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## **UPDATE**

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Your source for campus news

## **Boise State Earns Carnegie Classification for Engaging with Treasure Valley Community**



[\\_ \(https://wayback.archive-it.org/8092/20180810180350/https://news.boisestate.edu/update/files/2015/01/Carnegie-CEC-digital-seal.jpg\)](https://wayback.archive-it.org/8092/20180810180350/https://news.boisestate.edu/update/files/2015/01/Carnegie-CEC-digital-seal.jpg) From the re-design of a camp for Idaho children diagnosed with cancer, to programs that encourage the exploration of math and science, to an office that supports the advancement of innovation and entrepreneurship throughout the campus and the community, Boise State University is more engaged in its surrounding communities than ever before.

These and many more community partnerships have earned the university a 2015 Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Carnegie has announced that Boise State is among 361 U.S. colleges and universities that have attained this important designation, and was one of only 76 universities in the country to be classified as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engaged Institution when the designation was first established in 2006.

“Boise State University has been devoted to our surrounding community since we were founded in 1932 and it is safe to say that our teaching and research efforts are more aligned with the needs of Idaho’s capital city than ever before,” said Boise State President Bob Kustra. “From community

engagement that enriches the lives of citizens to the innovative research that stimulates business, we believe Boise State's presence has never been more significant."

Community engagement is one of five overall goals in Boise State's strategic plan. The university is teeming with examples of partnerships that better prepare students for college and their futures, advance the missions of the Treasure Valley's non-profit organizations, and help drive economic development in Idaho.

All Boise State colleges have majors that integrate community engagement activities into coursework, and Boise State's re-configured core curriculum — the Foundational Studies Program — means every undergraduate student will participate in a community engagement activity.

Here are a few story lines from across campus that helped the university earn the Carnegie designation:

- Engineering students created a new design for an expanded Camp Rainbow Gold, an oncology camp for children, at the request of camp managers. The final design included a medical facility, dining hall, general store and sleeping cabins for 300 participants.
- In 2011, the Division of Research expanded to become the Division of Research and Economic Development. It is responsible for coordinating campus-wide activities focused on community engagement through economic development. This includes the Office of Technology Transfer, which supports research activities, manages industry relations and facilitates internal and external relationships.
- The Arts and Humanities Institute, which began operation in 2009, supports faculty and student research and creative activity, community collaborations with the university and community presentations.
- The GK-12 partnership with the City of Boise was created in 2008 through a grant received from the National Science Foundation. Boise State graduate students in the program have taught and interacted with approximately 40,000 K-12 students and members of the general public.
- An agreement with eight local software firms and the state Department of Labor will double the number of Boise State's highly sought-after computer science majors in a just a few short years, and the Department of Computer Science is moving into downtown Boise.
- Boise State's Service-Learning Program connects academic concepts learned in the classroom with relevant community needs, and projects help students develop valuable skills they will rely on after they earn their degrees. Service-learning is offered in every college at Boise State, and students devote thousands of hours each year to nonprofits. The program is also helping area school districts incorporate service-learning into their K-12 classrooms.
- MBA students tackle local problems facing business and community leaders, as do graduating engineering students in their senior projects.
- Opened in 2013, Venture College connects emerging entrepreneurs with the community and helps prepare them to start up new businesses. Venture College is led by highly experienced business executives and supported by more than 200 entrepreneurs, business people and civic leaders from the community who volunteer their expertise to assist students.
- Accountancy students assist elderly and low-income tax filers with their income tax forms through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.
- The Division of Extended Studies provides college access and lifelong learning opportunities to people of varying ages and circumstances through online offerings and unique programs such as the Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning.
- The College of Engineering supports a number of outreach events for K-12 students each year that encourage exploration of science, technology, engineering and math fields.

- In the College of Education, all secondary pre-service teachers take “Teaching Students with Exceptional Needs,” a signature service-learning course for developing teachers.
- Spanish majors participate in a rich community engagement experience that involves their participation in a mock trial at the Ada County courthouse where they interpret from English to Spanish during witness testimony and closing arguments.
- In the “Boise Language Project,” linguistics students and faculty work with members of the Boise refugee community to provide language documentation for the refugees. Projects have produced documentation in the Chizigula, Maay and KiBembe languages.

A full listing of colleges and universities that hold a Carnegie Community Engagement Classification can be found at [nerche.org](https://nerche.org) (<https://wayback.archive-it.org/8092/20180810180350/http://nerche.org/>).

“The importance of this elective classification is borne out by the response of so many campuses that have demonstrated their deep engagement with local, regional, national and global communities,” said John Saltmarsh, director of the New England Resource Center for Higher Education. “These are campuses that are improving teaching and learning, producing research that makes a difference in communities, and revitalizing their civic and academic missions.”

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