

## Idaho Press Tribune, Monday, March 14, 2011 -- Staff report

# Boise VA Medical Center selected for grant

*Collaboration expected to improve services, retain medical professionals in Idaho*

BOISE — The Boise Veterans Affairs Medical Center is one of only five VA medical centers in the nation selected to receive a \$5 million grant and carry the distinction as a Center of Excellence in Primary Care Education.

The selection by the Veterans Health Administration required the Boise medical center to prove it has the capacity to change patient care beyond its own walls, has a strong collaboration internally and between professional institutions and has an exemplary clinical and educational environment.

As a Center of Excellence in Primary Care Education, the Boise hospital will provide an opportunity for student medical professionals to practice cooperatively and creatively in the new medical home model. By focusing on new models of outpatient care in multiple disciplines, the center will increase collaborative care and develop new skills for medical professionals in the state.

Officials said the medical center also has plans to develop an online interactive interdisciplinary primary care curriculum.

“We are now at the forefront of identifying state-of-the-art models of care delivery and training multiple health professionals in those models.” Scott Smith, residency program director of internal medicine at the Boise VA Medical Center, said.

Those involved said the selection will also be a benefit to Idaho’s healthcare industry.

Studies have shown health-care professionals who are exposed to Idaho during their education or have prolonged exposure to training and working in Idaho are more likely to continue their career in Idaho, according to a press release.

“It’s very well-known that where the resident trains is often where the resident ends up,” physician Michael Hedemark said. “So to have an internal medicine residency that’s through the University of Washington and based in Boise is only going to add to the improvement of keeping physicians in Idaho.”