

WELCOME



Explore Highlights Research Excellence at Boise State

Welcome to the premier issue of *Explore*, the research magazine of Boise State University. On these pages, you'll meet outstanding faculty and students engaged in innovative collaborations across disciplines with partners in business, government and industry.

Boise State's strengths in a number of cutting-edge areas are helping to drive an ambitious research agenda. As a relatively young university, Boise State enjoys an entrepreneurial and nimble, forward-thinking culture. Our ability to attract top-notch faculty from diverse backgrounds has been a key factor in our growing reputation.

As we look to the future, there are a number of factors that require mid-tier universities such as Boise State to rethink traditional missions and expand the research portfolios of their faculty and staff. One of the most compelling is that America's premier research universities cannot alone provide the research to compete with scientific discovery and innovation from the rapidly growing numbers of universities in China, India and other nations intent on charting their own educational destinies. The Task Force on the Future of Innovation reports that from 1988 to 2001 the United States increased its number of published academic articles in science and engineering by only 13 percent while China, Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea collectively increased their number by 492 percent.

We must find a way to spread the investment in the process of discovery if America is to remain competitive in the global economy. What you will discover in this premier edition of *Explore* is the role our faculty play not only on a state and local level, but also in realizing our national purpose of assuring America's preeminence in knowledge creation and innovation across the globe.

– BOB KUSTRA, PRESIDENT