

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Dahlquist and City Council

FROM: Jared Johnson, City Attorney 

DATE: September 18, 2026

RE: Bengal Community Partnership Agreement

I have reviewed the accompanying Bengal Community Partnership Agreement. I have no legal concerns with the Mayor signing said agreement if authorized to do so by the City Council.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Bengal Community Partnership Agreement

Between Idaho State University and the City of [Pocatello/Chubbuck]

For more than a century (for Pocatello, incorporated in 1889)/For more than seventy-five years (for Chubbuck, incorporated in 1949), Idaho State University and the City of [Pocatello/Chubbuck] have grown together.

ISU helps educate the workforce, strengthen the economy, enrich the cultural life of the community and prepare future generations of leaders. The City provides the neighborhoods, businesses, public spaces, infrastructure and civic spirit that allow ISU and its students to thrive.

Neither succeeds alone.

Together, we share a common belief that great universities help build great communities, and great communities help build great universities.

Through this Bengal Community Partnership Agreement, Idaho State University and the City of [Pocatello/Chubbuck] affirm a shared commitment to building a community that is welcoming, innovative, prosperous, vibrant, and full of opportunity for all who live, work, learn and serve here.

Our Shared Vision

We envision a future in which Idaho State University and the City of [Pocatello/Chubbuck] are recognized as partners in creating one of the most livable, educated and opportunity-rich communities in the Intermountain West.

We aspire to be a place where:

- Students choose to stay and build their futures.
- Businesses invest and grow.
- Families thrive.
- Innovation and entrepreneurship flourish.
- Arts, culture, recreation and civic life enrich the community.
- Public institutions work together in a spirit of trust and mutual respect.
- The success of ISU contributes to the success of the [Pocatello/Chubbuck], and the success of [Pocatello/Chubbuck] contributes to the success of ISU.

Partnership Commitments

To advance this vision, Idaho State University and the City of [Pocatello/Chubbuck] commit to:

- Maintain open and constructive communication.
- Strengthen relationships among leaders, employees, students and residents.

- Identify opportunities for collaboration and shared problem-solving.
- Promote economic vitality, workforce development, public safety, community well-being and quality of life.
- Celebrate the achievements and contributions of our community.
- Work together to address challenges and seize opportunities that will shape the future of our region.

Bengal Community Partnership Cabinet

To sustain this partnership and translate shared aspirations into meaningful action, Idaho State University and the City of [Pocatello/Chubbuck] hereby establish the Bengal Community Partnership Cabinet composed of representatives from both the University and the City.

The Cabinet will serve as the primary forum for communication, collaboration and strategic alignment between the ISU and the City. Working in a spirit of mutual respect and shared purpose, the Cabinet will identify opportunities to strengthen the community, address emerging challenges and advance initiatives that benefit residents, students, businesses and visitors alike.

The Cabinet shall be co-chaired by the President of Idaho State University and the Mayor of the City of [Pocatello/Chubbuck] together with additional representatives appointed by both the University and the City respectively.

The Cabinet may adopt an operating framework and procedures, membership guidelines, annual priorities and other measures necessary to support the purposes of this Agreement.

In all of its work, the Cabinet will be guided by the understanding that ISU and the City of [Pocatello/Chubbuck] succeed together, and that lasting progress is best achieved through partnership.

Nature of Agreement

This Agreement is intended as a statement of shared commitment, cooperation and goodwill. It does not create legally binding obligations, financial commitments, regulatory authority or governance responsibilities for either party. Specific projects and initiatives will be pursued through the normal decision-making processes of the University and the City.

Because we believe the future of Idaho State University and the future of our City are inseparable, we enter into this Partnership Agreement and pledge to work together in a spirit of collaboration, service and shared purpose.

Signed this ____ day of _____, 2026.

IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY

Robert W. Wagner, PhD
President

CITY OF POCA TELLO/CHUBBUCK

Mark Dahlquist/Rodney Burch
Mayor

Bengal Community Partnership Operating Framework

Purpose

The Bengal Community Partnership Framework provides a flexible structure for implementing the shared vision established by the Bengal Community Partnership Agreement.

The Framework is intended to facilitate communication, collaboration and coordinated action between Idaho State University and the City of [Pocatello/Chubbuck] and may be adapted over time as partnership priorities evolve.

The Bengal Community Partnership Framework exists to strengthen collaboration between Idaho State University and the City of [Pocatello/Chubbuck] and to advance the shared vision established by the Bengal Community Partnership Agreement.

The Cabinet serves as the primary forum for communication, coordination, strategic alignment and collaborative problem-solving on issues affecting the long-term success of both the University and the community.

Membership

The Cabinet shall be co-chaired by:

- The President of Idaho State University
- The Mayor of the City of [Pocatello/Chubbuck]

In addition, each organization shall appoint four additional representatives to serve on the Cabinet.

Members may be selected from elected leadership, senior administration, staff, students, community partners or other stakeholders whose participation supports the purposes of the Cabinet.

Meetings

The Cabinet shall ordinarily meet quarterly, or more frequently as needed.

Meetings shall focus on identifying opportunities for collaboration, discussing emerging issues, reviewing partnership initiatives and establishing shared priorities.

The Cabinet may periodically convene joint meetings with neighboring communities, regional organizations or other partners when regional coordination would be beneficial.

Responsibilities

The Cabinet shall:

- Maintain regular communication between ISU and the City.
- Identify shared priorities and opportunities for partnership.
- Encourage collaborative solutions to community and institutional challenges.
- Promote alignment between ISU initiatives and community goals.
- Review progress on partnership initiatives.
- Establish annual partnership priorities and areas of focus.
- Celebrate and communicate shared accomplishments.

Working Groups

The Cabinet may establish standing or project-specific working groups to address areas of mutual interest.

Working groups may include representatives from the University, the City, community organizations, businesses or other stakeholders as appropriate.

Potential areas of collaboration may include:

- Public Safety and Emergency Coordination
- Transportation and Infrastructure
- Housing and Neighborhood Development
- Economic and Workforce Development
- Community Identity and Events
- Arts, Culture and Tourism
- Strategic Growth and Long-Term Planning
- Other priorities identified by the Cabinet

Working groups shall report periodically to the Cabinet regarding progress, recommendations and opportunities for further collaboration.

Annual Priorities

Each year, the Cabinet shall identify a limited number of priority initiatives to guide partnership efforts and focus organizational resources on projects of greatest mutual benefit.

Administration

Administrative support for the Cabinet shall be coordinated jointly by Idaho State University and the City of [Pocatello/Chubbuck].

Guiding Principle

The Cabinet recognizes that Idaho State University and the City of [Pocatello/Chubbuck] succeed together. Its work shall be guided by mutual respect, open communication, shared stewardship and a commitment to improving the quality of life and opportunities available throughout the community.

Outcomes

The Cabinet will regularly establish metrics to gauge the success of the Agreement and make future decisions based on goals, results and impact. When appropriate, the Cabinet will publish outcomes to promote the work and effectiveness of the Framework.

Renewal

The Partnership Agreement will auto-renew annually, however ISU and the City may consider changes to the Agreement and may make amendments at any time in order to facilitate effective implementation and successful outcomes.