Interactive Learning Center due to open this summer

ighlighted by the scheduled June opening of the \$14 million Interactive Learning Center, here is the latest on Boise State construction projects:

The 54,000-square-foot, four-story Interactive Learning Center includes multi-media labs, distance learning class-rooms, a 3-D visualization classroom and an experimental classroom.

Work began last fall on a new **parking garage** at the corner of Lincoln Avenue and University Drive. The \$11.4 million project will add 750 parking spaces and more than 9,000 square feet of office space. The project is expected to be completed in August.

The State Board of Education sold bonds in January to finance the new Student Health, Wellness and Counseling Center/Department of Nursing Building and an expansion of the Student Union Building.

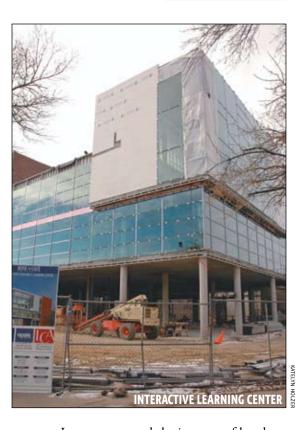
The plan to fund a Student Health, Wellness and Counseling Center through student fees was approved in 2004; in June, the State Board was asked to consider a plan to include space for nursing education. As a result, building plans were modified to add approximately 20,000 square feet for classrooms, seminar rooms, practice labs

(including an acute care simulation lab) and offices. This expanded design will support a 30 percent increase in the number of nursing graduates, thus helping to meet the state's desperate need for more nurses.

The Student Health, Wellness and Counseling Center portion of the building will include space for administration, health promotion, general and urgent care clinics, a pharmacy, a dental clinic and counseling services. Total projected cost is \$25 million. The building will be situated directly behind the Student Recreation Center between Michigan and Vermont avenues.

The **Student Union** project will provide for expanded food services, bookstore, meeting rooms, study lounges and other student activity spaces, for an increase of 66,000 square feet. The 27,000 square feet in the existing facility will also be renovated. Total projected cost is \$30.65 million.

The Athletic Department broke ground in February on the addition of skyboxes, a press box and suites to **Bronco Stadium**. The State Board of Education in



January approved the issuance of bonds to finance the project. An academic projects fund will capture a percentage of project revenues for construction of academic projects in the future.

Design is also under way on the Center for Environmental Science & Economic Development (CESED) research building to house sciences and public policy faculty. Early planning is under way for a residence hall to meet the growing demand for student housing on campus.

Spring enrollment of 18,178 sets another state record

Boise State's spring 2007 enrollment has set another record: 18,178 students — 147 more students than last spring. It is the largest spring enrollment in state history and marks the second consecutive time the university has exceeded 18,000 students in a spring semester.

The university's Graduate College continues to grow, with a 14 percent increase in full-time graduate students and a 9 percent increase in graduate credit hours over last spring.

In addition, the number of full-time equivalent, or FTE, students at Boise State rose to 12,945, an increase of .9 percent over last spring's enrollment. FTE is based on the number of credit hours students are taking.

Spring enrollment numbers would have been even greater if not for Boise State's record-breaking fall graduation numbers. The number of graduating students last fall was up 125 students, an increase of 14.9 percent.

"This ongoing trend that we are seeing in the increases in our enrollment every semester is a clear indication of the strength, desirability and quality of our academic programs," says Michael Laliberte, Boise State's vice president for student affairs. "The significant growth in our graduate enrollment is a sure sign that we are heading in the right direction to meet the needs of our community with our new and developing graduate programs."