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## ISU prepares health center

*Complex set to open Aug. 5 will replace building in Boise; area school district will partner with dual-enrollment programs*

MERIDIAN — Officials with Idaho State University hope the new Health Science Center in Meridian will attract area high school students thinking about pursuing medical and health science-related fields.

The new center, which is replacing ISU-Boise, is slated to open Aug. 5 and will serve as a satellite location for a variety of the university's health profession programs, including pharmacy, speech pathology and audiology and public health.

The university purchased the space at the Meridian facility in December 2007 and is using a combination of state and bond allocations to conduct first-phase renovations. The 322,000-square-foot building is jointly owned with the Meridian school district, with 182,000 square feet for ISU.

The university's space will include 41,000 square feet for the expansion of the pharmacy program's facilities.

Since part of the building will be occupied by a specialty high school that enrolls international baccalaureate students, ISU expects to see participation in three of its dual-enrollment programs, especially in medical and scientific research, said Bessie Katsilometes, dean of academic programs for the Health Science Center.

"It works very nicely with what we do at ISU," she said about Renaissance High School, which is part of the Meridian School District.

Idaho State has had a presence in the Treasure Valley since 1970, but the Health Science Center gives the university a permanent home in western Idaho, Katsilometes said. ISU had to lease its Boise facilities, which cost \$1 million annually.

"It makes sense economically from a taxpayer's point of view," Katsilometes said.