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# Nearly 19,000 students push BSU to new enrollment record

For the ninth time in the last 10 years, Boise State has set an all-time state enrollment record for Idaho higher education institutions with a fall enrollment of 18,876 — an increase of 277 students overall.

Boise State grew by 132 graduate students, an increase of almost 9 percent, and 187 undergraduates, an increase of more than 1 percent.

"The value of the Boise State education is validated by another all-time state enrollment record," says President Bob Kustra. "Even in a strong job market, people are opting to pursue their undergraduate and graduate educations as the key to their future. The record number of students choosing Boise State is further evidence of our academic quality through learning in both the classroom and research laboratory."

The university's 13,716 full-time equivalent students is an increase of 203 from last fall's enrollment, with significant growth among the number of minority and out-of-state students. Both head count and FTE numbers represent a 1.5 percent increase.

Since 1996, Boise State has grown by more than 3,700 students, or 25 percent. During that same time span, Boise State has been raising its admissions standards — now the highest among Idaho's public institutions — to manage growth and increase student success. The university denied 815 students degree-seeking admission this fall.

Other points of emphasis about this fall semester's enrollment include:

- The number of full-time graduate students increased 23 percent, from 434 to 533
- The freshman class of 2,261 is a record, up 3 percent from last fall
- The number of minority students increased: Hispanic/Latino, 9 percent (from 1,056 to 1,154); black/African-American, 7 percent (237 to 254); Asian, 7 percent (529 to 564); Native American, 8 percent (185 to 200) with an overall minority enrollment increase of 8.3 percent (2,007 to 2,174)
- Students taking online classes grew 31 percent (from 2,219 to 2,902)

"Enrollment this semester is positive from many perspectives," says Mark Wheeler, dean of extended studies and former dean of enrollment services. "The number of additional students was manageable, academic quality continued to increase, ethnic and geographic diversity improved, and the biggest percentage increases occurred at the graduate and upper-division levels, where the university has the capacity. It wasn't just that we grew; it was how we grew."

## Boise State receives $23.8 million for research, projects

Boise State received $23.8 million for externally funded research and sponsored projects for the fiscal year that ended June 30 — the second-highest total in the university's history.

The awards include grants from the National Science Foundation, Environmental Protection Agency, National Institutes of Health, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Idaho Department of Education and a number of other state and federal agencies, as well as from individuals, businesses and private foundations. (More on Boise State research, pages 18-32.)

Cancer studies, wind energy research, watershed investigations and bird migration surveys are just a few of the many research projects funded in fiscal year 2006. In addition, programs to enhance drug-free workplaces for youth, offer professional development workshops for educators and provide registered nurse services to in-home patients were among funded projects.

Boise State's fiscal year 2006 total follows a general trajectory of increases in external funding over the past 20 years. This year's $23.8 million total is more than double that received in fiscal year 1999, when Boise State received $10.9 million for external awards, and nearly 10 times the $2.4 million received in fiscal 1985.

The largest amount awarded from a single source was $3.17 million from the EPA to develop and test multi-purpose sensors to detect and analyze contaminants, and to develop hydrogeophysical imaging technologies that aid the mapping of contaminant movement in the subsurface. The EPA grants are led by civil engineering professor Molly Gribb and geosciences research professor Warren Barrash, along with colleagues in biology, geophysics, materials science and engineering, and electrical and computer engineering.