October 2011

Dear Friend,

Last year the College of Health Sciences developed a new strategic plan that outlines our aspirations for being leaders and partners in health innovation and discovery. To help communicate our progress on these college-wide initiatives and accomplishments, we will be changing our college communication strategy. Our intent is to effectively communicate within and outside the university to individuals who have interest and dedication to our progress. The strategies will allow for information to be shared about our departments, school, centers and institute, but also about the collective advances and progress we are making as a college. We will still share information that highlights our vibrant community partnerships, students and research advancements as they connect to our strategic goals and performance indicators.

To advance effective communication for our many initiatives and achievements, we will be using electronic-based media to provide timely, accurate and relevant information. The communication strategies will be directed to three primary groups: our college, which is made up of more than 3,000 students and approximately 100 faculty and staff who are located in four buildings that span the entire length of the campus - they are the life blood of the college so we need to make sure they are aware of activities that support our strategic initiatives; our colleagues across the university so we can maximize our chances for partnerships in teaching, research and service that are provided in Southwest Idaho and beyond; and our many community partners and friends who are interested and supportive of our work in the college. Collectively, these groups...
Institute for the Study of Addiction Thrives with Faculty Participation from Across the University

Center for the Study of Aging Researchers Find the Fit and Fall Proof Program Succeeds in Improving Seniors Balance

Check out Cindy Clark’s research podcast on the Beyond the Blue website

One of the communication changes is weekly website updates of breaking stories about the college, located at hs.boisestate.edu/news/. Newsletters like this one will be distributed less frequently and will offer a quick summary of highlighted topics that have occurred between newsletters. The summaries will have links that will allow you to read the full story online. Also, we are working to redesign our website so that the college has a similar look and brand internally that is in line with the university branding of websites. This effort will make the site easier to navigate and provide consistency across departments, centers and institutes. The website will also act as a way for us to evaluate and share our progress on our strategic initiatives. When we launch our new website in January, our ability to distribute news will also be improved. We will provide further details on this at a later date.

We are excited about these and other communication changes that will be coming in the months that follow. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Dr. Tim Dunnagan
Dean, College of Health Sciences

Health Sciences and Engineering Faculty Partner to Prevent Injury and to Save Lives During Disasters

This spring Department of Respiratory Care students will evaluate and modify their professor’s design of a mass casualty ventilator (MCV). Lonny Ashworth, chair of the Department of Respiratory Care, is one of several Health Sciences faculty partnering with College of Engineering students and faculty member Michelle Sabick to develop health care devices. The MCV is designed to provide basic ventilation of individuals involved in significant disasters or pandemics and a prototype is expected by ready by June 2012.

Sabick has also been collaborating with Joie Burns, MS, RT(R)(S), RDMS, RVT, faculty in the Department of Radiologic Sciences, as well as with researchers from the Center for Orthopaedic & Biomechanics Research, to develop a sonographer’s transducer grip that is ergonomically friendly for sonographers. With a mini-grant from the COHS Office of External Funding, the study looked at the current sonographer’s transducer grip pressure and wrist motion to better understand the source of scanning discomfort and wrist injuries before designing several new grips and recruiting local sonographers to give feedback on the prototypes. The team will continue refining the grips in order to patent and market the product.

Terri Soelberg, grant coordinator for the newly formed College of Health Sciences Office of Research, also enlisted Sabick to assist in presenting a workshop on medical device design on August 16. Seven Health Sciences faculty, including Ashworth and Burns, participated in the workshop, which walked participants through the stages of initial design to business development. While many research projects were developed, the group selected the concept of a new crash cart to be the project for a business development class this fall to evaluate commercial potential. Management faculty and COHS ‘idea champions,’ such as Lutana Haan, Department of Respiratory Care, will partner on this interdisciplinary venture. Keep up on Health Sciences News to follow the development of these innovative designs.
Cindy Clark Twice Recognized as National Expert

Within six months, Cindy Clark, RN, PhD, ANEF, professor in the School of Nursing, will be recognized twice at a national level for her civility research and outreach. Clark was awarded the National League for Nurses (NLN) Award for Excellence in Nursing Education Research in September. In October, Clark will be inducted as a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN), one of the most prestigious honors in the field of nursing. Clark’s ground-breaking research on creating civility in nursing education and practice led to both honors.

In her nomination of Clark for the NLN research award, Pam Springer, associate dean of the College of Health Sciences and director of the School of Nursing, says, "Dr. Clark has explored the causes of incivility, tested methods to prevent it, developed strategies to minimize its impact, and disseminated best practices to manage it when it does surface. Her scholarship has brought international attention to the issues of incivility and bullying in nursing and has prompted conversations and development of policies for dealing with disruptive student behaviors in schools of nursing. Because of Dr. Clark’s research and leadership in the area of incivility, we now have the evidence for best practices and the tools to create learning environments that are welcoming and productive. Boise State University benefits greatly from Dr. Clark’s national notoriety combined with her expertise as a teacher and her genuineness and willingness to mentor her peers and students."

Learn more online.

Dean's Office Moves from Two Buildings to Central Location

As a part of the COHS strategic plan, the Dean's Office has relocated and centralized its staff at the Norco Building in Suite 408. Dean Tim Dunnagan and staff members, Michelle Davis and Danya Lusk, moved across campus from the Health Sciences Riverside Building. Davis will continue as management assistant to the dean and will oversee the centralization of budget processes in the College. Lusk will manage College communication processes, including websites, newsletters and publication development. Associate Dean Pam Springer, who is now .85 full time equivalent (FTE) for the Dean's Office and .15 FTE as director of the School of Nursing, moved her office and staff, Alexis Rowland and Kelley Johnston, from the Norco Nursing Administrative Suite to the new Dean’s Office Suite. Rowland will be managing College human resources functions in addition to continuing as management assistant for the School of Nursing. Johnston will be scheduling both Dean Dunnagan and Associate Dean Springer, along with office duties for both the Dean’s Office and the School of Nursing. The College’s new Development Director, Sunny Wallace, and her support staff, Leslie Black, also joined suite 408. This centralization will increase the Office’s ability to communicate internally and externally. For more information on the College’s strategic plan, visit our website.

Center for Health Policy Anticipates Record Year with More than 1.2 Million Dollars in Awards

The Center for Health Policy will have a record year with ten grants and contracts adding up to more than $1.2 million dollars. Two of the largest projects include work on Medicaid costs and recruitment and retention of physicians.

The largest grant, the Medicaid Capitation...
Project, worth $800,000 from the Medicaid Division of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare will assist Medicaid in understanding the cost of service programs. The actual cost of delivering services will be analyzed so Medicaid can better design appropriate contract rates. Through a partnership with Milliman Inc. (a national Actuarial firm), the CHP will assist Medicaid to continue to provide quality services at a lower cost for Idahoans.

Learn more about CHP’s programs, grants, contracts and so much more online.

**Faculty Expert on New Medical Classification System Helps Idaho Health Care Professionals**

The current international system to classify diseases, ICD-9-CM, has become outdated with no room for expansion. These limitations are impacting medical research, the cost and quality of services provided, and the management of electronic health records (EHRs). In order to correct the situation, two new systems, the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) and the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Procedure Coding System (ICD-10-PCS), were adopted in January 2009. The new systems require hospitals, clinics, and insurance companies among many other health care-oriented entities to change multiple systems, including billing, patient records, practice management and more. All health care associated businesses must comply with the ICD-10 systems by October 1, 2013.

Jaime Sand, an assistant professor in the Department of Community and Environmental Health, has become an expert in the ICD-10 systems and is offering her expertise to Idaho health care professionals. Sand is an industry-approved trainer and provides trainings in coordination with the Center for Excellence for Environmental Health and Safety every few months. Learn more about the ICD-10 and Sand’s trainings online.

**Health Tip**

October is here….leaves will fall and we will be spending more time indoors with co-workers, friends, and family. This quality indoor time allows us to transmit germs and viruses and spread illness around the office or through the family.

Symptoms of the flu may include fever, coughing, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, headaches, body aches, chills and fatigue. Having the flu is much different than having a cold. The pain from the headaches and body aches can be quite unbearable. For older folks or those who are chronically ill, the flu can be deadly.

We encourage you to get a flu shot this season! Flu shots are readily available through your health care provider or most any pharmacy. Please do not let yourself get the flu and please do not transmit the flu to others.

If you are unfortunate enough to get the flu, PLEASE STAY HOME until your fever has been gone for at least 24 hours. This is one thing we do not want you to share.

For more information, see www.flu.gov.