



Letter from the President

Office of the President, president@uidaho.edu

Sept. 12, 2025

Dear Vandals,

The nursing profession is the backbone of health care. In Idaho, that backbone is stressed and in need of support.

The University of Idaho is teaming up with North Idaho College and hospitals in the region to expand the nursing pipeline. The Idaho State Board of Education approved the U of I's new direct-entry master's of science in nursing degree in August.

The nursing degree will help address a dire medical workforce need. Idaho ranks 50th in the nation with less than eight nurses per 1,000 people. The state's rural areas bear the brunt of the shortage as nearly half of Idaho's nurses live in Ada and Canyon counties.

"The Idaho Nursing Workforce report from 2024 indicated that increasing nursing graduates by 10-20 students annually at each of the current nursing programs in Idaho – a substantial ask of each program – would still not meet the current workforce projection needs," said Russell Baker, interim co-director of U of I's School of Health and Medical Professions (SHAMP), which launched last year. "The recommendation from the report was that all Idaho universities need to be a part of the solution. By partnering with North Idaho College, and our hospitals in the region, we've taken a collaborative approach to be part of the solution across Idaho institutions."

The direct-entry master's program allows those with a bachelor's degree in any field to earn an advanced nursing degree in two years. The curriculum will foster independent learning and practice-based research. Students will develop solutions to local clinical issues and gain leadership, administrative, and vital research training.

SHAMP encompasses the existing Idaho WWAMI Medical Education program, as well as the Master of Science in athletic training and Doctor of Athletic Training programs. Over the past year, it has expanded to include the Doctor of Anatomical Sciences, Doctor of Clinical Psychology and Master of Science in gerontology programs. The new nursing program will expand the school and enhance opportunities for partnerships and health profession student training.

"This creates a pilot model for collaboration with NIC in other SHAMP programs," Baker said. "Our students can take classes at NIC with U of I professors and work in Coeur d'Alene clinics. It's an effective, collaborative approach to strengthen the pipeline for health care professions."

Idaho's health care worker shortage is felt by patients and staff in hospitals, clinics and nursing homes from Bonners Ferry to Bear Lake. By working with partners in the region, the U of I is responding to a statewide need while providing opportunities for students to pursue new careers in medical and health professions.

Go Vandals!

C. Scott Green
President



Snapshots

Football fans devour Fightin' Taters content

The U of I's Fightin' Taters football helmets and collaboration with the Idaho Potato Commission drew nationwide attention for the Vandals. The story was picked up by more than 80 media outlets and highlighted during ESPN's College Gameday. The earned media added up to more than \$6 million in free marketing value for the university.

U of I law students support Idaho veterans

Payton Schooler-Polillo and Brianna Royzen lead a group of students and regional attorneys providing free legal services for military veterans at clinics in Moscow and Lewiston. The U of I law students both have close military ties and use their passion and expertise to bolster the Idaho Veteran's Law Association. [Learn more.](#)

New grant fuels wildfire science education

Nine doctoral level researchers at the U of I will gain funding from a new \$1.4 million grant from the National Science Foundation. The graduate fellowship funding supports research and projects in fire physics, fire mitigation and forest regeneration, and resilience of rural communities to wildfires and other natural hazards. [Learn more.](#)



The U of I football team has won 164 games in the P1FCU Kibbie Dome since it opened in 1975. The Vandals will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the dome during Saturday's game against Utah Tech. The game kicks off at 1 p.m.



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