Grant of $793,732 to entice STEM majors into teaching careers

Boise State University has been awarded a $793,732 Robert Noyce Program grant from the National Science Foundation to support the recruitment, education and retention of talented math and science students for careers in secondary science, math and engineering education. The grant provides about $158,746 a year to fund preservice teachers and Noyce program alumni for the next five years.

“There is a desperate need for Idaho science, math and engineering teachers in coming years,” said Louis Nadelson, associate professor, Curriculum, Instruction and Foundational Studies. “This grant will help us encourage students majoring in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) to pursue careers as secondary teachers in these areas.”

Joining Nadelson as the principal investigators in the grant are Henry Charlier, Jr., associate professor in Chemistry, and Amy Moll, dean of the College of Engineering.

The Noyce funds will be used to support STEM teacher development in three ways:

• **Summer internships.** To gain experience teaching STEM topics, recruits may engage in internships at locations such as Zoo Boise and the Discovery Center of Idaho, in programs such as Boise State’s TRIO Upward Bound, and as undergraduate research fellows in STEM research labs.

• **Scholarships.** STEM students pursuing teaching careers may apply for scholarships. But the primary goal of the grant is to use the scholarships to recruit STEM majors into the teacher preparation program. Students pay back the scholarships by teaching STEM subjects in high-needs school districts, with one year of teaching repaying one semester of scholarship support.

• **Support for current teachers.** Current STEM teachers (Noyce scholar alumni) will receive support to advance their STEM skills with scholarships to fund their continuing education and stipends to take part in professional learning communities and work with, or as peer mentors and instructional coaches.

Nadelson noted that the Noyce program will be aligned with the

---continued on page 2---
Valuable lessons from kindergarten

Consider two different ways of looking at the value of kindergarten.

A study by Harvard University economists released about two years ago tried to place a dollar value on a kindergarten education. The researchers looked at the adult lives of almost 12,000 children who had been in kindergarten in the 1980s.

The children had taken part in a well-known education experiment in Tennessee. The Tennessee experiment found that some teachers were able to help students learn far more than other teachers.

The Harvard researchers followed up with those students who are now adults in their 30s. They found that students who had learned much more in kindergarten went on to college more often than students who had otherwise similar backgrounds.

Of most interest to the economic researchers, the students who learned more also were earning more. Now consider another way of looking at the value of kindergarten.

About 24 years ago, author Robert Fulghum published his book, All I Really Need To Know I Learned in Kindergarten. The book became a national sensation. You may remember some of its simple rules such as:

- Share everything.
- Play fair.
- Don’t hit people.
- Put things back where you found them.
- Clean up your own mess.

These simple first lessons are, in fact, hard-won, field-tested standards presented by an effective teacher who knows how to make them stick with us over our lifetimes.

Whether you value kindergarten in dollars and cents or in life lessons, both measures have one thing in common—a highly effective teacher. An innovative and effective teacher can be one of the biggest influences on a young person’s life.

I had occasion to be reminded of this from my own kindergarten days. While visiting the Old Settlers Historical Museum in La Habra, California, earlier this year, I was elated to meet my kindergarten teacher, Nadine Proud.

Although elderly now, she still had the sparkle from my childhood when she had asked me one school day "Would you like to learn to read?" My answer back then had been an enthusiastic "Yes," and we spent weeks working through simple books until I learned to read.

What I didn’t know back then was that Mrs. Proud had handmade the books. When she told me my heart was touched all over again at the interest this caring teacher had taken in me.

"Thank you for giving me a good start," I told her. However you value your kindergarten days, I hope you also will take the time to thank those who gave you a good start.

Diane Boothe, Professor and Dean College of Education

---

Boise State awarded from page 1

I DoTeach program, an innovative teacher preparation program launched this fall. It is designed to increase the quality of STEM students pursuing careers as STE4 teachers and to retain them.

“I enthusiastically look forward to continuing to provide strong leadership and support for I DoTeach and STEM education,” said Diane Boothe, dean of the College of Education.

Boise State will begin accepting Noyce program scholarship and internship applications later this fall, with scholarships awarded in the spring 2013 semester and internships established for summer 2013 semester.

For more information about the program, contact Nadelson at (208)426-2856 or louisnadelson@boisestate.edu.

Business’ gift revives class activity

A gift of $20,500 over five years from Snake River Pool & Spa has revived a popular Boise State billiards activity class in the Kinesiology department, and allows twice as many students to take part than would otherwise be the case.

“As a result of the very kind gift from Snake River Pool & Spa, we’ve been able to add billiards back into our current list of activity course offerings,” said Ron Pfeiffer, chair of Kinesiology. “The gift allows the department to offer two classes each semester and serve 64 students a year.”

The billiards activity had been cut in 2011 when state education funds became scarce. Student activity fees could make up for some of the lost funds, but not all.

The eight billiard tables available for the class in the Student Union Building game center limited class size each semester to just 16 students. This enrollment didn’t generate enough in student activity fees to pay all of the costs for facility rentals, equipment, administration and an adjunct instructor.

That’s when Snake River Pool & Spa stepped up to help.

“We’re pleased to make it possible for students to continue to enjoy the sport of billiards,” said Jim Paxton owner of Snake River Pool & Spa. “We believe in helping people of all ages better themselves through programs like this course offered at Boise State University.”

EdTech continued from page 1

results could have broad impacts. “The implications could be far-reaching as to how instructors deliver information in the engineering sciences to first year students and sophomores,” stated a panel summary.

The work also exemplifies the modernization of education in a digital age, said Martin Schimpf, provost and vice president for academic affairs, noting that advanced technology will help identify gaps in the development of knowledge for students and help bridge those gaps.

---

Inan Senocak and Dazhi Yang

---
Mathias becomes first McNair graduate to earn doctorate

Chris Mathias last May became the first graduate of the Boise State McNair Scholars program to earn a doctorate. Mathias, former president of the student government at Boise State, earned a doctorate in law, policy and society from Northeastern University. He graduated from Boise State in 2004 with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, and earned a juris doctorate from Vermont Law School in 2007.

Mathias is returning to Boise State for a temporary appointment in the Office of the President.

"For me, McNair was valuable because it provided me with the two types of support I really needed to succeed in graduate school," Mathias said. "I obviously needed financial support because just getting into graduate school can be prohibitively expensive. But much more importantly, I needed the emotional support, the kind that constantly reaffirms you with the message that you can succeed in graduate school so long as you continue to care and work hard. I think this type of support is very important for those who may never have experienced graduate level learning as modeled, normalized behavior."

A second student, David Estrada, will earn his doctorate in 2013 from University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. Estrada earned his undergraduate degree in electrical and computer engineering in 2007 and plans to teach for Boise State's materials science and engineering program next year.

Pesky Awards for Inspirational Teaching to salute teachers

Alan and Wendy Pesky and Boise State's College of Education will honor four distinguished Idaho K-12 teachers and their schools with $10,000 in awards at Winter Commencement on Dec. 21. The four teachers will receive $2,000 each and their schools will receive $500 each.

Ardent supporters of improved education, Alan and Wendy Pesky created the Pesky Award for Inspirational Teaching (PAIT) to recognize K-12 teachers in Idaho who make a major difference in the lives of their students.

This is the second year for PAIT recognition. The first awards were presented to:

- Karen Finch, a fifth- and sixth-grade teacher at Whittier Elementary in Boise.
- Darcy Jones, a kindergarten and general education teacher at Riverside Elementary in Boise.
- Harold Kerschensteiner, a seventh- and eighth-grade teacher at Lake Hazel Middle School in Boise.
- Marcia von Huene, who teaches orchestra at Centennial High School in Boise.

Nominations for the 2012 awards currently are being evaluated.

"We are grateful to Alan and Wendy Pesky for their valuable support and encouragement," said Diane Boothe, dean of the College of Education. "Our college is strongly committed to providing outstanding teachers who positively impact the lives of students."
News from the College of Education’s alumni

1970s

KARL BENSON, physical education, ‘75, former Western Athletic Conference commissioner, accepted the role of Sun Belt Conference commissioner in February. Benson lives in Greenwood Village, Colorado.

1980s

TRENT JOHNSON, ’86, is the new head coach for men’s basketball at Texas Christian University. Prior to moving to TCU, Johnson coached at Louisiana State University.

1990s

ROBERT YERZY, elementary education, ’80, is now living and working in Guangzhou, China. In the 1990s, he taught at Canyon View Elementary School in Salt Lake City. He is the co-founder of Global Neighborhood Student Ambassadors, which supports communities and youth.

2000s

ADIL BENTAHAR, master’s in curriculum and instruction, ‘11, is a graduate research assistant at the University of Utah pursuing a doctorate in exercise physiology. She is working on the PhACTS study of physical activity and pelvic floor function in females ages 39 to 65.

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.
New Faculty

NICOLE BOLTER is a faculty member in the Department of Kinesiology. She earned a doctorate in kinesiology from the University of Minnesota where she specialized in sport and exercise psychology. She earned her master’s in educational psychology from the University of Virginia, and a bachelor’s in psychology from the University of California, Berkeley. Before coming to Boise State, Bolter was a lecturer in the kinesiology department at San Francisco State University. She was a National Golf Coaches Association Academic All-American golfer for three years at Berkeley, and worked as a Ladies Professional Golf Association assistant golf professional for three years. Her research focuses on the development of character through sport participation.

MICHELE CARNEY is a faculty member in the Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Foundational Studies. She recently served as the associate director of the Initiative for Developing Mathematical Thinking through the Center for School Improvement under the College of Education. She previously served as the Meridian Joint School District 2’s mathematics curriculum coordinator and secondary math academic coach. Her education career started as a high school math and science teacher. She received her master’s in curriculum and instruction from Boise State in 2002 and her education specialist in educational leadership from the University of Idaho in 2007. She earned her doctorate in education from the University of Idaho in 2012. Her main focus has been in professional development for teachers of mathematics.

VICKI STIEHA is a faculty member of the Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Foundational Studies. She joined Boise State in 2011 as the director of the Foundational Studies Program. She earned her doctorate in educational studies from the University of Cincinnati, her master’s in education in English secondary education from Xavier University, and a bachelor’s in communication from Florida State University. Her background includes the design and administration of curriculum and programs to enhance students’ academic success. Stieha’s research interests include analyzing the reshaping of the undergraduate curriculum to meet the needs and challenges of today’s students.

A. J. ZENKERT has joined the clinical faculty in the Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Foundation Studies. He had been an adjunct instructor and research assistant in the College of Education while working on his doctorate at Boise State in curriculum, instruction and foundation studies. He holds a master’s in educational leadership from the Bank Street College of Education Leadership for Educational Change program in New York City and a bachelor’s in English and political science from Drew University in New Jersey. After college, he lived in Australia, playing professional lacrosse and coaching youth lacrosse. In addition to his work teaching in elementary, junior high, and high schools, he also served as the dean of students and then the associate head of school at St. Philips Academy in Newark, NJ. He is a local swimming instructor and coach for infants, children and adults and a certified instructor of CPR/AED for the professional rescuer and standard first aid for the American Red Cross.

Popular Literacy Center Academy now a year-round program

The Summer Literacy Center Academy has become so popular with children and their families that the Literacy Center has expanded it to a year-round program on Saturday mornings. “This is not a sixth day of school,” said Anne Gregory, professor of literacy. “We focus on children’s imaginations to make subjects come alive and excite children about reading and learning.”

The Literacy Center is housed under the Department of Literacy in the College of Education.

The Saturday Literacy Center Academy is aimed at helping students in grades 1 through 7. It started in September and offers five different classes with space for 75 students. The classes meet from 8 a.m. to noon for 10 weeks. The current session runs until Dec. 8 and a new session will begin in January.

Children attend classes taught by certified teachers in all areas of literacy. Small student-to-teacher ratios transform classrooms into comfortable, constructive places to learn. Children receive lots of one-to-one instruction as well as individual tutoring if needed.

During their day, students also are involved in educational activities including crafts, drama, games, computers and art. Students also visit the library, write and perform reader’s theater, write and perform plays, and engage in art and movement activities related to the themes they are studying. “Our goal is for children to be more confident and more capable readers, writers and speakers, when they leave our academy,” Gregory said. “You’ll see a positive change in your child.”

The Summer Literacy Center Academy began with 30 students in 2007 and grew to nearly 200 students enrolled in the summer of 2012.

The cost of enrolling in the Saturday Literacy Center Academy class is $300, but financial aid is available based on income. Classes are held in the College of Education building on the Boise State campus.

For more information, contact Gregory at (208)426-2808 or agregory@boisestate.edu. For information online, visit education.boisestate.edu/literacy/programs-for-children.
**Students’ video documents the lives of Treasure Valley Latinos**

Boise State's bilingual education and communication students collaborated this summer to produce the first documentary video on the lives of Latinos in the Treasure Valley. A premier for the documentary is planned for November.

"The purpose of the 45-minute documentary is to give voice to those who helped build this community," said Claudia Peralta, chair of the Department of Bilingual Education. The video, titled "The Latino Community of the Treasure Valley, Idaho," also sought to include a younger generation of Latino students who continue to contribute to the life and economy of Idaho.

The students were part of the interdisciplinary course, "Documentary Production: Interviewing Refugees and Immigrants," offered by the departments of Bilingual Education and Communication. They created a 2½-minute trailer that highlights their experience in producing the video. The trailer can be viewed at youtu.be/9EnNfaJYr4M.

The course provided students hands-on experience in documentary filmmaking. This included fundraising, interviewing, videotaping and editing the final product.

Students received guidance from award-winning documentary filmmaker Fabio Caramaschi. He is the creative director of the Marcello Mastroianni Film Workshop, a multimedia and filming workshop in the Italian public school system.

"Our students not only learned documentary filmmaking from an international expert, their video is helping to teach about the influence of the Latino community in Idaho," Peralta said.

The exact date of the video premier will be announced later.

---

**Awards honor 18 Idaho mentors**

The College of Education and five education partners recognized 18 teachers and counselors from southwest Idaho public schools with Celebration of Teaching—Mentors of the Year Awards in September.

The second annual awards program recognized teachers who guide, support and encourage fellow educators in their pursuit of effective teaching, counseling and professional growth. Dean Diane Boothe presented the awards Sept. 27 in the Stueckle Sky Center at Boise State University.

"It is an honor to celebrate the impressive accomplishments of these outstanding mentors who positively impact the lives of others and make our profession one in which we can all be proud," Boothe said.

The awards are a joint project of Boise State and the Idaho Education Association, the Meridian School District, the Boise School District, the Blaine County School District and the Idaho State Department of Education.

Norco, the nation’s largest privately owned medical, welding, safety and gas supplier, sponsored the Sky Center event. Capital Educators Federal Credit Union sponsored the awards.

Fourteen elementary, middle, and high school teachers and four counselors of kindergarten through 12th grade received awards. You can find a list of recipients online at news.boisestate.edu/update/2012/09/21/celebration-of-teaching-awards-to-honor-18-idaho-educators-on-sept-27.

---

**Play therapy conference features internationally known speaker**

The first conference of the Idaho Initiative for Play Therapy Studies will feature Garry L. Landreth, internationally known for his writings and work in promoting the development of play therapy. The conference is set for Nov. 2 and 3 in the Simplot AC Ballroom, Student Union Building at Boise State University.

Landreth’s presentation will focus on a highly effective parenting intervention that he developed called Child-Parent Relationship Therapy. His model received the 2010 Best Practices in Parent and Family Education Award.

The Initiative’s annual conference helps raise money to fund play therapy research at Boise State University. Early registration ends Oct. 26.

The Idaho Initiative for Play Therapy Studies located in the Department of Counselor Education has earned a designation from the Association for Play Therapy as a nationally Approved Center of Play Therapy Education.

"As the first such center in Idaho, the Initiative seeks to serve those who counsel clients, particularly children, in schools, public agencies, private practices and other places," said April Schottelkorb, the founder and director of the Initiative. She also is an assistant professor of counselor education.

Please see the Initiative webpage at education.boisestate.edu/counselored/idaho-initiative-for-play-therapy-studies for more information on the conference and to register. You also may contact Schottelkorb at aprilschottelkorb@boisestate.edu or (208)426-1209.
Upward Bound receives $5.7 million grant to help students

A federal grant of nearly $5.7 million will allow Boise State’s TRiO Upward Bound programs to continue to help high school students get into and stay in college. The grant provides about $1.13 million a year for the next five years.

The funding comes in a year when 233 TRiO Upward Bound programs across the country have lost their funding, pointing to the success of Boise State’s program, housed in the College of Education.

TRiO Upward Bound programs are for high school youth who are the first in their family to go to college and also come from families with limited incomes.

The four TRiO Upward Bound programs provide services to 252 students in the 9th through 12th grades at Nampa, Caldwell, Borah, Capital, Meridian, Owyhee and Rimrock high schools.

“Boise State University having four programs is a testament to the hard work of the staff and the success of the students,” said Sue B. Huizinga, project director for the TRiO Upward Bound programs. “Eighty-five percent of all Boise State TRiO Upward Bound seniors enroll in postsecondary education the fall after they graduate from high school, significantly higher than the state numbers for all high school graduates.”

Scott Willison, director of the Center or Multicultural and Educational Opportunities where the TRiO Upward Bound programs are housed, said the relatively few student services that exist in schools often are cut when budgets get tight.

“Boise State’s TRiO Upward Bound programs have become lifelines to hundreds of students who are proving that with purposeful assistance they can be successful in higher education,” he said.

TRiO Upward Bound helps students with study and technology skills, literature circles, preparation for college entry tests and tutoring. The students and their families receive financial aid and financial literacy information.

The students also attend a six-week summer residential program on the Boise State campus where they take high school courses, participate in internships and in-service learning projects in the community. During the academic year, students’ service projects have included the College Carnival at Whitney Community Center, Rake Up Boise and friendship feasts at local churches.

Students also are provided an opportunity to visit college campuses.

For more information about TRiO Upward Bound, contact Huizinga at (208)890-1744 or shuizin@boisestate.edu.

Education’s Bahruth recruits students from around the world

Call him the College of Education’s ambassador to the world.

Over the past several years, Roberto Bahruth, professor in the Department of Bilingual Education, has successfully recruited students to Boise State University from Israel, Korea, Peru, Taiwan, Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, China and the Philippines. And that doesn’t include the many students from the Boise region.

Bahruth often travels to work with foreign universities on projects ranging from language mastery to environmental issues. He also presents at professional meetings, as he did this summer at the Gender Studies Conference at Hallym University in Korea.

As he travels, Bahruth also takes time to visit local kindergarten and elementary schools.

“It is always good to see what kids are doing in schools wherever I travel,” Bahruth said. “I also have a better idea of their skill levels in English.”

While in Korea, he was invited to drop in at a kindergarten and two elementary schools where he taught the children story telling.

“I asked children questions about their names, where they were from and what their favorite colors and animals were;” he said. “Then I told them a simple story by acting it out.

“Their response was wonderful. Children are so flexible,” Bahruth said. “When I told them my favorite color was orange, many of them picked orange too. It was evident they knew their colors, but needed help with the names of some animals.”

At Seoul National University, Bahruth met with Myung Koo Kang, professor in the Department of Communication, to discuss recruiting students for Boise State’s doctoral program in education and master’s programs in literacy and bilingual education. He was able to meet Kang through Ed McLuskie, professor in the Department of Communication at Boise State.

“Dr. Kang was my host for two days at the most prestigious university in Korea,” Bahruth said. “He has invited me back to share some of my work and for a longer visit in the future.”

In addition, he visited four other universities to recruit students to the College of Education. He met with professors who have visited Boise over the years, as well as those who are planning to be here next year.

Because of his travels and background in anthropological linguistics, Bahruth is able to share valuable insights with his Boise State students. These insights include observations of the cultural influences on human communication that reflect wisdom.

“In every class I teach,” Bahruth said, “I explain that the Chinese symbol for the verb ‘to listen’ is a composite of four symbols representing the eyes, the ears, the mind and the heart. I explain to my students that our discussion groups and cultural circles require the complete attention of every student while any one student is speaking.”
A new partnership with Chungnam National University in Korea opens another door to international learning, teaching, research and job markets for Boise State faculty and students. College of Education members Stan Steiner, chair, Literacy, Young Kyun Baek, professor, Educational Technology, and Arturo Rodriguez, associate professor, Bilingual Education, were instrumental in reaching the agreement with the Korean university. Martin Schimpf, provost, and vice-president for academic affairs, joined them for signing the formal agreement.

“Boise State’s move to partner with international universities has a positive effect on Idaho’s economy and positions our graduates to enter a global job market,” Steiner said. “Faculty also benefit through collaborative research projects, teaching abroad and through intercultural understanding.”

Under the agreement, Korean students will spend one year at their home university and three years at Boise State. The first year will include courses taught in English and an additional 600 hours of intensive English instruction. Then the Korean students will come to Boise State for three years, ultimately graduating with a Boise State degree.

This partnership may include 25 new students the first year and eventually up to 50 students each year.