



Idaho State  
University

**INCLUDE**  
**IDAHO**  
**NEEDS**  
**CONNECTIVITY**  
**LEADING**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
**DISTANCE**  
**EDUCATION**



**College of Arts and Letters**

**INCLUDE Project Summary**  
July 2023

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INCLUDE I	pg. 5
2. INCLUDE Map	pg. 7
3. INCLUDE II	pg. 8
4. Partners	pg. 9
5. Impact	pg. 10
6. Challenges, Vision, Support	pg. 11
7. How to Get Involved	pg. 12



# INTRODUCTION

In 2017, ISU launched a pilot program offering 12 Southeast Idaho high school students a unique opportunity to attend college classes on ISU's campus. This allowed them to experience the commitment and requirements of college firsthand, interacting with professors and preparing for the challenges that lie ahead.

Since then, the program has grown significantly, with over 550 students taking on-campus dual enrollment courses by Spring 2021.

However, students in rural areas have been disadvantaged due to their distance from campus, lacking access to the same educational opportunities.

To address this disparity, ISU has introduced the INCLUDE project, leveraging revolutionary distance learning technology. This initiative aims to bring the on-campus college

experience to high school students in rural Southeast Idaho.

Through live-streaming college classes directly to rural high schools, ISU's INCLUDE program enables high school students to actively participate alongside college students.

They benefit from mentorship by ISU faculty and enjoy the advantages of being part of the college community.

ISU is forging partnerships with rural high schools, working together to prepare Idaho's youth for college and increase the go-on rate in the state.

The university is committed to boosting student confidence and providing greater access to education for these young individuals, paving the way for a brighter future.



# OUR STORY SO FAR...

## OUR MISSION

Our vision is to establish equitable access to low-cost Dual Enrollment classes to communities across Idaho, increase individual perseverance and academic achievement, and better prepare students for post-secondary education and career.

*Creating Opportunity, Equity, and Educational Access to Idaho Learners*

**ACCESS.  
OPPORTUNITY.  
SUPPORT.**

## FUNDING

Grant: \$321,416.45

Donations: \$77,456

USDA

Direct Communications

Blackfoot Communications

ATC Communications

Bayer Fund



Scan for more information.



# WHAT IS INCLUDE I?

*IDAHO NEEDS CONNECTIVITY LEADING UNIVERSITY DISTANCE EDUCATION*

The INCLUDE Program offers Idaho high school students increased opportunities to participate in select ISU dual enrollment classes, regardless of their location. By utilizing advanced distance learning technology, the program aims to replicate the in-person college classroom experience within the students' own school buildings, eliminating the need for travel.

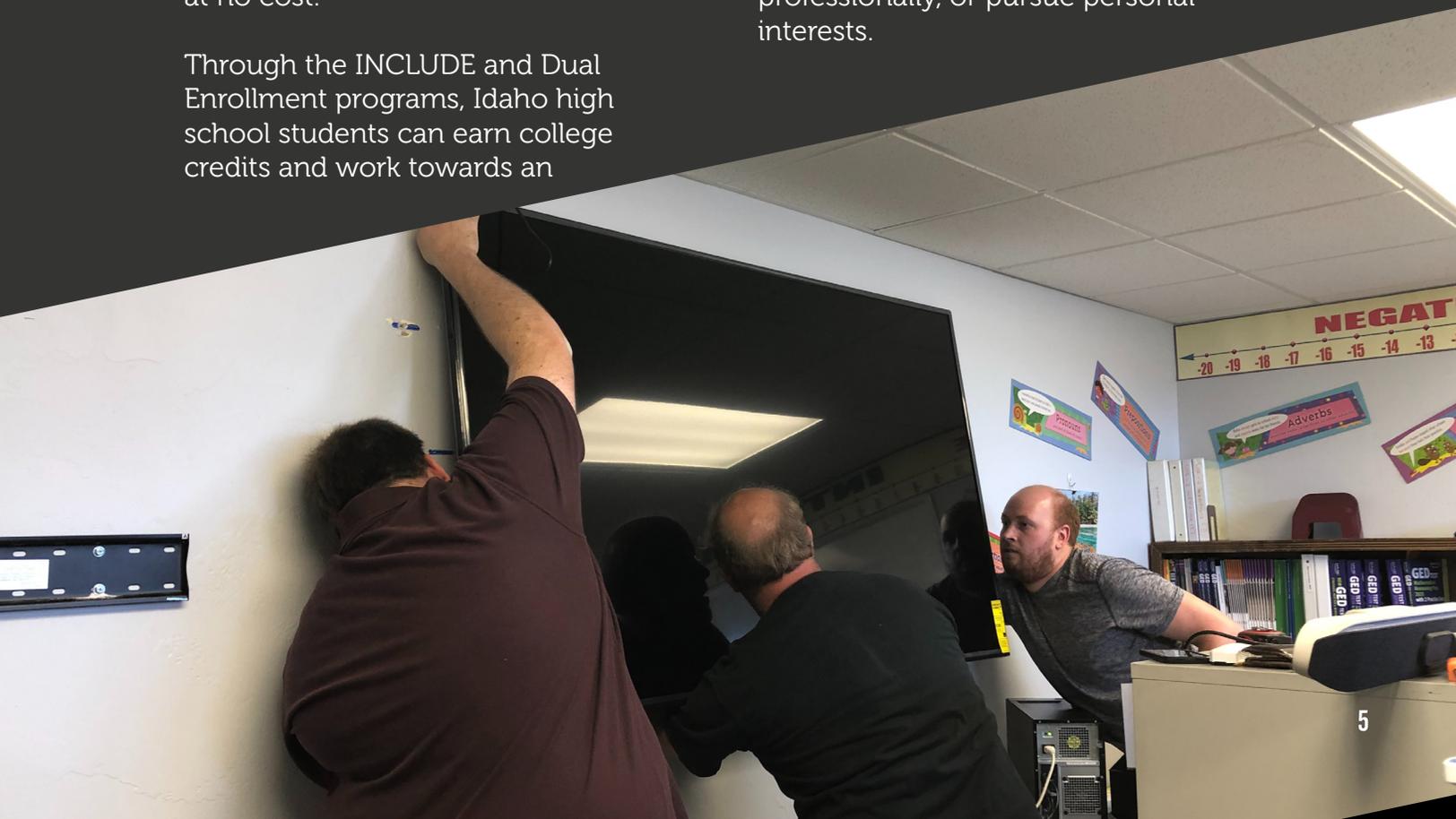
Thanks to the generous donations from rural internet providers (Direct Communications, Blackfoot Communications, and ATC Communications) and a grant from the USDA, high schools receive the necessary equipment and technology at no cost.

Through the INCLUDE and Dual Enrollment programs, Idaho high school students can earn college credits and work towards an

Associate's Degree. The Fast Forward program allows eligible students to enroll in ISU's INCLUDE Dual Enrollment classes and earn college credits without any cost.

The INCLUDE Program supports high school administrators and teachers in their efforts to provide Dual Enrollment classes, aiding the transition of students from high school to college and increasing their chances of success.

The program not only benefits high-achieving students by providing access to college courses, but also extends its use to community members seeking to earn their ISU degree, advance professionally, or pursue personal interests.



# INCLUDE SCHOOLS

**The INCLUDE Program is currently operational in 28 Idaho high schools:**

1. Aberdeen High School
2. American Falls High School
3. Bear Lake High School
4. Butte County High School
5. Challis Junior-Senior High School
6. Clark County Junior-Senior High School
7. Firth High School
8. Grace High School
9. Leadore High School
10. Mackay Junior-Senior High School
11. Malad High School
12. Marsh Valley High School
13. North Fremont High School
14. North Gem High School
15. Preston High School
16. Rigby High School
17. Ririe Junior-Senior High School
18. Rockland High School
19. Salmon High School
20. Shelley High School
21. Shoshone Bannock Junior-Senior High School
22. Snake River High School
23. Soda Springs High School
24. South Fremont High School
25. Sugar Salem High School
26. Teton High School
27. West Jefferson High School
28. West Side High School

**9,971**

students will be impacted

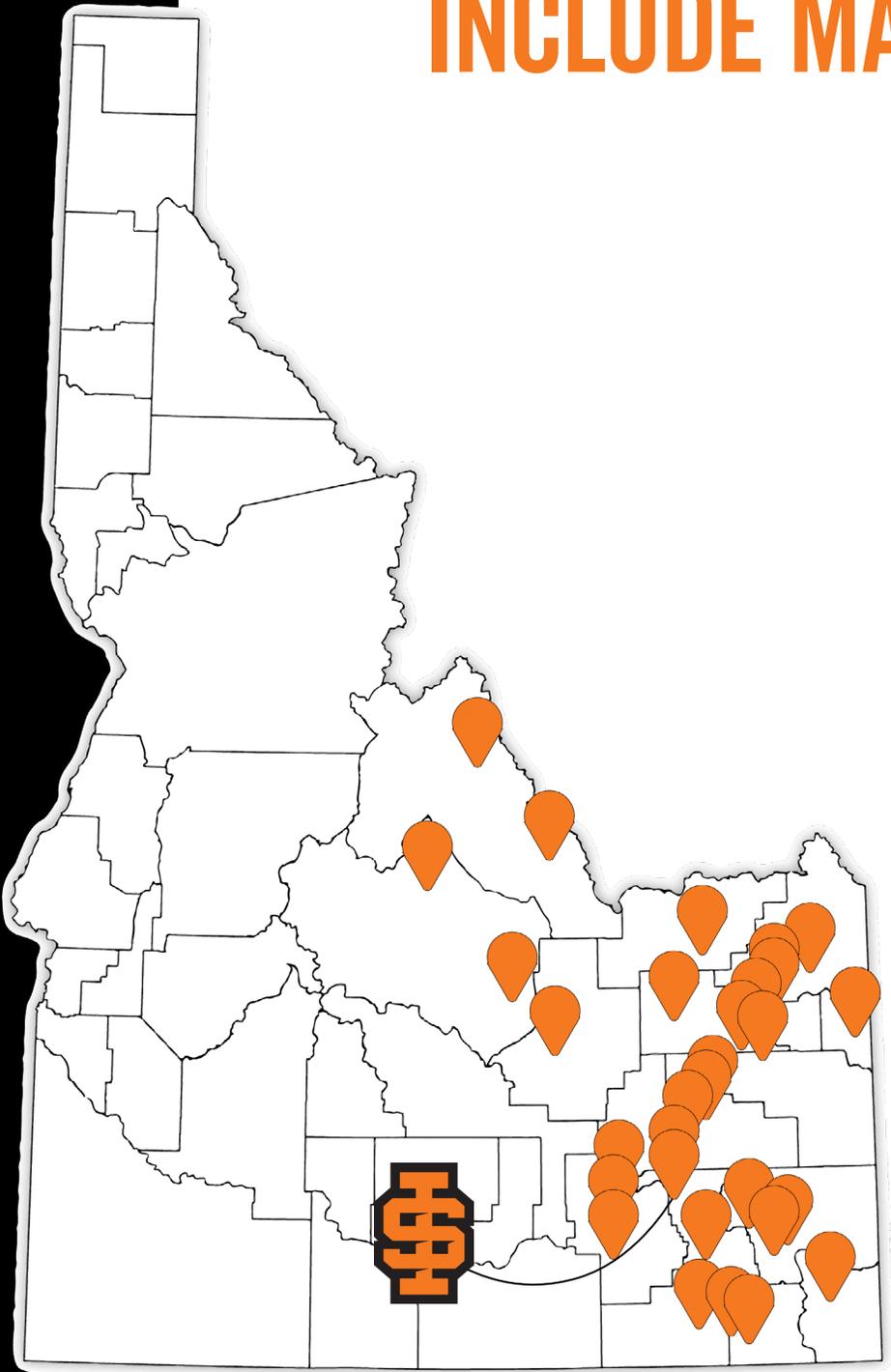
**28**

districts will improve outcomes for students

USDA Rural Utilities Service Grant

The ISU INCLUDE Project is funded by a USDA Rural Utilities Service grant ID0707-B62, under the FY2020 Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program; and grant number 2020633 from the Idaho Humanities Council.

# INCLUDE MAP



"The class really eased a lot of my anxiety about college and showed me the expectations professors hold for their students. Now I've been accepted into the BSW program and I'll be an RA next year!"

—Jeremy

# WHAT IS INCLUDE II?

*IDAHO NEEDS CONNECTIVITY, LEADING UNIVERSITY DISTANCE  
EDUCATION, MED & ED, TOO*

Building upon the foundation of INCLUDE I, INCLUDE II focuses on enhancing resources by implementing Telehealth services and providing comprehensive training to rural students, teachers, administrators, parents, and the community. Through this comprehensive initiative, students will receive crucial clinical mental and physical health care, while faculty, parents, and community members will benefit from education on opioid abuse and general health.

The pressing issue of inequitable access to medical, mental health, and substance abuse services in rural Idaho high schools has been identified. These schools, situated up to 211 miles away from ISU, face significant barriers in addressing student well-being, exacerbated by high unemployment, poverty, and their location within the "Suicide Belt."

To address these critical needs, ISU is implementing Telehealth services and

providing educational resources to rural high schools. The goal is to prevent opioid abuse, improve the health of rural students, and reduce the occurrence of suicides. In low-income, rural communities, healthcare challenges including poverty, obesity, and limited access to preventive care prevail. Financial constraints make it difficult for individuals to afford necessary medical services, while the logistical challenges of accessing care in distant urban areas burden families.

The targeted schools participating in the INCLUDE 2 project represent the ongoing struggles faced by low-income, rural communities, encompassing high poverty and unemployment rates, low proficiency scores in key subjects, and low graduation rates. Through the implementation of Telehealth services and the provision of education resources, ISU aims to address these persistent issues, improving the overall well-being of students and the community.



# **PARTNERS ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY**

**College of Education**

**College of Nursing (Meridian)**

**College of Pharmacy Counseling**

**Department of Global Studies and Languages (Spanish)**

**Department of Physician Assistant Studies**

**Department of Psychology**

**Department of Social Work**

**Dual Enrollment**



# IMPACT

*"Many youths are struggling to deal with reality, and parents are unable to help with coping effectively because they too are struggling. Professionals and parents alike are becoming burnt out or have already hit their breaking point."*

*"If students are struggling, I would rather them not do it alone. We all need someone on our team."*

*"I feel that the knowledge I gained has allowed me to be more present with students while also doing things to take care of myself."*

*"Suicide is not an uncommon concern almost everyday in my classes, and mental health warning signs are prevalent."*

*"The training we received has given me increased confidence that I can personally make a difference."*

# CHALLENGES, VISION, SUPPORT

As we support rural communities, we acknowledge challenges like sustainable funding, program expansion, and equipment updates. Despite these challenges, our vision remains unchanged. We aim to maintain and expand support, adding new communities each year. By fostering collaboration and interconnectedness among these communities, we create a supportive network. For example, a teacher in Malad can assist their counterparts in Westside through technology and relationships. We will need help in strengthening support by expanding our reach, securing sustainable funding, and adapting to technology. Through these efforts, we aim to create a resilient and interconnected support network throughout Idaho.



# HOW TO GET INVOLVED

## **High Schools**

If you are interested in getting ISU classes into your district or school, contact the INCLUDE Director of Outreach & Retention, Holly Kartchner.

## **ISU Faculty/Staff**

To get involved either as an instructor, support, or simply to know more about the program from the ISU perspective, contact the INCLUDE Project Manager, Holly Kartchner

## **Donors**

To collaborate with ISU and nearby high schools in aiding the INCLUDE Program, get in touch with Holly Kartchner, the Project Manager for INCLUDE. You can also contribute by donating directly through the provided link. If you prefer a personalized donation, such as securities or other intricate forms of payment, please reach out for further assistance.

## **Community Members**

To get involved with the program or learn more about what's going on in your community, contact the INCLUDE Director of Outreach & Retention, Holly Kartchner.

Scan to Get Involved.



**Holly Kartchner**

**Director of Outreach & Retention  
Project Manager for INCLUDE**

(208) 282-5362 | hollykartchner@isu.edu