Graduate programs mark 40 years of innovation and leadership

With this edition of the newsletter, the College of Education is marking the 40th year of its graduate programs and their impact on education.

“The college’s graduate programs foster a culture of constant innovation and leadership,” said Dean Diane Boothe. “These qualities positively impact people’s lives, not just in Idaho, but across the nation and around the world.”

Highlights from the history of the graduate programs include:
• The Master of Arts in Elementary Education was one of the first two graduate programs launched in 1971-72 by the then Boise State College. (The other program was a Master of Business Administration.)
• Boise State University welcomed students in 1993-94 to its first doctoral program, the Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction.
• Today the College of Education offers two doctoral programs and 15 master's programs.
• A majority of the 12,000 graduate degrees conferred by Boise State since the programs began have been in the College of Education.
• Currently, about 35% of the graduate degrees awarded by the university are from the College of Education.

“The real successes of these programs are told through the stories of our graduates,” Boothe said. “On the following pages you can read about the accomplishments of just a few of these individuals, but there are many more such stories that could be told.”

Boise State’s first doctoral program responded to educational changes

The start of the Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction program in 1993 marked milestones for the university, the city and for education in Idaho. For Boise State University, this first doctoral program branded the university as a growing educational force. For the city of Boise, the new program symbolized the rising importance of the capital city and its economy to the state. For education, the doctorate responded to a need for leaders to meet new educational challenges.

“This was truly a momentous development for the university,” said Jack Hourcade, associate chair of the Department of Special Education and Early Childhood Studies.

Advisory Council Profile
Get involved to make positive changes in education

College of Education Advisory Council member Steve Decker counsels new teachers to be prepared for change.

“I would encourage new graduates to embrace change,” Decker said. “It is part of the evolving nature of education. Jump in and be part of the changing process. Share your opinions, give your input and the dynamics will evolve in a positive way.”

Decker earned a master’s in curriculum and instruction from Boise State in 1981 and another master’s from the university in reading education in 1987.

Decker recently retired from the Boise School District, where he taught fifth grade at Highlands Elementary School. In his final year, he earned a Red Apple Award from the Boise School District for outstanding teaching.

A native of Nampa, Idaho, Decker taught for three years in California before returning to Idaho and teaching for 34 years in the Boise School District.

Throughout his career, Decker was known for his commitment to students, both in and out of the classroom. He volunteered with his students at Giraffe Laugh, the Women’s and Children’s Alliance and at Interfaith Sanctuary. The project earned a Seven’s Heroes award from KTVB Channel 7.

Decker said that the focus in education now is on what students will be held accountable for and on technology-based teaching principles.

“In a few years, it will be something different,” Decker said. “I would encourage all graduates to get involved. Be the leaders in the changing dynamics of education.”
Beth Hedrick displayed ability to inspire others over a remarkable 94 years

The life and career of Beth Smith Hedrick is an inspiration to everyone, but especially so for graduate education students at Boise State University.

Beth died at the age of 94 on Jan. 4 this year. At the time, she was pursuing a doctoral degree in education.

After six semesters and two summer classes, Beth had earned her master’s degree in education at the age of 80. Former Gov. Cecil Andrus introduced her to the audience at graduation and placed the master’s hood around her shoulders.

Declaring that “You’re never too old to learn,” Beth decided to seek her doctoral degree.

She had begun her teaching career in the 1930s after graduating from Albion State Normal School. She taught in a number of rural settings in southern Idaho, including a two-room schoolhouse in Stone. At Boise State, her interest in education went beyond the classroom. She volunteered at the Learning Lab weekly, tutoring adults in English.

Beth’s death brought sadness to everyone who knew her.

As we mark the 40th year of graduate programs at the College of Education, Beth’s always positive attitude and eye to the future will serve as an example and inspiration for generations of graduate students, of any age. These are the qualities we hope will bloom in all graduate students in our programs in order to positively impact people’s lives.

In the pages of this newsletter you will find other inspirational stories about the people who have earned their graduate degrees from the college. Our master’s and doctoral graduates have taken up leadership roles at local schools and their district administration, universities, state departments of education, and in the private sector.

There are many more such stories that we could tell. The College of Education is home to about 600 graduate students in 15 masters and two doctoral programs. (Including undergraduates, we have more than 1,700 students enrolled.)

In graduate programs, our students learn to use their talents to apply advanced theoretical knowledge in real-life settings. Our accomplished faculty also help them gain the leadership skills needed to advance teaching and learning beyond today’s challenges.

Our limited newsletter space allows us to present only a few of these outstanding leaders, but we believe they are excellent examples of what our graduates have achieved.

Diane Booth, Professor and Dean College of Education

From the Dean's Desk

Rice selected for a Fulbright award

Kerry Rice, chair of the Department of Educational Technology (EdTech), has been selected for a Fulbright award to Poland.

Rice will travel to Toruń in September 2012 to work with the faculty of the Department of Didactics and Media in Education Faculty of Pedagogy at Nicolaus Copernicus University.

Rice will use the award to help the education faculty design a curriculum that incorporates Internet-based technologies into teacher education. The curriculum development also will include teaching both faculty and prospective teachers how to teach online.

Over the five months she will spend at Nicolaus Copernicus University, Rice also will assist the faculty in writing for publication in international and American journals.

“The EdTech program at Boise State is perfectly suited to advance global associations and partnerships,” Rice said. “EdTech is one of the leading online graduate programs in the United States and has prepared more K-12 online teachers than any other program.”

Rice first visited Poland in 2009 as part of team of international researchers. “My visits to Poland have shown me that the world is really a very small place and that we are amazingly alike,” she said. “Technology affords us an incredible opportunity to learn just how much we have in common.”

The late Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas established the program in 1946 to build mutual understanding among people of the United States and the world. The Fulbright program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The program operates in more than 135 countries.
Master’s program emphasizes leadership for learning

The master’s program in educational leadership places a heavy emphasis on ensuring the leaders coming out of the College of Education can influence the improvement of teaching and learning. This approach has paid off with graduates stepping into leadership positions around the state.

“We are very different from traditional leadership preparation programs,” said Kathleen Budge, associate professor and program coordinator in the Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Foundational Studies. “We have a strong focus on instructional leadership in contrast to programs that focus on management of schools.”

Budge said, “We also are concerned with producing leaders who can ensure all students’ needs are met in order for them to be successful.”

Some students complete the program intending to pursue teacher-leadership positions, other seek administrative posts, she said. Of the 68 graduates of the program, which opened its doors in the fall 2006, about half have obtained administrative positions including:

- Principal.
- Assistant principal.
- Assistant superintendent.
- Curriculum director.
- District math coordinator.
- Federal program manager.

“The program helped me change my perspective from a classroom teacher to what an administrator needs to consider when leading others,” said Jake Olson, elementary principal and director of Special Programs, McCall-Donnelly School District. “This paradigm shift is crucial and has allowed me to be successful in my professional duties.”

Budge said “The master’s program in educational leadership is grounded in an innovative approach to leadership development. We place a heavy emphasis on problem-based learning in which students are confronted with real-life problems faced by educational leaders everyday. A successful practicing school principal serves as a mentor to each cohort. This provides students with opportunities for the direct application of theory, something that too often lacking in more traditional educational leadership programs.”

Program seeks to create leaders

The master’s program in educational leadership at Boise state University seeks to create leaders who:

- Inspire, mobilize and support people to continuously improve student learning and achievement.
- Develop school cultures, conditions and people’s abilities proven to support high levels of student learning and achievement.
- Are the preferred recruits of Idaho school districts.

Master’s candidates work on a team-building activity.

Current students in most exciting era in history of education

Cliff Green, doctorate in education, 1999, believes current education students are living in the most exciting era in the history of education.

“The opportunity for you to impact the lives of students, families, communities and the nation is greater than ever,” he said.

Green should know. As executive director the Idaho Education Network, Green is leading the effort to connect communities and schools with high-speed, broadband services across Idaho and to increase the instructional opportunities within every community.

Green cautioned future graduates that leading change is not always easy. “You may encounter those who have selfish or ulterior professional motives,” he said. “There are those who may even doubt your motives, your passion and, frankly, will be more concerned about how any change in education will affect their lives as adults rather than how they can be a positive influence on students.”

At the end of the day, he said, it isn’t about being right or popular or garnering accolades. “What being an educator is about are the positive changes, opportunities and choices you have created for our kids through your career as a Boise State graduate. Stand on your beliefs.”

When he studied at Boise State, Green said, many professors in the College of Education modeled the wisdom and humanity that allowed him to apply knowledge in a thoughtful and compassionate manner. His mentor was former faculty member Del Siegle, now at the University of Connecticut. “I owe more than I can repay,” Green said.

Cliff Green’s accomplishments at a glance:

- Presented in the plenary session of the U.S. Secretary of Education’s Conference on Technology in Education on the Idaho Technology Initiative Study.
- Launched a successful online, full-time, diploma-granting high school.
- Appointed by Gov. Butch Otter to lead the Idaho Education Network.
- Appointed by Superintendent of Education Tom Luna to the Students Come First Technology Task Force.
News from the College of Education’s alumni

1970s
TIM MATTHEWS, physical education, ’78, retired Jerome High School wrestling coach, was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, Idaho Chapter, for his dedication and lifetime service to the sport. Matthews wrestled for Boise State from 1973 to 1977 and won the Big Sky Conference Outstanding Wrestler award in his senior year.

JANE PARK, elementary education, ’71, has retired after teaching in Idaho elementary schools for 40 years. She lives in Wendell, Idaho.


1980s
RAE JEAN T. AGÜERO, education, ’83, is the professional school counselor at John W. Luff Elementary School in Independence, Missouri. She earned a master’s in educational psychology and counseling and guidance from New Mexico State University and a master’s in school leadership from Baker University. Her son Michael is a recruiter in the Kansas City area for the U.S. Army Reserves. Her son Nicolas is on active duty with the U.S. Air Force in intelligence at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia.

AARON DEAN MCKINNON, bachelor’s in earth science education, ’86, master’s in curriculum and instruction, ’02, earned National Teacher Board Certification, was elected regional representative for the Idaho Science Teacher Association, and participated in a NASA Internship during 2011. McKinnon teaches physical science at South Junior High School in Boise.

RANDY SCHRADER, physical education, ’88, is the Garden Valley superintendent of schools. Schrader was an 11-year veteran administrator in the Caldwell School District and served as that district’s co-interim superintendent.

ROBERT YERZY, elementary education, ’80, launched the Multicultural Awareness Seed of the Global Neighborhood Student Ambassador program in Guangzhou, China. Yerzy has a shop that teaches English skills through music, art and literature.

MARILYN WHITNEY, business education, ’85, master’s in curriculum and instruction, ’87, is the chief communications and legislative officer with the Idaho State Board of Education.

1990s
EILEEN BEATTY, elementary education, ’98, teaches in the Meridian Joint School District and has received her National Board Certification Advanced Teaching Credential.

ZACHARY A. SMITH, athletic training, ’98, was appointed assistant vice chancellor for development at the University of California, Riverside in 2010. He is co-author of the newly published book, Making the Case for Leadership: Profiles of Chief Advancement Officers in Higher Education (Rowman & Littlefield, 2012).

KELSY MOE PORTER, K-12 physical education with teaching certification, ’07, was presented the Kinesiology department’s first Distinguished Alumni Award at a celebration in the Yanke Family Research Center on Nov. 9, 2011. Porter is the physical education and health teacher at Summerwind School of Math and Science. The award recognized Porter’s participation in an elite performance and competitive jump rope sports team called the Summerwind Skippers.

2000s
PATRICK COLEMAN, master’s in educational technology, ’09, teaches chemistry and is a 21st Century Teaching and Learning Coach at Euclid High School near Cleveland, Ohio. In 2011, he won the Arthur Holden Jennings Excellence in Science Teaching Award. The award included $7,500 from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation. Coleman used the funds to buy an iPod Touch for each student lab group. Videos of chemistry lab activities are uploaded to the class YouTube channel. Also students can now, for example, turn in an instructional video of how to properly perform an acid-base titration rather than a traditional lab report. His students’ projects can be viewed at www.youtube.com/colemanchemistry.

JASON GORDON, biology, secondary education, ’04 and TANYA CUDNOHFUSKY GORDON, earth science education, ’05, both work for the Boise School District teaching science. Jason earned a master’s from Northwest Nazarene University in educational leadership. Tanya earned a master’s from Montana State University in science education. Jason teaches biology and Tanya teaches earth science. Married since 2008, they are expecting their first child in June 2012.

We want to hear from you.
Please send us updates about your career and your achievements and we will include them in Alumni news. Be sure to include your name and the year you graduated. Send along a current photo (300 dpi resolution) and we will include that with your update. Send your updates to newsletter editor Ralph Poore at ralphpoore@boisestate.edu.
Farris helps at-risk students succeed

As an administrator with the Boise School District, Ann R. Farris has successfully advanced the education of students who struggle with English or who may be at risk for failure for other reasons.

"I am fortunate to lead and work with a great team of people who have created strong programs with great results for at-risk students," said Farris, doctorate in education, 2003.

For example, in 2010, 99% of the seniors in the Limited English Proficient (LEP) program received their diplomas. The program for refugee and immigrant secondary students consistently has had few drop outs.

Such achievements have resulted in Farris and her team sharing their programs at national conferences. Farris also worked with the Idaho Department of Education and state school districts to implement and improve LEP and a number of other program standards. She also has worked with the Boise Mayor's Council on Children and Youth to improve programs for after school, early childhood education and refugees.

"Ann has brought exceptional leadership skills, insightful perspectives, and focused direction to academic achievement in the Boise District," said Don Coberly, district superintendent. "Ann has guided the district in the development and implementation of our strategic plan, making key contributions to increased achievement and improved college preparation of district students.

"Ann is a difference-maker, and we are fortunate to have her in the Boise School District," Coberly said.

"My doctoral research and courses provided me with the foundation for the work I do today," Farris said. "The readings and research were springboards to leading change with an emphasis on college and career readiness for all students."

Farris advised current students to "Find a niche within education that you have passion for. Then be the best you can possibly be at that position and build strong relationships."

"I know it sounds trite, but that is what gets people noticed and provides opportunities," Farris said. "Careers take so many unexpected twists and turns and you never know what opportunities are around the corner."

Skousen leads first-of-its-kind school

The leadership of Jacob D. Skousen, master's in bilingual education in 2005 and another in educational leadership in 2008, is helping ninth-grade, at-risk students in the Caldwell School District achieve significant success.

Skousen is principal of the Caldwell Freshman Academy. The two-year-old school is the first of its kind in Idaho and works with students who have not performed up to state standards for reading, language use, math or other subjects. The students also may have attendance and discipline problems. Up to 96% of the academy's students have earned passing grades of an A, B or C.

"I am fortunate to lead and work with a great team of people who have changed their minds about what they can do and what they can become," Skousen said. "They are creating some higher goals for themselves."

Some the school's students come from families where they would be the first to graduate from high school. That goal has become real for them with the support of the academy.

The school of 90 students differs from a traditional secondary school. The school has four, 95-minute classes each day. This class time, coupled with small class sizes of 15 or fewer students, allows teachers to give more attention to each student. Activities outside the regular program enrich students' experiences. These include activities from attending the ballet to participating in sports.

"The Caldwell School District has worked really hard to help students who learn differently and provide students the opportunities that they need," Skousen said. "The students have responded by how they've been performing."
Flachbart fights to improve reading education

Marybeth Flachbart, doctorate in education, 2009, holds the reins of a national educational foundation that provides professional development in research-based methods of literacy instruction. After a national search, Neuhaus Education Center in Houston, Texas, named Flachbart as president and CEO in September 2011.

Before taking the top job at Neuhaus, Flachbart served as deputy superintendent of Student Achievement and School Improvement at the Idaho State Department of Education (SDE). When she implemented statewide reading academies for kindergarten through third-grade teachers in Idaho, student achievement rose steadily, surpassing all benchmarks established by the state Legislature.

"Marybeth has served as a role model and trailblazer for education in Idaho," said Tom Luna, state superintendent. "She has fought hard to improve reading education for all students and was instrumental in making the Idaho Reading Initiative successful in Idaho as well as a national model for other states." Luna said "When it comes to student achievement and learning, Marybeth truly knows how to put students first. She can set aside differences in opinion, attitude and politics to focus on how to best meet the needs of any child. For these reasons, she has been one of Idaho's greatest assets in improving and reforming education."

From 2000 to 2001, Flachbart taught as a faculty member of the Department of Literacy at Boise State. She also directed Idaho's Reading First Program.

Previously, Flachbart taught in the Houston and Deer Park Independent School Districts, where her classroom experience included 10 years of both general and special education. From 1998-2000, she was a staff member of Neuhaus Education Center, where she instructed teachers on the best research-based solutions for reading success. Flachbart is certified in K-12 special education. She is also earned a dyslexia specialty at Neuhaus.

Dreams come true, one step at a time

"I knew what I wanted to do," said Donnie Hale, doctorate in education, 2011. "The College of Education faculty at Boise State provided the support and ideas for me to get there."

What Hale does as professor of Education Studies in the College of Education at the University of Oregon, is to be an education change agent for many students who have few advocates. He teaches undergraduate courses on diversity, social justice and foundations of education.

Hale has worked in several areas of education, including as an elementary teacher and an instructor of African American history and sociology. He also worked six years with the TRiO Pre-College Educational Talent Search and Upward Bound at Boise State.

Scott Willison, director of the Center of Multicultural Educational Opportunities, served both as Hale's advisor and his boss. The center is home to both the TRiO and Upward Bound programs. "As a staff member," Willison said "Donnie developed a very strong understanding of the roadblocks that keep non-traditional students from entering and being successful in higher education. His studies and work combined to provide him a rich opportunity to grasp the political and practical aspects of education attainment."

Hale credited the inspiration he received from Willison and Roger Stewart, professor in the Department of Literacy, with helping him reach his goals.

"Scott is an incredible person, who I can truly call a mentor," Hale said. "He pushed me and made me believe I could succeed and make a difference in education."

Hale said "Roger was amazing. He was encouraging, supportive, challenging and honest. He gave me guidance and direction."

Hale advised those currently in the graduate program that "Dreams do come true, if you persist and believe in your dream. Take a step, big or small, in the direction you want to go. That paid off for me and I made it. Even more, I made it, so that I could make it possible for others."

STEM master’s meets critical need

Interest in Boise State's new Master of Science in STEM Education "exceeded our expectations;" said Louis Nadelson, assistant professor, Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Foundational Studies (CIFS).

Nadelson said that "The teaching of science, technology, engineering and math, otherwise known as 'STEM' disciplines, is critical to the role the College of Education plays in our community and region."

The new graduate program admitted its first 10 students in fall 2011 and expects to award its first degree at the end of summer 2012. CIFS collaborates with the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Engineering to offer the program, which requires a thesis.

The new master’s degree addresses a growing national emphasis on student improvement in STEM subjects and meets growing demand for qualified high school STEM teachers.

Nadelson noted that the new program allows a student to also add a teaching endorsement in one of the STEM subjects while getting a master's degree.

New doctoral program looks to future

Forty years of graduate programs have been just the beginning for the College of Education. This fall the college is launching a new doctoral program that looks to the future of education.

The first candidates for a new online doctorate in educational technology will start their studies in the fall.

The new program examines the use of technology for effective teaching and learning in a dynamic, global society. Areas of focus include:

• Online teaching and learning.
• Technology integration.
• Academic technology leadership.
• Innovative teaching in K-12 and higher education.
• Educational web software or mobile applications development.
• Educational games and simulations.
Study points to independence for students with autism

A new study holds promises for big improvements in learning and independence for students with autism spectrum disorders.

“When parents and teachers work together consistently with a common strategy, students display less stress over homework and are able to find meaning in assignments,” said Patricia Korzekwa Hampshire, assistant professor, Department of Special Education and Early Childhood Studies. “The students also are more likely to complete their homework and to complete it accurately.”

Autism is a developmental disability that often makes it hard to communicate with and relate to others. Children with autism often insist on sameness and routine and dislike change.

Hampshire’s project involved five middle school students, their parents and their teachers. As she began her study, Hampshire found that students often needed adults to remind them to write down assignments at school, bring home needed materials, begin homework assignments, complete assignments correctly and turn them in the next day.

“This created a lot of stress for everyone,” she said. “And the students used problem behavior as a way to avoid doing homework.”

Hampshire armed parents with new strategies for supporting and motivating their children. The parents became more like monitors and prompted their children far less often. Students learned to use a homework checklist that told them what to do, in what order and when they were finished.

Students were able to learn that the expectation was for them to work on their own and ask questions only when needed. “This was a big step toward independence,” Hampshire said.

Freed of the day-to-day challenges of homework, parents began providing feedback to teachers and offering ideas on how strategies and tools could be more successful.

“The insights we gained from this study are especially important for middle schools where students are being prepared for the increased demands of independence and time management,” Hampshire said.

$3.85 million grant promotes schools where all students succeed

Boise State has created the Idaho Leads Project, a professional development team focused on strengthening leadership capacity in Idaho’s K-12 schools.

The Idaho Leads Project is providing trustees, superintendents, principals, teachers, parents, students and community members across the state with support to become more effective leaders. The goal is to create high-performing schools where all students succeed.

“The Idaho Leads Project provides a unique and valuable opportunity for our district community to sharpen leadership skills and find innovative ways to embrace change,” said Charles Shackett, Bonneville School District superintendent, and a participant in the Idaho Leads Project.

The project is co-directed by Boise State University professors William Parrett, CSIPS director, Roger Quarles, assistant professor of Educational Leadership, Kathleen Budge, associate professor of Educational Leadership, and Lisa Kinnaman, director of Improvement Support to States for CSIPS.

The goal of the Idaho Leads Project is twofold. The first is to advance education improvement and reform in Idaho. The second is to share best practices with all interested districts, schools and their supporters.

Of the 158 Idaho school districts and charter schools invited to join the Idaho Leads Project, 49 were accepted. The first round of regional network meetings were held in February in Coeur d’Alene, Boise and Sun Valley. The meetings include nationally recognized keynote speakers, team-building exercises and job-alike network meetings. The next round of network meetings will be held in May with more to follow in September and November.

The Idaho Leads Project team provides assistance, including on-site support, between meetings. The Idaho Leads Project website (education.boisestate.edu/idaholeads) has resources for anyone, including those districts and community members who are not in the project. The website features stories about successfully integrating technology, answers to frequently asked questions, and more.

“The peer collaboration is one of the most attractive aspects of the Idaho Leads approach,” said Tim Lowe, a principal in the Boise School District.

Project prepares leaders for 21st century

The Idaho Leads Project is aimed at helping K-12 schools succeed, but it also will strengthen the Educational Leadership program of the College of Education.

“Idaho Leads adds value to the Educational Leadership program at Boise State,” said William Parrett, a co-director of the project and director of the Center for School Improvement and Policy Studies.

“Idaho Leads provides a meaningful connection with schools and districts engaged in the critical, challenging work of school improvement,” he said. “Allowing us access to real-life problems based on authentic learning situations that are important to all leaders today will directly impact how we prepare our future leaders.

“Most importantly, Idaho students will have the opportunity to be better prepared to meet the challenges that they will face in the 21st century,” Parrett said.
Graduates help design, lead highly regarded Anser Charter School

Two 1999 graduates of the College of Education’s doctoral program played a major role in creating one of the most highly regarded charter schools in Idaho.

Suzanne Gregg and the late Valerie Camilli joined fellow teachers, staff and parents at Garfield Elementary School, along with a handful of Boise State education professors, to design Anser Charter School. Anser opened its doors in a vacant office building in downtown Boise in September 1999 to 112 students.

Today, Anser is located in Garden City and is home to 366 students in kindergarten through 8th grade. Gregg is the school’s education director, a position similar to principal in traditional schools.

“Through our innovative approach to education, Anser challenges students to meet rigorous academic and character standards and to provide service to others,” Gregg said. “Students learn to take responsibility for achieving their personal best.”

Students participate in learning expeditions – extensive studies of a single topic. Expeditions harness the power of adventure and discovery. Expeditions lead students to become more motivated in their academic work while developing perseverance and self-discipline. An emphasis on reading and writing are integrated throughout the curriculum.

The school’s name, Anser, is Latin for goose. The school’s founders selected it because geese are birds with an extraordinary learning capacity, social skills, individuality, stamina and physical health.

“We support students by fostering a collaborative and cooperative learning environment, one which connects teachers, family and the community,” Gregg said. “Our shared leadership model builds on skills we feel children will need to be successful as they face challenges in tomorrow’s world.”

Award winning school

Recognition of Anser Charter School’s innovation and leadership includes being:

- Named an Expeditionary Learning Mentor School, a distinction shared with only 17 schools nationwide.
- Honored with the Charter Stars Award for Excellence in Innovation from the Idaho Department of Education.
- Presented the Governor’s Brightest Star Award.
- Home to three nationally certified teachers.
- Recognized by the Character Education Partnership as a National School of Character Award Recipient. Only 10 schools nationwide receive the honor.
- Presented the Boyer Center Best Practices Award.