

September 9, 2009

Dear Alumni and Friends:

Tenth day enrollment figures for the University of Idaho will be released this morning and will note the positive direction and the momentum that is building for the future. Numerous positive specifics will be noted including:

Nearly 1,800 new freshmen -- the university's largest-ever incoming freshman class. This marks the third consecutive year of increases.

A large increase in the number of transfer students, 733 or 9.7 percent from a year ago.

Overall statewide enrollment at the University of Idaho registered a 1.4 percent increase over the previous fall, to 11,957. This marks the second consecutive increase for overall enrollment.

Increases at regional centers in Boise, Coeur d'Alene, and Idaho Falls.

For incoming freshman, the numbers tell a great story about both high academic quality and leadership:

45 percent of the freshman class boasts a grade point average of 3.5 or greater,

The average GPA increased to 3.43, up from 3.35 last year.

The average ACT composite increased to 23.64, up from 23.10.

94 students who are former senior class or high school honor society presidents.

21 new National Merit Scholars, for an institutional total of 66 of the prestigious scholars who are in the top one percent of the nation's high school graduates.

Enrollment success as described above is the result of a wide range of factors but alumni contributions are increasingly critical and valuable factors. Special thanks to all the alumni who helped with recruiting events, funded a bus to Vandal Friday, worked college fairs both with recruitment staff or on their own, and successfully executed a wide-reaching phone campaign to admitted students. While everyone's program and service contributions are important, it's also important to note that successful recruitment and retention is fundamentally based on

positive student experiences and ultimately on the success of our students. In many ways your conveying of your Vandal passion in every interaction and with every encounter is perhaps your most valuable contribution.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the alumni for all their contributions to the institutional enrollment efforts and to especially thank them for their passion and commitment to their alma mater that they share in their day-to-day lives. Enrollment success is just one measure of our university but it can serve as a reflection of our students' success. The experiences you share of your successes in the classroom, in research, on the playing fields, and across the range of out-of-classroom activities represent the building blocks for student success and the most valuable contributions you can make to the institutional enrollment effort.

Finally, a reminder that the enrollment effort, in support of student success, is an ongoing institutional effort. Even as we note the enrollment successes for this fall, we continue to plan and provide programs for next year as we look to build on the current momentum and positive direction. Specifically, there are two key upcoming university events:

Envision Idaho, a major fall recruitment event aimed at high school seniors on Oct. 1 and 2,

Transfer Preview Day, a major focus on students seeking to transfer to the university, on Oct. 9.

Please share the links below with prospective students (or their parents) who would make great future Vandals. More information is available online about:

Envision Idaho at:

<http://www.uidaho.edu/envision>

Transfer Preview Day at:

<http://www.uidaho.edu/transferpreview>

Again, thank you for all you do to support the enrollment efforts and the success of our students. I look forward to your continued support and contributions as we continue to move in a positive direction.

Go Vandals!

Sincerely,

Steven R. Neiheisel  
Assistant Vice President, Enrollment Management