

From: Office of the President <noreply@m.uidaho.edu>
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 10:30 AM
To:
Subject: Continuing education streamlined at U of I

Letter from the President



Office of the President, president@uidaho.edu
Oct. 3, 2025

Dear Vandals,

With just 68 seats available for their professional development course, Biology of Vector-Borne Diseases, and more than 800 applicants, University of Idaho professors Shirley Luckhart and Ed Lewis needed a path to expansion.

The hands-on, discussion-based elements of the popular [six-day course](#) limit the number of public health officials, physicians, veterinarians, plant health specialists and professors who can participate in person each June in Moscow.

Anyone with an internet connection will soon be able to access insights about disease prevention and management through the U of I's [Continuing Adult and Professional Education](#) (CAPE)

program.

Vice Provost for Digital Learning Ken Udas established CAPE last year as a platform for U of I educators to reach a growing market of adult and professional learners who can't commit to full-time college on a U of I campus. The online courses are often self-paced and available at a fraction of the cost of on-campus instruction.

"Colleges were finding challenges in fitting short, non-traditional programs into the 'traditional' university box with semesters and a 4-6-year track," Udas said. "People are looking for courses that are inexpensive, simple and reliable. That was our starting point."

For Luckhart and Lewis, adapting their interactive, in-person course into an online offering proved challenging. But they developed a supplemental course with a team of instructors sharing the latest research in their specific areas of vector-borne disease expertise.

CAPE's platform made the process manageable and the professors' team in the [Institute for Health in the Human Ecosystem](#) compiled online videos that students can access over the course of six weeks. The content doesn't replace the in-person course, but provides an accessible, cost-effective alternative for those interested in the subject. Luckhart said they plan to launch the new class next spring.

"In the videos, we had all of our instructors talk about their own work and how the vector-borne disease course has impacted their research," she said. "We wanted to make this easy for our instructors. It's been amazing to work with Ken (Udas) and his team and the instructional designers on this."

CAPE helps U of I faculty across the spectrum reach learners from around the globe. Professor of Theatre Robert Caisley keeps a network of professionals engaged online through courses on CAPE's platform. The stand-alone, non-credit courses offer professional skill development in specific fields

like screenwriting and podcasting.

“I missed being a part of the U of I community of academics and artists,” said Jennifer Wilson, MFA '22, who teaches music at the community college level. “The (screenwriting) course through the CAPE program allowed me to continue my pursuit of lifelong learning and is providing a valuable opportunity for me to gain knowledge and perspective that is vital to continued success in my career.”

The U of I is adapting the educational model to meet the needs of learners, no matter where they live or how they learn. Removing time, location and cost barriers for ongoing learning advances our land-grant mission of educational access for the people we serve.

Go Vandals!

C. Scott Green
President



Snapshots

UI Extension lends a hand to Latah County businesses

UI Extension is helping growers and businesses connect with customers by reviving Moscow's Tuesday Market. The weekly market was struggling until Extension staff stepped in to provide logistical assistance and marketing. From 2022 to 2023 Tuesday Market business owners' profits increased by 279%.

[Learn more.](#)

Chen lands NSF grant to explore children's learning

Associate Professor Shiyi Chen will lead research projects designed to inform teachers about how children learn thanks to a \$1.4 million dollar grant from the National Science Foundation. The five-year study focuses on preschoolers and kindergarteners' early science learning.

[Learn more.](#)

U of I English professor earns Idaho Arts Fellowship

Alexandra Teague, English Department chair at the U of I, was one of three Idaho writers recognized with the Idaho Arts Fellowship. The award recognizes outstanding writers whose work exhibits the highest artistic merit during peer review.

[Learn more.](#)



You can sign up your future Vandals to march in the Homecoming Parade kickoff on Saturday, Oct. 11 at 9 a.m. Ages 12 and under are invited to participate in the annual tradition.



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