Howard L. Smith, a longtime administrator at the University of New Mexico, has been named dean of Boise State’s College of Business and Economics.

Smith (below) served as dean of the Anderson Schools of Management and School of Public Administration at New Mexico for 10 years and associate dean for four years before returning to the UNM faculty and serving as director of the Anderson Schools’ Program for Creative Enterprise. During his tenure as dean at the University of New Mexico, he increased the Schools of Management endowment five-fold, increased tenure-track faculty teaching productivity while reducing teaching loads, and led the school to be considered one of the top business schools in the nation. He is also a recognized scholar in the areas of health-care finance and health-systems management.

“I am delighted that Howard will become part of the Boise State University leadership team,” says Boise State Provost Sona Andrews. “His experiences, enthusiasm and expertise ensure the continued growth and development of a College of Business and Economics that has distinguished itself in its service to our students, community, region and state.”

Smith takes over as dean on June 1, 2006. He replaces Bill Lathen who has been dean since 1998.

Boise State receives record $24.2 million for research

Boise State received a record $24.2 million for research and sponsored projects for the fiscal year that ended June 30 — the highest one-year total in the university’s history.

The total is a 23 percent increase over the $19.6 million tallied in fiscal year 2004, and more than double the amount received in fiscal year 1999, when Boise State received $10.9 million.

BSU also set a new record for the total number of awards with 247 funded during fiscal year 2005. The awards include grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Federal Aviation Administration.

“Universities are measured in part by their ability to obtain externally sponsored research grants and programs,” says Boise State President Bob Kustra. “The influx of research dollars to Boise State further enhances our growing stature as a metropolitan research university and reflects the excellent work of our faculty and students.”

The largest single award in fiscal year 2005 was $1.6 million from an organization that is part of the U.S. Department of Defense. The grant, “Advanced Processing Techniques for Fabrication of 3-D Microstructures for Future Electronic Devices,” was awarded to Amy Moll, chair of the Materials Science and Engineering Department, and to three co-principal investigators, engineering professors Peter Mullner, Bill Knowlton and Megan Frary.

The grant funds Moll’s research to develop and test microchips that can be stacked vertically in what might be termed a “skyscraper model,” instead of spread out in a single layer. The innovation would increase functionality and reduce size, and has many applications for the microelectronics industry.

Other awards ranged from biomedical, microelectronics and nanotechnology research to studies involving alcohol on campus, improving mathematics teaching, monitoring earthquake swarms and developing multi-purpose sensors. The awards also supported programs such as the College Assistance Migrant Program and instruction and training for Idaho teachers.

— Janelle Brown

Jack Matlock

Former U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union and author of Reagan and Gorbachev: How the Cold War Ended

Interview on Boise State Radio’s New Horizons in Education, aired Oct. 28, 2005

“They [Reagan and Gorbachev] shared an interest – they were both men of peace.”