



# University of Idaho

Office of the President

**TO:** University of Idaho Students, Faculty and Staff  
**FROM:** Chuck Staben, President  
**DATE:** March 14, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** State Board of Education Approves Construction Request for ICCU Arena

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The Idaho State Board of Education (SBOE) today unanimously approved the University of Idaho's request to proceed with the bidding and construction phase of the signature 4,200-capacity Idaho Central Credit Union (ICCU) Arena project, contingent upon approval by the SBOE executive director after consultation with the new University of Idaho president, once named by the board.

The project will go out for bid and we hope to break ground soon with building completion expected in the fall of 2021.

This is a great day for the University of Idaho. Our sincere thanks go to our students, Idaho Central Credit Union, the university community, our alumni, and the many donors and partners whose support will make this long-anticipated and critically important project a reality.

The ICCU Arena is much more than a basketball venue. This unique facility represents an essential addition to our residential campus, offering a gathering place for students, athletes, faculty, staff, alumni and friends for generations to come. We are more energized than ever about this project.

The arena will also be a game-changer for Vandal basketball and will benefit our student-athletes and our athletics program. The state-of-the-art arena will provide a teaching facility and the best game atmosphere in the Big Sky while also acting as a recruiting showpiece. An arena with a practice court will provide attractive and versatile competition space and provide first-class practice facilities that we've needed for a long time. We're excited about the impact for our student-athletes and for the entire university community.

The innovative mass-timber construction of the building brought wood industry partners from across the state to the project. These critical partners plan to provide in-kind gifts that may reduce the cost of the building – one that will stand as a stunning example of modern wood construction. In addition, we've already seen educational and scholarly projects take shape in association with the arena design and construction. The University of Idaho is proud to exercise its land-grant leadership in syncing a dynamic facility with an important industry for our state, with our academic experiences and with the needs of our community and region. This facility is a showcase for who we are and what we can do together.

Idaho Central Credit Union is the naming sponsor of the arena, having donated \$10 million to the project. Other key donations of \$2.5 million sponsor the practice gym and the performance floor. The University of Idaho Alumni Association provided a naming gift and the University of Idaho Foundation has been instrumental in bringing this project closer to completion.

We will provide more information on the arena plan in the coming months. More information about [the project and how you can help bring it across the finish line is available](#) on the U of I website.

*Chuck Staben*  
*President*

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