Dear,

Given the recent Supreme Court ruling, I thought I should make some comments about this decision and implications for the college.

Health Care Reform & Recent Supreme Court Ruling

The Patient Protection and Affordability Care Act (Health Care Reform) was signed into law in March 2010. One of the most contentious parts of the 2,700 page legislation was the individual mandate which requires most U.S. citizens and legal residents to have qualifying health coverage. This was significant because without this requirement the ability to implement the reform as outlined in the legislation was severely compromised. Because of the contention, many were surprised to find that, in a very close decision, this and most aspects of the law were upheld by the United States Supreme Court.

However, the court struck down the mandatory Medicaid expansion within individual states. The mandate stated that the government cannot withhold prior levels of Medicaid funding from states who do not participate in the proposed expansion of Medicaid. Specifically, the expansion of Medicaid would have included individuals under the age of 65 with household incomes up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL, $30,657 for a family of four). To get a sense of the numbers involved with this aspect of the legislation, I will use the state of Florida as an example. Currently, Governor Rick Scott has said he won’t participate in the Medicaid expansion. Assuming this happens, 950,000 Floridians who would have been covered under the health
You are invited to the fourth annual "A Night for Nursing Excellence" supporting Boise State Nursing Education.

Keynote speaker: Dr. David Vlahov, PhD, RN, Dean, School of Nursing, University of California, San Francisco

November 8, 2012 6:00 pm
Stueckle Sky Center
Boise State University
Ticket Price: $150

For more information, please contact Leslie Black at lblack@boisestate.edu.

As many as an additional 30 million people in the U.S. and approximately 126,000 individuals in Idaho (if Idaho opts to participate in the Medicaid expansion) will now have access to health care and the health care system must adapt in a short period of time. Despite the mixed outcomes associated with the ruling, the structure and delivery of health care in the U.S. is forever changed. This change is sweeping and profound and will require a transformation of health care.

Call to Action
While some have argued that the law will be repealed and something new will be put in its place, I find this discussion a distraction to the work that quickly needs to be addressed. Similarly, the majority of the U.S. population wants the government to stop fighting and get to work on legislation that will help Americans move forward. Therefore, the question should not be how do we change this law? Rather, the conversation should center around who should provide care under this legislation? And, how will we deliver the care in an affordable, high quality manner?

COHS Role
For the COHS the implications are significant. First, because of the increased volume of care (potential of 30 million people in the U.S. and 126,000 in Idaho) that will need to be provided, the college needs to rethink and expand preparation of nursing, public and allied health professionals particularly, as it relates to the roles and scope of practice within these professions. Examples of this effort within the college are the new Nurse Practitioner (NP) and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) programs that will start in 2013, pending State Board of Education approval. Also, the degree completion programs started by Respiratory Care and Nursing will train hundreds of associate degree students to become baccalaureate-prepared health practitioners. Since education is a primary method of expanding roles and scope of practice, these programs will prepare more practitioners to perform at a higher level. Additionally, because of the Act’s focus on managing the prevention, protection, promotion and treatment of populations, the integration of community and public health disciplines into the current model of health care systems will become much more mainstream. The need for integration across disciplines will be addressed through our focus on interprofessional education. Interprofessional education is designed to breakdown the silos of prevention and treatment and focus care through a multiple lens model that can add to the quality and effectiveness of both prevention efforts and patient care. As a College we must embrace this educational goal in the years to come.

In the very near future, more people will receive their preventive, primary and acute care from our graduates. Furthermore, the systems that the care is delivered within will be influenced to a greater degree by these practitioners and their ability to work...
Environmental and Occupational Health Students Take National Stages

Four Environmental and Occupational Health students have captured their field’s attention at the national level. Tim Burke, Kim Gallagher and Dinko Miljkovic won the Air and Waste Management Association's national Environmental Challenge Competition. A few days later Environmental and Occupational Health senior Megan Smith delivered a thirty-minute podium presentation at the National Environmental Health Association's 76th Annual Education Conference.

A team of Boise State students placed first at the Environmental Challenge Competition last November in Harrison Hot Springs, Canada, which allowed Boise State to enter the national competition in San Antonio, Texas, June 19-21. Calling themselves "Frac-Safe Consulting," the team of Tim Burke, Kim Gallagher and Dinko Miljkovic earned first-place honors for their technical and social solution to a mock, yet not unheard of, world environmental issue that involved the use of hydraulic fracturing. Also known as "fracking," the technique is used to harvest fossil fuels from a geologic site in rural Texas called the Eagle Ford Shale Play. At the heart of the issue were concerns raised by local citizen action groups demanding that all aspects of the proposed oil and gas operation be conducted in an environmentally sound and cost-effective manner in order to ensure protection of public health and welfare, while also ensuring that any land lease royalty payments and tax revenues flow to the community and the local school district to the maximum reasonable extent. More on "Frac-Safe Consulting."

A few days after her peers’ award while attending the National Environmental Health Association’s Education Conference, Smith presented her findings from a larger research effort supervised by Dale Stephenson, chair of the Department of Community and Environmental Health and director of both the Environmental and Occupational Health program and the Center for Excellence for Environmental Health and Safety. "Carbon Monoxide Exposures Associated with the Operation of Recreational Watercraft" focused on an important public health concern - the prevention of poisoning and fatalities from carbon monoxide (CO) emitted from recreational water-craft such as houseboats, ski and fishing boats, and jet skis. Because such watercraft often operate in an outdoor setting with seemingly adequate ambient ventilation, many people are unaware of the potential for CO concentrations to reach hazardous levels. Over the last two decades, however, there have been approximately 660 poisonings and 150 deaths in the U.S. related to these types of CO exposures. More on Smith's CO and watercraft research.

Center for Health Policy Research on Rural Physician Recruitment Presented at Association of American Medical Colleges Conference in Washington D.C.

Center for Health Policy (CHP) researchers were invited to present research on critical access hospital physician recruitment and retention by the prestigious Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). The research focuses on common factors in the recruitment and retention of rural physicians, a medical population that is expected to be more in demand since the Supreme Court upheld the Affordable Care Act.
Dr. David Schmitz, M.D., affiliate faculty at the CHP and associate director of rural family medicine at the Family Medicine Residency of Idaho, presented on "Comparing Critical Access Hospital Physician Recruitment and Retention Factors Across Four Northern States" at the 8th Annual AAMC Physician Workforce Research Conference, held in Washington D.C. on May 3-4. The research was compiled by Schmitz, Ed Baker, Ph.D., director of the CHP, and Dr. Ted Epperly, M.D., affiliate faculty with the CHP and program director and CEO of the Family Medicine Residency of Idaho.

"It is significant that the Association of American Medical Colleges has recognized the Community Apgar Program research as a positive catalyst to help meet the physician workforce needs of the near future," states Baker. "The recent Supreme Court ruling which upheld the Affordable Care Act will put significant demand pressures on our health care system and this work will help rural and underserved communities attract and retain the physicians they need."

Schmitz, Baker and Epperly have been active in developing and implementing the Community Apgar Program (CAP), which (1) identifies individual community strengths and unique opportunities for improvement in Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) and Community Health Centers (CHCs) related to recruiting and retaining physicians; (2) seeks to understand state or regional patterns impacting physician supply which can be addressed at the macro level; and (3) creates a shared national database to facilitate broader understanding of important issues related to physician recruitment and retention to rural and underserved areas.

When comparing data across multiple states, the researchers at CHP can identify trends that are advantageous or may be obstacles to rural physician recruitment and retention. Such studies allow policy makers in states with similarities to learn from one another. On a national scale, these studies could inform regional and national policy makers as they craft legislative or other approaches to addressing physician shortages in rural communities.

The AAMC serves and leads the academic medicine community to improve the health of all. It represents all 137 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools, nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, and 90 academic and scientific societies. Through its many programs and services, the AAMC strengthens the world's most advanced medical care by supporting the entire spectrum of education, research, and patient care activities conducted by member institutions.

You are invited to "hang" with Dean Tim Dunnagan!!
First Ever College of Health Sciences Tailgate Party
Saturday, September 15
Noon until game start (2 p.m.)
Alumni Center Parking Lot
Come out and let us entertain you
(or maybe you'll entertain the Dean!)
- then go and Cheer on our Broncos!

Leading Researcher in Simulation Hired as New Endowed Chair for Nursing

Suzan Kardong-Edgren, PhD, ANEF, is excited to join the School of Nursing as the new Jody DeMeyer Endowed Chair. Kardong-Edgren comes to Boise State from Washington State University-Spokane, where she has been an assistant professor.

Kardong-Edgren was inducted as an Academy of Nursing Education Fellow in 2010 and has twice been the recipient of the Deborah Spunt Endowed Lectureship in Simulation for the National League for Nursing. She is internationally recognized as an expert in healthcare simulation and has been invited to present, consult and advise around the world.

Kardong-Edgren sits on the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning Standards Oversight Board and on the Society for Simulation in Healthcare Oversight Committee. She is the Editor-in-Chief of the Clinical Simulation in Nursing Journal through Elsevier. Her numerous grants, publications, and presentations speak volumes about her expertise and dedication to effective nursing and health care education.

The College of Health Sciences is excited to use Kardong-Edgren’s expertise and experience to further our Simulation Center, which is already recognized as one of the best simulation centers in the northwest. Simulation is proving critical to training healthcare workforces in an interprofessional fashion and in preventing errors and improving efficiencies in healthcare environments.

Alumni Featured at Convocations for Nursing and Radiologic Sciences

The School of Nursing and the Department of Radiologic Sciences held convocations in May to honor the spring 2012 graduating class. Both units also honored alumni during the celebration.

During the Department of Radiologic Sciences' convocation, held May 10, the graduating class honored alumnus Aaron Allen as "Tech of the Year." Allen is currently a radiologic technologist for the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. He was recognized for his significant contributions to students’ success through his mentorship and exemplary professional conduct in the clinical setting. Allen is a true patient advocate and the prime illustration of what it means to be a healthcare professional - an individual whom Boise State Radiologic Sciences students are proud to strive to emulate.

The School of Nursing also honored an alumnus for her professional accomplishments by inviting Maryann Reese to be the distinguished alumna and speaker for the school’s convocation and pinning ceremony, held May 11. Reese is a 1991 graduate of Boise State’s nursing program who now serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of St. Elizabeth Hospital in Belleville, Ill. Reese is a Registered Nurse and Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives. More on Reese and the school’s ceremony. Reese will also be honored as a Boise State Distinguished Alumna during the university’s homecoming festivities in October.

Olga Salinas to Earn National Award for Outstanding Academic Advising

Olga Salinas, pre-nursing advisor for the School of Nursing, was selected as an outstanding
advising certificate of merit recipient in the Academic Advising - Primary Role category by the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA.) Salinas will be honored and presented with the award this fall in Nashville, Tenn., at the NACADA annual conference.

Salinas earned a bachelor of science in business degree from the College of Notre Dame, Calif., and a master of public administration from California State University, Hayward, with an emphasis in organizational change. She has served students, faculty and staff for more than 24 years in academic advising, student retention, recruitment and community partnerships, management and a variety of college and university committees, with 15 of those service years at Boise State. She has earned the Selland College of Applied Technology Selland Star Award and the Provost’s Excellence in Advising Award.

The NACADA award is given to individuals who demonstrate qualities associated with outstanding academic advising of students or outstanding advising administration. Since 1983, NACADA has honored individuals and institutions making significant contributions to the improvement of academic advising.

Health Tip
Stay Cool During this Scorching Summer
Across the U.S., July 2012 was the hottest month on record, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Such extreme heat can make staying cool difficult - heat-related deaths are the number one weather-related deaths because people’s bodies may be unable to compensate for the heat and properly cool themselves.

Stay safe with these tips for preventing heat-related illness:

1. **Drink plenty of liquids.** Drink liquids such as water and sports drinks even if you do not feel thirsty. Avoid liquids that have alcohol, caffeine or lots of sugar because they will speed up fluid loss.

2. **Limit physical activity.** Avoid physical activity during the hottest time of the day, typically between 10 am and 3 pm. Rest often in shady areas. Pace yourself. Stop activity and find shade if you become lightheaded.

3. **Stay indoors when possible, particularly in air-conditioned areas.** Spend a few hours in air-conditioned places like malls, libraries, movie theatres and community centers to help keep your body cool, even after you leave the air-conditioned place. When air-conditioning is not available, stay on the lowest floor out of the sunshine. Remember that electric fans do not cool, they simply circulate the air.

4. **Wear light weight, light-colored and loose-fitting clothing,** such as cotton, so sweat can evaporate and you can stay cool.

5. **NEVER leave anyone or pets in parked cars.** Car interiors heat up very quickly to dangerous temperatures, even when the windows are cracked.

6. **Cover your head.** Wear a wide-brimmed, vented hat or use an umbrella when outdoors because your head absorbs heat easily.

7. **When outdoors, wear sunglasses and sunscreen.** Put on sunglasses and sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher with broad spectrum or UVA/UVB protection when outdoors.

8. **Pets can overheat too.** Provide plenty of fresh water for your pets and leave the water in a shady area. NEVER leave pets in cars, even with the windows open.

9. **Be a good neighbor.** During heat waves, check on people without air conditioning and people at greater risk of heat-related illness, including infants and young children, people over the age of 65, people with a mental illness or physical illness, particularly those with heart disease or high blood pressure.

*Courtesy of the CDC*