

Nursing master's degrees approved; BSU now offers 75 graduate programs

Following approval in November by the State Board of Education, Boise State will offer a master's-level nursing program beginning this fall. Students may earn either a master of nursing or master of science in nursing degree, with an emphasis in public health. Not only will the program benefit the careers of nurses already in the field, but it will also prepare more nurses for teaching positions at Idaho universities and will enhance Boise State's undergraduate nursing program.

The master of nursing and master of science in nursing with a public health emphasis bring the total number of graduate programs at Boise State to 75. The university offers 71 master's degree programs and four doctoral programs — an Ed.D. in curriculum and instruction and Ph.Ds in geophysics, geosciences and electrical and computer engineering. It also offers 95 baccalaureate programs.

Idaho's nursing shortage is expected to become critical by the year 2020 as the Baby Boom population ages and retires. Seventy percent of nurses now licensed are age 40 or older, meaning that 60 percent or more of the state's nursing work force could retire by 2026.

In a show of collaboration and support, Boise State signed a memorandum of agreement with Idaho State University in September to better coordinate the delivery of graduate nursing programs to Idaho students. The two universities have a shared emphasis in graduate programs in nursing in Southwest Idaho. Boise State currently has the largest nursing education program in Idaho and is the only program in the state to offer the public health emphasis.

Pam Springer, Boise State Department of Nursing chair, is eager to begin the program.

"The program is extremely flexible, allowing students to work and complete their master's degrees part time," she says. "It is exciting that Boise State and Idaho State can collaborate on the delivery of nursing education courses."

The program adds to Boise State's growing array of graduate programs and is one more indication of the university's commitment to serve the state and region as a metropolitan research university of distinction.

JESSE JACKSON

Civil rights leader and political activist

"With Justice for All: Human Rights and Civil Rights a Reality," Martin Luther King Jr./Human Rights Celebration, Jan. 17, 2007



on campus

"There's something about that game [Boise State's Fiesta Bowl win] that's a metaphor for the American Dream."

awards

YOUTH PROGRAM HONORED FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

"The Bronco Bunch," a Boise State program that brings low-income, sick and disabled youth to Bronco football games, was named the 2006 winner of the Youth Sports Hero Award. The award was handed out at the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame induction ceremony in November.



CHRISTINE BURBY/IDAHO ELKS REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

Through a partnership with Boise State, Idaho Elks Rehabilitation Services and St. Luke's Regional Medical Center, the program brings children and their families to home games where they sit in a reserved section on the field, meet the players and receive autographs after each game, such as from running back Ian Johnson (above). The Bronco Bunch was selected for the award by the Coalition for Youth Sports.

ENGINEERING'S PLANTING WINS STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Arlen Planting, a graduate student in the College of Engineering, was named the 2007 Federal Aviation Administration Air Transportation Centers of Excellence Outstanding Student of the Year by the U.S. Department of Transportation. He was selected from among students at more than 60 universities from across the nation.

Planting received the award in official ceremonies held in January in Washington, D.C. Planting was selected for the DOT award for his research contributions as part of the FAA Centers of Excellence Program.

The Center of Excellence for Airliner Cabin Environment Research is one of two FAA Centers of Excellence at Boise State, a collaborative long-term research partnership with Harvard University, Auburn University, the University of California, Purdue University, and several other universities.

SHIMON EARNS REGIONAL KUDOS

Boise State kinesiology professor Jane Shimon was again recognized for her outstanding teaching when she was named Outstanding College Educator in the Northwest District of AAHPERD (American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance).

Her competition for the regional award included educators from the states of Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Montana and Alaska.