

University of Idaho

College of Engineering

December 17, 2008



Dear College of Engineering Alumni and Friends:

It is a pleasure to write my first letter as Dean to the alumni, friends, and supporters of the College of Engineering. In just my first couple of weeks I have been reminded many times of the great heritage that belongs to this college. I want to say “thanks” and invite you to renew, as I have done, our commitment to this college.

I would be remiss not to recognize the financial challenges that are facing our nation, state, and university. In turn the College of Engineering will be challenged to simultaneously streamline and reduce spending while building on the strengths of the faculty and students within the College. We will look towards new and past supporters, our advisory boards, students, staff and faculty to help guide this transformation. The College of Engineering will be working with the other colleges on campus to make certain that we are building collaborations between our departments and other colleges. Our goal is ensure that we continue to provide exceptional learning experiences for our students and increase contributions from our world-class research programs.

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Having been at the UI for nearly 20 years, I have come to understand the remarkable opportunities the college offers our students. I believe that our faculty and staff members provide one of the best engineering education experiences in the world. Idaho’s students work closely with experienced faculty on real-world projects, giving them the theory and practical skills they need to be successful and shape the workforce. We are especially proud of our learning philosophy that incorporates hands-on laboratories, design throughout the curriculum, a large number of individual and team-based projects, and an outstanding capstone senior design project. Even in difficult times our graduates continue to be widely sought after by both industry and the academic world.

The next several months will be a time to celebrate areas in which we’ve made significant progress, contemplate where new opportunities can emerge to broaden and deepen our students’ real-world experiences and continue to break new ground in teaching, interdisciplinary approaches to engineering challenges and technological innovation. Throughout spring semester I plan to spend time engaged in conversations and exchanges with our chairs, our college advisory boards, faculty, staff, students, colleagues, and with you, our alumni and friends. I invite your suggestions, ideas and critiques, so please don’t hesitate to contact me at dblack@uidaho.edu.

On behalf of the University of Idaho’s College of Engineering, I wish all of you a happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous new year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don'.

Donald M. Blacketter
Dean, College of Engineering