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FOR YOUR INFORMATION
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by Teya Vitu
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Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine to break ground in April

Construction is expected to start in April on the \$34 million Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine, the state's first medical college.

The L-shaped, roughly 90,000- to 95,000-square-foot ICOM will be built at the same Central Drive education cluster as Idaho State University — Meridian Health Science Center, Renaissance High School, and West Ada School District in Meridian.

The structure was designed by the Albuquerque architecture firm Dekker/Perich/Sabatini. The general contractor is Meridian's ESI Construction, which build's many of Treasure Valley's large-scale structures.

"It was important to us that our general contractor be an Idaho-based company," said Robert Hasty, founding dean and chief academic officer of ICOM. "We feel that this will be an extremely productive partnership and are excited to work with ESI to build a medical legacy in the region. "

The ICOM building will cost about \$25 million for construction with another \$9 million for equipment and furnishings, Hasty said.

Construction is expected to be completed by June 1, 2018 with classes starting in August 2018. The privately funded ICOM is a collaborative effort among the state of Idaho, Idaho State University and ICOM's leadership.

Osteopathic medicine focuses on achieving a high level of wellness through health promotion and disease prevention. More than 20 percent of U.S. medical students are training to become osteopathic physicians, according to the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine.

AACOM lists 38 colleges of osteopathic medicine in the United States.

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