Johnson emphasizes benefits and says:

**ISU joint PharmD and MBA program offers graduates more career choices**

Emphasizing the benefits of a PharmD/MBA dual degree offered at Idaho State University, Ben Johnson, RPh, MBA, and director of pharmacy services for the Union Pacific Railroad Employees Health Systems, Salt Lake City, recently spoke before a group of pharmacy and business students and faculty at the Pocatello Juniper Hills Country Club.

According to a survey conducted by the American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists (ASHP), Johnson said, 80 percent of current pharmacy directors in the U.S. will resign from their positions in the next ten years due to lack of skilled training.

“You’ve got to have an appetite for this work,” he said, adding that the skills obtained with an MBA degree prepare pharmacy directors for the required job duties.

Johnson cited the ASHP study indicating that 77 percent of middle managers in hospital pharmacies will also move out of their current positions.

Students who graduate with the dual degree have an advantage in selecting a specialty area of pharmacy management practice they wish to pursue, he said. Most professional pharmacy positions are in the retail arena, he said, adding that those with an MBA can earn a higher income, have a more consistent work schedule and use their additional education to pursue other interests in the health-care field.

However, he emphasized that the additional degree alone is no guarantee for career success.

“Your MBA is going to open doors for you,” he said, “but it’s your work ethic, personality and communication skills that will determine if you walk through the door.”

The joint PharmD/MBA program between the ISU Colleges of Pharmacy and Business has been offered for several years, however, the first graduate of the dual program, Scott Flippence, PharmD., ’05, is expected to graduate with his MBA next month.

ISU College of Pharmacy alumnus, Bill Eames, ’57, sponsored the dinner and guest speaker.
The 2007 spring schedule for the Idaho State University College of Pharmacy Continuing Education program has been set, with courses to be held in Boise, Post Falls and Pocatello.

The first of the three live programs is scheduled April 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Saint Luke’s Regional Medical Center in Boise.

Topics for the spring CE events are:
- Pharmacy Law Update
- Primer on Bacteriology: Where Have All the Antibiotics Gone?
- Management of Rheumatoid Arthritis: Where do we Stand in 2007
- Complementary and Alternative Medicine: What Community Pharmacists Need to Know
- Nuclear Pharmacy: An Overview of Radiopharmaceutical Agents used for Diagnostic Imaging
- Overview of Chronic Pain Management

On April 29, the live programs will be held at the Red Lion Templin’s Hotel in Post Falls from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Pocatello CE program is scheduled for May 20, at the ISU L.E. and Thelma E. Stephens Performing Arts Center from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Idaho State University College of Pharmacy supports a continuing education (CE) program that is dedicated to the continual enhancement of postgraduate skills and knowledge. As one of only two ACPE accredited providers in Idaho, the ultimate aim is to provide a variety of courses that offer high quality, unbiased, and up-to-date educational experiences for pharmacists and other health care professionals. Currently the College offers CE programs in two formats; live presentations, and home correspondence.

For additional information and registration instructions, please visit the College of Pharmacy CE Web site at http://pharmacy.isu.edu/live/ce/

Alumni & Friends - Take time to join Us!

ISU & College of Pharmacy events:
- Pharmacy Dean’s Advisory Council meeting, April 14, Boise
- ISPA Golf Open, April 14, Centennial Golf Course, Nampa, 1 p.m., contact Kevin Reddish, 208.466.7823 or 208.467.6149
- Boise Spring CE, April 15, Saint Luke’s Medical Center, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Post Falls Spring CE, April 29, Red Lion Templin’s Hotel, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- College of Pharmacy Graduation Banquet, May 11, 6 p.m., Pocatello Holiday Inn
- ISU Commencement ceremonies, May 12, 2 p.m., Holt Area, Pocatello
- Pocatello Spring CE, May 20, L.E. and Thelma E. Stephens Performing Arts Center, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For more information regarding pharmacy events, contact Andrew at 282-3393 or andrew@pharmacy.isu.edu