

Monday Message

May 4, 2026



Dear all,

Last week we conducted our first of three onsite corrections education commencement ceremonies ([news release](#)). Twenty-two Idaho Correctional Institution – Orofino students were awarded degrees (four baccalaureate and 18 associate). The ceremony was attended by our Idaho State Board of Education president, Mr. Kurt Liebich; Mr. Dodds Hayden, chair of the Board of Correction for the Idaho Department of Correction; Ms. Bree Derrick, director of the Idaho Department of Correction; and Mr. Ted Oparnico, Education Program director, making it a truly special event. This week we will travel to Pocatello and Boise to conduct ceremonies in our corrections education sites in these locales.

This week will also feature one of our Signature Events – the annual Research Symposium. This event showcases the outstanding work of our students and faculty, and is a highlight of the spring semester. The schedule of events taking place in Lewiston and Coeur d’Alene, as well as keynote session information, can be found online: [Research Symposium](#). The Research Symposium is a chance to witness first-hand the range and scope of outstanding inquiry and creativity taking place at LC State, and is an event that reminds us of why we do what we do. I hope you’ll make time to attend. Special thanks to Dr. Nancy Johnston for her invaluable work bringing this capstone event to life.

Congratulations to the LC State golf programs on a terrific hosting of the Cascade Collegiate Conference (CCC) Championships, and to the men’s team for winning the tournament title, punching its first ticket to the national tournament since 2017. Freshman Andrea Artusini captured the individual title. Likewise, over the weekend after winning the regular season conference title, LC baseball cinched the CCC tournament championship. Way to go, Warriors!

Cynthia Pemberton, Ed.D.

President

Announcements

Avista NAIA World Series

- **Opening Round:** May 11-14 is the NAIA Baseball Opening Round, presented by Avista. The full schedule will be available later this week. Students receive free admission.
- **Shirts:** 2026 Avista NAIA World Series souvenir shirts are available for [purchase online](#). Shirts range from \$25-\$30 based on size and a 20% discount will be applied to orders of 10 or more. Wear your World Series shirt every Friday in May to help promote the event.
- **Volunteer:** The 2026 Avista NAIA World Series is May 22-30 and volunteers are needed to take tickets, sell programs, and help in the concession stands. With supervisor approval, LC State employees can volunteer for up to eight hours, for a maximum of two shifts, during designated work hours, or a supervisor can approve comp time if shifts are worked after hours. For more information visit www.naiaworldseries.com/volunteer.

Health Benefits:

Good news! Employee medical and dental premiums will remain the same for employees for FY27 (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027). Healthcare costs continue to rise due to increased usage, enrollment, and specialty medications. For FY27, what would have been approximately a 9.5% premium increase for employees, will instead be offset by a larger contribution from the employer portion of the premium. During the 2026 legislative session, the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee (JFAC) approved an increase to the health insurance appropriations per eligible FTE. This increase, coupled with the one-time use of reserve funds from the Office of Group Insurance, ensured that employee rates would not be impacted for the FY27 plan year. For more details about current rates and eligibility, please visit the Office of Group Insurance website at www.ogi.idaho.gov.

Open Enrollment

is April 27-May 15. Click here for [more information](#). Be sure to join HRS at the [Open Enrollment Benefits & Retirement Event](#) on May 5 in the SUB TV Lounge for an engaging, can't-miss event for employees, featuring Regence Blue Shield, PERSI, Fidelity, AFLAC, and IDeal 529 College Savings Plan! From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., these experts will host breakout sessions and be on hand to answer your questions whether you're planning for the future, curious about changes to your medical plan during Open Enrollment, or interested in easy ways to save for your children's college. This is your chance to get real answers, personalized insights, and make the most of your benefits.

Student Employment & Career Readiness Center

Student Employment & Career Readiness Center would like to recognize its five Career Readiness Micro-Credential earners. The Career Readiness Credential recognizes students who go beyond the classroom to invest in their professional growth. Through

three tiers of intentional activities such as workshops, networking events, and career fairs, students build skills connected to the National Association of Colleges and Employers Career Readiness Competencies. This micro-credential can be added to a resume or LinkedIn profile as another way for students to demonstrate to employers that they are prepared to succeed in the workplace.

- Estefanny Alvarado will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and minors in Spanish and pre-law.
- Levi Johnson will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Justice Studies and a minor in sociology.
- Baeli Kinsley will graduate with a Bachelor of Applied Science and an Associate of Applied Science in Graphic Communications.
- Piet Kongsatt will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and minors in computer science and political science.
- Sarah Walters will graduate with an Associate of Applied Science and a Bachelor of Applied Science from the paralegal program, as well as a pre-law minor.

Warrior Wednesday

Warrior Wednesday is a Student Involvement initiative and one of ASLCSC's legacy projects. The goal is to promote school spirit and encourage the campus community to show their Warrior pride by wearing LC gear, especially on Warrior Wednesdays. So, let's wear Warrior **red** and **blue** on Wednesdays!

Events

Keep up on events and activities through the [Campus Calendar](#) and the [Do More App](#)

May 5 – Employee Appreciation Day:

On Tuesday, in celebration of State Employee Appreciation Week, the President's Office invites you to enjoy a complimentary beverage at Jitterz! Swing by anytime between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., present your Warrior ID, and enjoy a complimentary beverage of your choice – just a small token of appreciation for the big impact you make every day. Your hard work, dedication, and commitment – especially through some challenging times – do not go unnoticed. And while you're out, head upstairs to the SUB TV Lounge and visit HRS's [Open Enrollment & Retirement Vendor Fair](#). Regence, PERSI, Fidelity, AFLAC, and IDeal 529 College Savings Plan will be doing workshops, and will be ready to chat, answer questions, and help you make the most of your benefits.

May 6-8 – Research Symposium:

Students and faculty will present their classroom and independent research projects during the LC State Annual Research Symposium on Wednesday through Thursday on

campus, and Friday at the Coeur d'Alene Center. All presentations are free and open to the public. Nursing; business computer science; physical, life, movement and sport sciences; English; art; justice studies; culinary arts; communication; history; social work; mathematics; and technical and industrial programs will be represented.

May 15 – Commencement:

LC State will hold its two commencement ceremonies at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Friday, May 15. For details visit www.lcsc.edu/graduation.

- **Parking:** Per Public Safety, the P1FCU Activity Center parking lot, Reid Centennial parking lot, and the 6th Street South parking lot will be closed Friday, May 15, for commencement.

News & Features

Stay current on [LC State news](#)

- [LC State student team wins international case study competition](#)
- [LC State holds commencement at Orofino prison, celebrates 40 graduates](#)
- [LC State scholars will showcase work at 17th annual Research Symposium](#)

Song for the Week: "[Top of the World](#)" by the Carpenters

