

## PROUD OF OUR SCIENTISTS

12/1/2017 – Recently the laboratory system has been featured in several newspapers and on television news. The stories have largely focused on increases in casework being submitted to the lab and the straining effects that has on the laboratory and especially on the scientists. I believe it is critical for the public to know how hard ISPFs scientists and administrators work for the citizens of the state of Idaho. Almost every weekend and holiday I have observed our analysts working hard on rush cases needed by the courts in Idaho. They work extra hours in the morning and late into the night to ensure that the lab is a timely and responsive cog in the criminal justice system in Idaho. Clicking on the “our services and disciplines” tab of this website will allow you to look at the statistics for turnaround times and cases worked. One example of this hard work is in our chemistry units. Our 7 chemists worked 875 cases last month. That is astounding, and well beyond the national average for productivity. This is the rule rather than the exception at ISPFs. This happens in every one of our laboratory disciplines. Quarterly surveys routinely show how happy our customers are with the staff at ISPFs. We are strategically planning new facilities, we are asking for new instrumentation and analysts, and we are currently looking for unique solutions to cope with the increase of submissions to the laboratory. It is critical that victims, suspects, law enforcement, and the courts have timely answers to their forensic science case questions. We recently held an open house at our Pocatello laboratory to highlight the beautiful new lab there. We thank the legislature for that new facility!!! It will immediately increase the case capacity of that laboratory. When you watch the news about crime in Idaho each night, remember that behind the scenes there is likely a forensic scientist at ISP working hard on that case to provide the court with information that will hopefully lead to a conviction of the true perpetrators and exoneration of all innocents. Idaho can be proud to have the best forensic scientists in the country!