piece of our annual Research Report, which you should have or be getting a copy of.

As you can see, we’re committed to working with the people and industries of Idaho and addressing interesting and relevant questions.

Those discoveries may find broader application in the world.

## A GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

We are a global institution, with an international footprint.

Our **Confucius Institute** recently expanded cultural and language instruction to Boise, an important connection to an important trading partner for our state.

We have a strong partnership with the South China University of Technology or SCUT, with international scholarship and study opportunities.

We continue to focus on growing our international enrollment, as we did last fall.

Our research crosses borders.

Pictured here are the work of **Greg Moller**, in School of Food Science, working on wastewater projects all over the world, building systems that can remove particles from water and apply them to agriculture.

On the right is doctoral student **Jenns Heggs**, who collaborates with a partner at a Brazilian university who sends him **catfish ears**. Heggs studies the bone growth of the inner ear – different depending on which river the fish is in at the time – to learn about their migratory patterns.

These are just some of the international research stories that occur daily here.

UI is also a gateway to the world for students, whether they're involved in an international Alternative Service Break program or a study abroad program.

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

I want to discuss two of our special programs at UI.

Through the Idaho WWAMI program, we are **Idaho's public medical school**.

Idaho students have access to the top-ranked UW School of Medicine, ranked No. 1 for primary care, No. 1 rural care and No. 1 family care – all areas of need in Idaho.

We need to continue to bolster **all phases of the medical school pipeline**. We need to work on enhancing pre-medical education, expanding medical school opportunities and maximizing residencies that lead to more doctors practicing in Idaho.

I am proud to be on the **State Board's medical education task force**.

We can make progress to address the need for physicians in our state.

It is also an exciting time for our **College of Law**.

We recently opened the Idaho Law and Justice Learning Center in Boise, home of second- and third-year options.

We continue to offer an outstanding legal education for students.

We recently **jumped 16 spots** in the US News and World Report rankings.

We will continue to make strategic investments that result in enhanced outcomes for our students.

### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

I want to shine the spotlight on some of our successful students and other strong programs at UI.

We once again led the Northwest in the number of **National Merit Scholars, with 23 of Idaho's 24 scholars**. These students are in the **top 1 percent** of high school students and pass a rigorous course of tests to become National Merit finalists. It is a mark of distinction that they chose the University of Idaho to prepare them for life and work.

This spring we announced a new **Goldwater Scholarship recipient, one of only 252 nationwide**. The awards are reserved for undergraduate sophomores and juniors who intend to pursue research careers in science, math and engineering.

*Pictured here is one of our two Goldwater recipients from 2015, Elyce Gosselin, a first-generation college student from Boise.* Elyce is double-majoring in ecology and conservation biology and mathematical biology, with a minor in Spanish. She hopes to go on to pursue her doctorate and one day teach. We are proud to be the institution of choice for Idaho students like Elyce.

**Gilman Scholars**, a US State Department program, are selected from thousands of nominations to study abroad – we had three students, all from Idaho, selected as recipients this year. They'll study in France, Morocco and Japan.

**Fulbrights** are also highly selective awards. Last year two UI student were selected for Fulbright UK Summer Institute – excellent opportunities for our students.

We learned this week of at least one Fulbright student.

**Other distinguished awards** include the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships and awards such as the Critical Language Fellowship – UI had one of each in 2015.

This week we also learned we have **one 2016 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship winner** – Katey Huggler from Priest River, Idaho, a senior in Wildlife Resources.

Not all success is academic. UI offers many **opportunities for leadership and service**, as with participation in our Alternative Service Break programs.

Our **student-athletes** have also earned success this year.

Our **women's basketball team** earned a Big Sky Conference championship and a trip to the NCAA tournament.

Our **Men's golf team, men's and women's tennis teams, and women's soccer teams** also won championships.

I'm proud of these students who are making the most of their college experience and contributing so much to our university.

## NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The success of our students leads in part to national recognition for our university.

Many of these rankings reflect positive outcomes for students and our commitment to affordability and access.

## WORLD-CLASS FACILITIES

On your tour yesterday you saw several new facilities.

**NIC/LCSC/UI building** in Coeur d'Alene – will allow us to more effectively serve students on that campus.

**IRIC** – a center for interdisciplinary research, opening fall 2016.

**College of Education building** – an up-to-date facility for training our next generation of educators with the latest technology and approaches.

**Idaho Law and Justice Learning Center** – a special facility, shared with the Idaho State Law Library, in the heart of Boise

We are continuing to work on a **new arena for our court sports** – this will be a building for the whole campus community, for a wide variety of events.

We are also working on plans for a **new WWAMI** facility, to ensure that program has a permanent home.

Lastly, we continue to take on **classroom renovations** and **updates to our living facilities**, such as the Wallace complex.

These projects help UI stay positioned as a premier environment for living, learning and research.

## LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE

We have **new leadership** since last time we presented our Annual Report to you.

These are the talented leaders who have come on board since that time, led by our new Provost and Executive Vice President John Wienczek.

I hope you will get to know them and rely on them within their areas of expertise.

We have a couple positions we will need to soon fill, and look forward to having that done soon.

## CONCLUSION

For students, college is still the key to the American Dream.

That remains true at the University of Idaho.

We will continue to work to make that dream a reality for more Idaho students.

When we help students succeed, we help Idaho succeed, and that is our goal as an institution.

Thank you, and I will be happy to answer any questions.