

# University of Idaho

Strategic Enrollment Management

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**TO:** University of Idaho Faculty and Staff

**FROM:** Dean Kahler, Vice Provost for Strategic Enrollment Management

**DATE:** May 2, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Changes to 2017 Convocation and New Student Orientation Schedule

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This August as the University of Idaho welcomes a new class of Vandals to campus, you can expect to see a few changes to the orientation schedule.

The convocation ceremony, which serves as our official welcome and start of the academic year, will now be held from **4-5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 17**, instead of Friday morning. After several years of feedback, we found that the Friday morning ceremony was stressful for new students and their families. Our Friday orientation program is full of information our students need to succeed here at UI, and we hope that having one less activity that day will help students feel less stress and retain more information.

New Student Orientation will still begin on Thursday with move-in day. We hope the afternoon convocation ceremony will act as an opportunity for families to take a break from move-in and join with our faculty and staff to launch the new year. This year's convocation message will be delivered by UI alumnus David Vobora, a former NFL linebacker who has dedicated his career to developing performance training for those who have experienced life-altering injuries, especially veterans. We hope that his story will inspire our new class of students as it has inspired us.

Following the ceremony, New Student Orientation will continue with the New Vandal Scramble and Dessert with the Dean programs.

On Friday, Aug. 18, orientation programming will continue at 9 a.m., with the annual University Lunch being served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Commons Plaza. Other programming, including SYNC, Palousafest and the president's barbecue remain unchanged. With the exception of the convocation ceremony, orientation programming has been moved out of the Kibbie Dome and will be held in the International Ballroom and other locations across campus. The full orientation schedule will be available online as we get closer to August.

If you have any questions about the change, please contact New Student Orientation at [orientation@uidaho.edu](mailto:orientation@uidaho.edu) or 208-885-7058. Thank you for helping our new students feel at home in Moscow and begin their academic journey on the right foot.

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