

PRESIDENTIAL

SEARCH

PROSPECTUS

SPRING | 2026



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY



THE OPPORTUNITY

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

The Idaho State Board of Education invites candidates to apply to become the eighth president of Boise State University.

Known for its vibrant community and its “blue turf thinking,” Boise State is the largest university in Idaho and confers more degrees than all Idaho public universities combined.

Boise State has risen on a stunning trajectory from a community college to a doctoral research university. It embodies the best of both worlds — a strong focus on students and their well-being, driven by the transformative potential of research and its impact on student outcomes and the world around us.

Boise State University generates **\$2.2 billion in annual economic impact** for the state of Idaho, delivering a strong return on investment for its primary stakeholders: students, taxpayers and society. 1 of 45 jobs in Idaho is supported by the activities of Boise State. Students see \$4.20 in lifetime earnings for every \$1 invested in a Boise State education.

MISSION

Boise State provides an innovative and equitable educational environment that prepares students for success and advances Idaho and the world.

VISION

To be a premier student-success driven research university innovating for statewide and global impact.

OUR HISTORY

Boise State has marked many history-making moments since its beginnings as a junior college in 1932 to recent accomplishments as Idaho's largest university.

Bronco Milestones



1932: Bishop Middleton Barnwell of the Episcopal Church oversaw the founding of Boise Junior College.

1934: The school became an independent junior college after the Episcopal Church ended its affiliation.

1940: The campus moved to its current location on the south bank of the Boise River.

1965: Boise Junior College gained four-year status as Boise College and began awarding baccalaureate degrees.

1969: The school joined the Idaho state system of higher education and got a new name: Boise State College.

1974: Boise State became a university, the third state university in Idaho. Buster Bronco, Boise State's beloved mascot, also debuted in 1974.

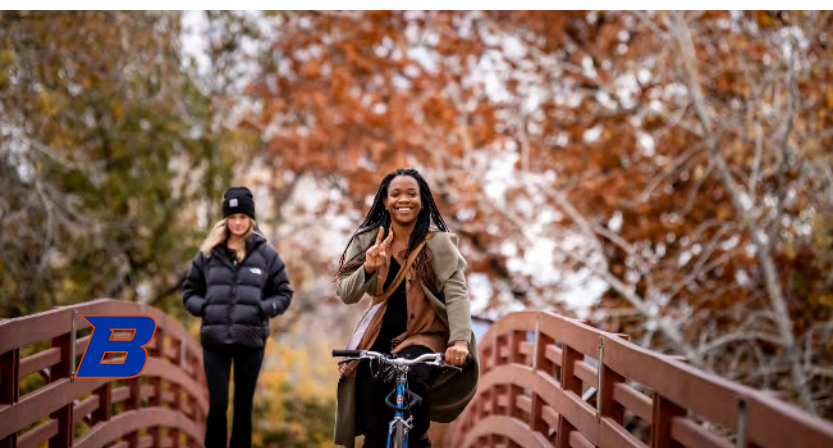
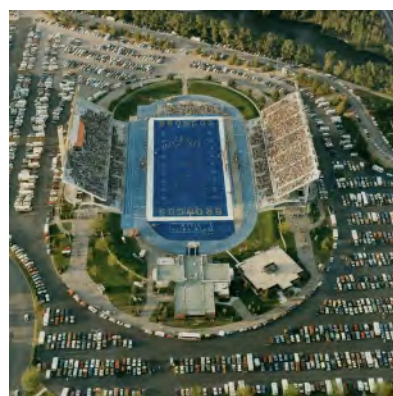
1986: Boise State changed its green field to blue.

1989: Boise State celebrated the largest enrollment in the state.

1992: The State Board of Education approved Boise State's first doctoral program in curriculum and instruction. The university now offers 15 doctoral programs, including educational technology, computer and materials science and biomedical engineering.

2007: The Broncos pulled off one of the greatest upsets in college football history by beating the University of Oklahoma in the 2007 Fiesta Bowl. This victory put Boise State University on the national stage and sparked rapid enrollment growth. Boise State surpassed 25,000 students in the next decade.

2012: Boise State opened the Micron College of Business and Economics Building in 2012. It was the first of several major campus expansion projects completed in partnership with Micron.





THE BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS STRATEGIC PLAN

GOAL 1: Innovation for Institutional Impact: Expand and implement leading-edge innovations and entrepreneurial ideas to provide access to integrated high-quality teaching, service, research and creative activities.

GOAL 2: Foster Thriving Community: Promote and advance an environment where all members of the campus community make a living, make a life and make a difference.

GOAL 3: Advance Research and Creative Activity: Advance the research and creative mission of the university community by fostering transformational practices and supporting faculty, staff and student excellence in these pursuits.

GOAL 4: Trailblaze Programs and Partnerships: Enhance and grow path-breaking interdisciplinary programs and activities that transcend traditional fields of study.

GOAL 5: Improve Educational Access and Student Success: Enhance the comprehensive student experience with a focus on student success and post-graduate outcomes.

#53 most innovative
national universities

— *U.S. News & World Report*

FACTS AND FIGURES

Boise State fosters an environment where research and creative activity thrive.

\$83.4
million

in research awards this past year, a 43% increase over the last five years.

Boise State is designated as a doctoral research institution by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. We offer more than 200 areas of study, including 15 doctoral programs.

FACULTY

Boise State has **802 full-time** and **668 part-time faculty**. Currently, the university supports **23 seated endowed faculty positions**.

Unbridled Philanthropic Campaign

Campaign total: **\$510.7M**

As of March 12, 2026

- Athletics: **\$210.2M**
- Student Support: **\$122.7M**
- Faculty/Research Support: **\$75.8M**
- Other: **\$101.98M**

64,074 unique donor households

7 new endowed faculty positions (thus far in FY26), bringing the total of endowed faculty roles up to 23

27,250 students

With more than 32,000 students including dual enrollment

We are recruiting and retaining more Idaho students than ever before

Served students from all 44 Idaho counties, and our alumni live in every county

Award more than **5,300** degrees each year

BOISE STATE PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN INCREASING THE COLLEGE ATTAINMENT RATE FOR IDAHO

Boise State confers more than half of all baccalaureate degrees from public institutions in Idaho and has dramatically increased the percentage of Idahoans that we serve in the last two years, growing our population of new Idaho students by 52% over the last five years.

Our success has been fueled by substantial increases in retention and graduation rates, as well as enrollment.

63% record four-year graduation rate for full-time transfer students

National rankings

#21 Undergraduate Business
—US News & World Report

#13 Executive MBA program,
—Fortune

Highest ranked engineering school in Idaho
—U.S. News & World Report

Largest and highest ranked business school in Idaho
—U.S. News & World Report

Largest and top ranked nursing program in Idaho
—U.S. News & World Report



EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS

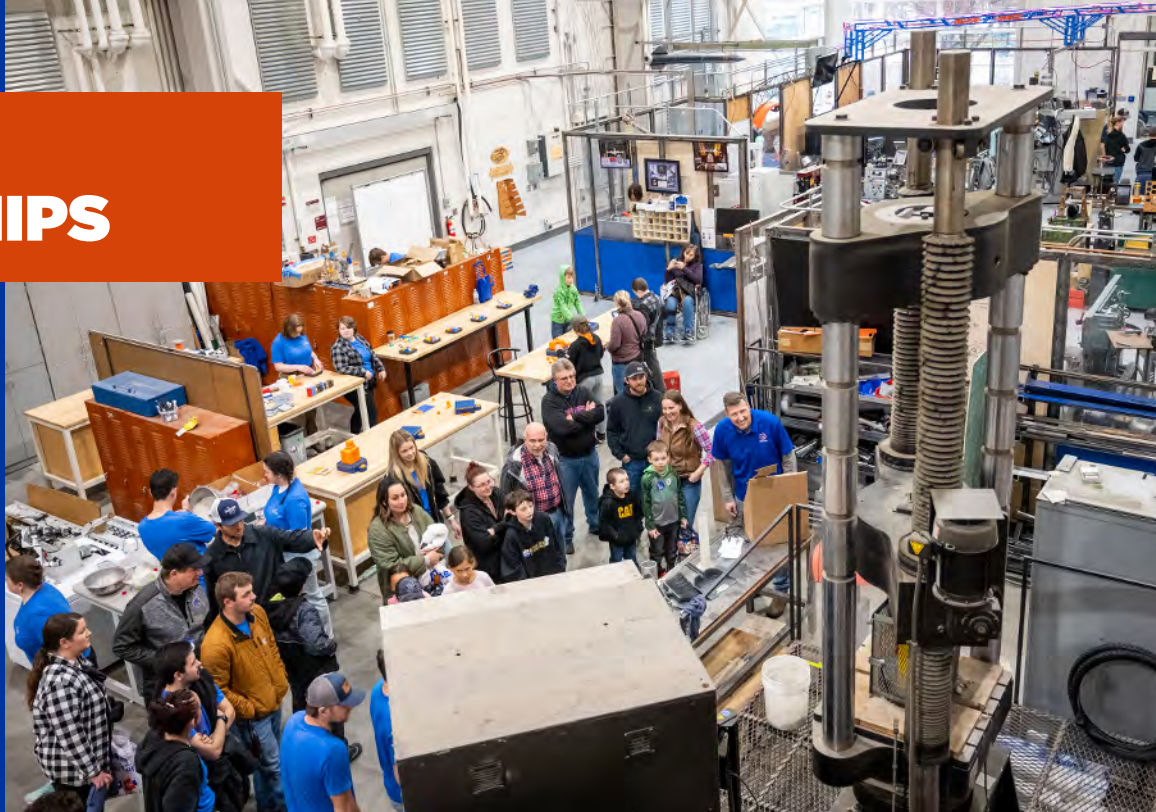
1 in 3

FACULTY HAVE AN ACTIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH A COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

In 2006, Boise State was one of **only 76 universities** in the nation initially selected by the **Carnegie Foundation as a Community Engaged Institution**.

That classification was renewed in 2015 in recognition of the myriad ways that Boise State actively works to align with the cares, interests and activities of our local and state community.

This commitment to service continues to be a defining feature of the university. Boise State successfully renewed its classification as a Carnegie Community Engaged Institution, covering the period from 2024 to 2032.



Our university is leveraging existing partnerships and programs and developing new opportunities with Idaho employers and private partnerships. Together we are addressing workforce, research, educational and service needs.

Expanding partnerships across Idaho helps ensure rural communities have access to high-quality educational programming that fits their needs. Boise State recently created two new positions — a Director for University Industry collaborations and the President’s Professor of Public Scholarship and Engagement — focused on growing partnerships, both in number and depth.

Idaho has one of the fastest-growing economies in the nation and higher education institutions in Idaho contribute **\$4.5 billion to the state’s economy**. Industry has called on Boise State to play a key role in American competitiveness in energy and semiconductors. The university has invested in these strategic and critical growth areas. Boise State is the only university in Idaho to become a member of the national Council on Competitiveness.

The Institute for Advancing American Values represents **Boise State’s commitment to civil discourse, free speech and Idaho voices**. Through a series of events held on campus and around the state, a wide range of perspectives have been presented to numerous audiences, who agree, simply, to listen.

COLLEGES

Boise State offers a high-quality undergraduate education as well as a supportive Graduate College that cultivates the personal and career growth of students. Boise State continues to expand its curricular offerings in targeted areas driven by student, industry and community demand.



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

91 degree programs
5,923 students

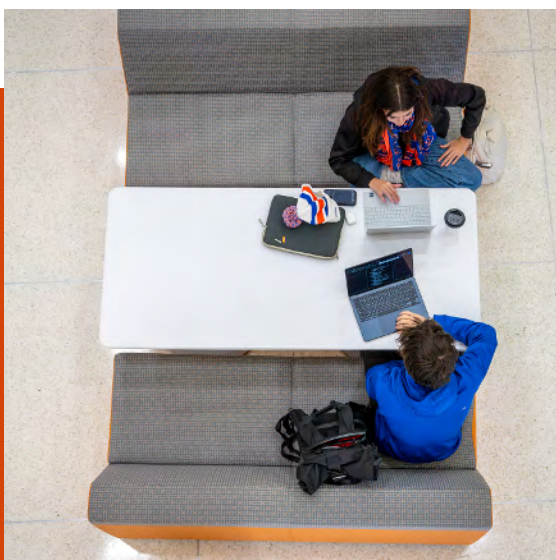
The College of Arts and Sciences features the largest set of academic subjects of any college at Boise State. The newest program offerings are in neuroscience, professional and public writing and music production. This college is home to the School of the Arts and the School of the Environment.



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

29 degree programs
4,367 students

Boise State has more business degree options than any other school in Idaho and most schools in the Pacific Northwest. It is ranked in the top 3% of business schools globally based on its AACSB accreditation. Newest program offerings are in business analytics, cybersecurity management and information systems and control.



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

38 degree programs
1,385 students

Education programs serve future and current educators within a dynamic community that helps them continually advance their skills. Newest program offerings are in generative AI in education and outdoor education and leadership.

The College of Education and the School of Public Service will merge on July 1, 2026, to become the College of Education and Public Service.



COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

42 degree programs

3,242 students

Idaho's largest engineering school offers nine degree programs, as well as five doctoral programs. Newest program offerings are in cyber operations and resilience, semiconductors, and Ph.D.s in engineering and biomedical engineering.



COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

19 degree programs

5,729 students

College of Health Sciences graduates become the nurses, doctors, respiratory therapists, radiologic technologists and other health professionals whom Idaho needs. Newest program offerings are in neuroscience, physical activity and sport, exercise and health data analytics.

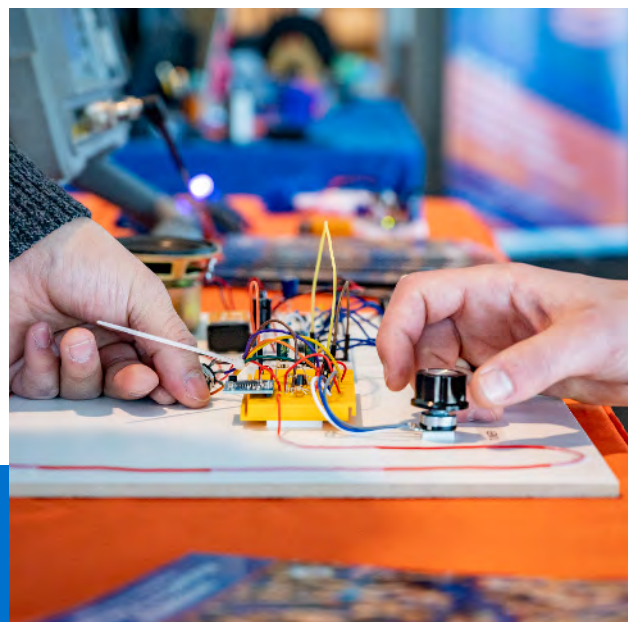
COLLEGE OF INNOVATION AND DESIGN

3 degree programs

236 students

This unique college facilitates and fosters partnerships across campus and the community that bring innovative ideas to life. Newest offerings in AI for All and the beer and wine industry.

College of Innovation and Design programs are graduating to other academic colleges on July 1, 2026, as Boise State sunsets the College of Innovation and Design.





SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE

21 degree programs
1,328 students

This college is celebrating 10 years of educating students with experiential learning that prepares them for successful careers in the public sector. Newest degree offerings are in public service leadership, legal studies and environmental management.

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HONORS COLLEGE

1,141 students
109 nationally competitive award winners
in the past 10 years

Boise State set an Idaho record in 2020 with five Fulbright Scholarship recipients and two Truman Scholars. In 2023-24, the university celebrated four Fulbright recipients, two Goldwater Scholars and a Critical Language Scholar. Boise State has three Rhodes Scholars.

ONLINE PROGRAMS

100+ programs
5,698 degree-seeking students in
fully online programs

Boise State has greatly expanded educational access across Idaho and beyond with online classes and degree programs. Because they can be accessed any time, they create opportunities for busy working adults and others who are unable to travel to campus. Over the past decade, we have made strategic investments in infrastructure and staffing to create programs across colleges.

GRADUATE COLLEGE

104 degree programs
4,273 students

Idaho's largest graduate school and its active research faculty have advanced students and the state by fostering discovery and innovation. The newest offerings are in generative AI in education, digital communications management and family nurse practitioner emphasis in the doctorate of nursing practice.



ATHLETICS

Boise State builds champions on and off the field. Our student athletes achieved a 3.46 cumulative GPA, the highest in athletics history and accomplished an all-time high graduation rate of 96%.

TEAM CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

7



9

INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

3.46

HIGHEST CUMULATIVE GPA
IN DEPARTMENT **HISTORY**

TICKETS

\$8.8M

485,134

**TICKETS
DISTRIBUTED**

2,850 VOLUNTEER
HOURS

52 LOCAL
ORGANIZATIONS

OPPORTUNITIES

220



ANNUAL FUND

\$27.2 M

HIGHEST YEAR

**REVENUE
GENERATION**

BRONCO GIVING DAY
\$552,529

87.3% INCREASE FROM 2024



ABOUT BOISE, IDAHO



Welcome to the City of Trees.

Boise is one of the most talked-about metropolitan cities in the country – and it's the ideal college town. From high culture and arts to nightlife, skiing, hiking, rock climbing and river sports, adventure awaits. Our vibrant partnerships across Idaho's capital city offer internships and work experiences that will help students go beyond their major.

The City Located in the heart of Idaho's capital, Boise State's campus is just a 10-minute walk from a booming arts and music scene, shopping, museums, entertainment venues, great restaurants and nightlife.

The Outdoors According to Wilderness Times, Boise is one of the top 25 cities to live in for an "outdoorsy lifestyle," and the New York Times ranked Boise the ninth-best city in the country for cyclists. Explore 25 miles of tree-lined greenbelt along the Boise River, public parks, scenic hiking trails, natural hot springs, rock climbing, ski resorts and river sports, all within an hour from campus.



AT A GLANCE

236,000
Population of Boise

25 Miles of riverside
greenbelt access

4.7 Million acres of
wilderness in Idaho

865,000
Population of Boise Metro

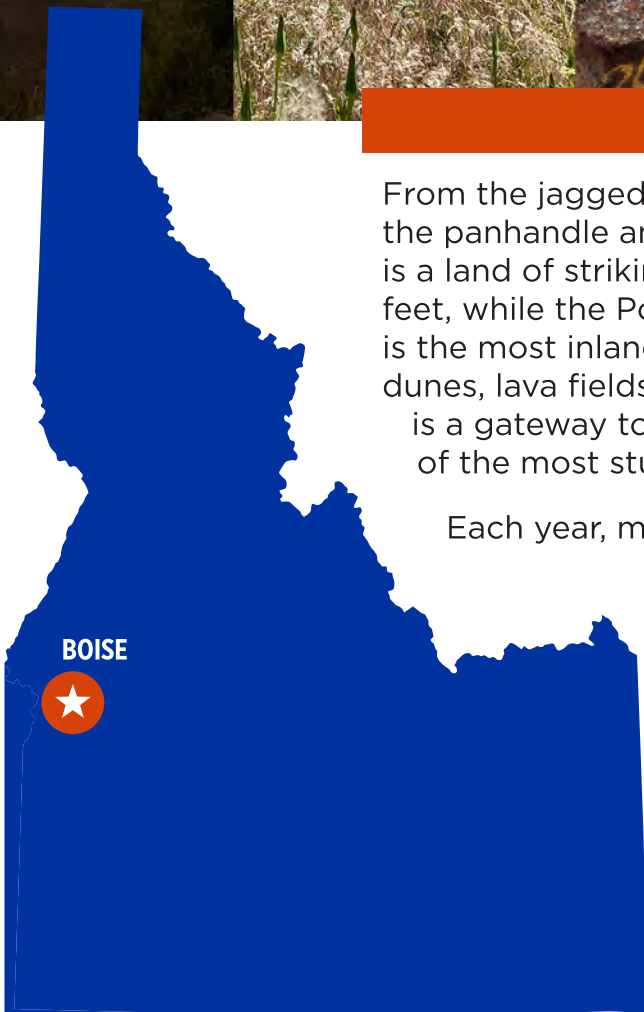
140 Miles of trails for
adventure just beyond campus

500 Acres of public green
space





IDAHO



From the jagged peaks at its center to the rolling hills and lakes of the panhandle and the rich farmland of the Snake River Plain, Idaho is a land of striking contrasts. Mt. Borah rises to a dramatic 12,662 feet, while the Port of Lewiston — at just 738 feet above sea level — is the most inland seaport on the West Coast. Idaho is home to sand dunes, lava fields and the aromatic sagebrush steppe. Eastern Idaho is a gateway to Yellowstone Teton Territory, which includes some of the most stunning landscapes in the world.

Each year, more than 20 million visitors come to experience Idaho's unspoiled beauty, including 3,500 miles of rivers — more than any other state in the Lower 48. Nearly two-thirds of Idaho is public land, offering vast spaces to explore and experience quiet solitude — even in one of the fastest-growing states in the union.

Key industries include agriculture, food processing, technology, mining, and tourism. As of 2024, the state had a population of just over 2 million people. [VisitIdaho.org](https://www.visitidaho.org)



POSITION SUMMARY

The President reports to the Idaho State Board of Education and is the chief executive officer and president of Boise State.

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- Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Chief Finance Officer
- Chief Operations Officer
- Vice President for Research and Economic Development
- Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management
- Chief Communications and Marketing Officer
- Chief of Staff
- Executive Director of Athletics
- Director of Government Relations
- Director of Community Engagement

The ideal President will demonstrate genuine appreciation for Idaho's blend of independent spirit, entrepreneurial mindset and strong commitment to education. They will be an inspirational leader that takes the institution to new heights and focuses on building Idaho's workforce.



Opportunities and Challenges

The President **must build collaborative relationships** with Boise State's numerous stakeholders. From members of the foundation to alumni to community members at large, part of the president's main responsibilities revolve around being involved and present in the wider Boise and Idaho community. The next president should be seen as someone working across all perspectives and building bridges for Boise State.

The next leader of Boise State must **meaningfully connect with faculty and students** in order to support and enrich their time on campus. As a state institution, Boise State must focus on delivering a best-in-class undergraduate experience to educate Idaho's future workforce for any challenges that may come. By offering a student centric focus, the next president can show Idaho that Boise State is here to work for the needs of the state. Equally important is a deep appreciation for the unique contributions of faculty and working relationship between faculty and the administration. This partnership is foundational to a thriving university community and a high-quality classroom experience.

The university seeks a president with **demonstrated financial acumen and performance-based resource management**. Strategic budgeting, diversified revenue development, and transparent reporting must align investments with mission-critical priorities while protecting long-term sustainability and affordability through managing tuition costs, fundraising for need-based scholarships and partnering with stakeholders on strategic, student-centered investments. The president must exercise sound fiscal stewardship to ensure Boise State remains accessible to all Idahoans. The Idaho State Board of Education and the Governor have made it clear: access to affordable, high-quality education is essential to the state's future.

Boise State is looking for an inspirational and strategic leader that has the **ability to empower the next level of leadership** at the institution to drive Idaho's independent spirit, entrepreneurial mindset, and strong commitment to education. A President must surround themselves with the right leaders who will continue guiding Boise State on its outstanding trajectory and have the experience to navigate complex challenges related to students, faculty, staff and the broader campus community.

The President must **have a bold vision for research** that directly benefits Idaho and its thriving industries. As an emerging R1 university, research empowers faculty and students to find new learning opportunities across the state. A commitment to Idaho-focused research with real world applications that drives innovations is essential, with student engagement being paramount.

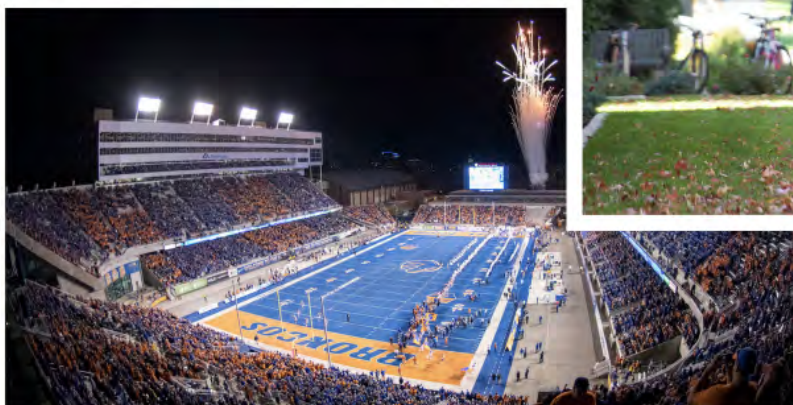
The next president must be prepared to address the challenges of a shifting higher education landscape. A leader must champion **innovative educational models** to support non-traditional students, adult learners and Idahoans. The next president must articulate a clear and responsible vision for integrating AI across campus to advance measurable student success, adaptable skill development, workforce alignment, and institutional effectiveness.



Boise State's Blue Turf is well known for its high level of competition nationwide and strong support within the Boise community. The Broncos are **nationally recognized, ranked and acclaimed through multiple sports programs** and take pride in being athletic leaders in Idaho and the nation. With the evolving landscape of college athletics, a president must be able to navigate the changing environment by embracing new opportunities and ensuring student athletes' well-being and academic achievement.

As Boise and the State of Idaho continue to experience significant population growth, the next president of this university must embrace a growth mindset. Boise State is a **dynamic and growing institution** within a dynamic and growing region and will require a leader that understands how to leverage this opportunity.

Higher education is in a time of transition and new opportunities. As **leaders who are asked to do much more than simply run an institution**, presidents must build relationships throughout the state; report to the State Board; work with the Governor, state legislature and industry and community partners; focus on and serve the needs of students; build trust with and earn the respect of the faculty. Boise State's continued success depends on a president who can excel across all of these areas while responding to the evolving landscape of higher education.



Qualifications/Position Description

Boise State is looking for a leader who not only can lead the institution but will demonstrate genuine appreciation for Idaho's unique blend of independent spirit, entrepreneurial mindset and strong commitment to education. While academic credentials are valued through a terminal degree and high academic achievement, equally important is a demonstrated record of effective and inspirational leadership. This includes relationship building, management and driving innovation in complex organizations.

The leadership of Boise State requires skills that cross academic, management, business, political and relational sectors. It is preferred that a successful candidate will possess experience in most of these sectors and can demonstrate how they can meet the expectations of these where one is not as strong.

Presidents must be able to oversee the financial and personnel aspects of the university; navigate community, donor and statewide relationships; collaborate with Idaho's other public universities; and work in alignment with the Idaho State Board of Education.

Application

Application materials should include 1) a current resume or curriculum vitae not to exceed five pages and 2) a letter of interest not to exceed three pages explaining how the candidate can meet the challenges and opportunities outlined in the leadership profile.

Please submit a complete package of application materials to BSU.President@russellreynolds.com.

Further information about this president search and Boise State can be found at boisestate.edu/presidentialsearch.

Search Committee Members include:

- David Turnbull, State Board of Education member, search committee chair
- Kurt Liebich, State Board of Education member, search committee vice-chair
- Lisa Grow, President and Chief Executive Officer, IDACORP and Idaho Power
- Bobbi-Jo Meuleman, CEO, Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce
- Scott Gatzemeier, Corporate Vice President of Front End US Expansion at Micron
- Mike Reynoldson, Sr. VP of Public Affairs, Blue Cross of Idaho
- Bruce Mohr, Chairman, Boise State University Foundation
- Stacy Pearson, Interim CFO, Boise State University
- Lisa Bostaph, Professor of Criminal Justice, Boise State University



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

