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Spotlight Article

Boise State University

School of Respiratory Care Sciences

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About Boise State

Boise State University (BSU) is a powerhouse of creativity, research, and impact. Our campus sits along the Boise River and reaches into the heart of Idaho's capital – a vibrant hub for innovation, culture, and outdoor adventure. We're nationally recognized for trailblazing research, student success, and community impact.

Our faculty are scholars, mentors, and changemakers who advance ideas, discoveries, and the next generation of leaders. Boise offers the perfect backdrop – a welcoming city with a thriving arts scene, growing tech sector, and mountains on the horizon. Join us and help shape a bold, collaborative academic community. Learn more at www.BoiseState.edu.

School of Respiratory Care Sciences

Respiratory care has had a presence at Boise State since 1970. Beginning as a small program, transferred from Treasure Valley College, and adopted by what was then Boise State College, the small program and its students were nurtured by both dedicated faculty as well as community partners who understood the clinical necessity of the profession. In the 50 years since, what was once a program of two faculty who welcomed, at most, fourteen on-campus students working toward an associate degree in respiratory therapy has grown to become an innovative leader in the field of respiratory care education.

The school faculty and staff have always had an eye on the future, anticipating how best to help shape the field of respiratory care. Although what was then the department of respiratory care began offering a baccalaureate option in 1982, Boise State University was among the first in the nation to rise to the challenge set forth by the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) to advance from an entry-level requirement of an associate degree to a baccalaureate by

altering the curriculum to offer *only* a baccalaureate degree in 2011. As faculty became aware that respiratory care practitioners across the country would also rise to pursue the new AARC recommendations, the department worked to meet the demand for a rigorous, inclusive baccalaureate option. The faculty and staff developed a program designed specifically for credentialed practitioners with an associate degree to obtain their baccalaureate degree at Boise State, offering the Degree Advancement Program (DAP) in 2007. This program, offered completely online, was among the first of its kind not only at Boise State, but also in the nation, to provide a rigorous yet flexible option for students across the world to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy (BSRT) degree. Growing from 17 students at its inception to over 400 today, the Boise State Department of Respiratory Care's Degree Advancement program (RRT-BSRC) is now the largest in the world.

Driven by a collective mission to provide the most inclusive, innovative, and community-based education such that graduates are prepared with the knowledge, motivation, and commitment required to move the profession forward, Boise State continues to define the standard of respiratory care education. As of 2025, the Department of Respiratory Care has transitioned to the School of Respiratory Care Sciences (SRCS). As perhaps the first school dedicated to the advancement of respiratory care science in the nation, the school looks toward the future with strategic goals that align with the advancement of the profession through excellent academic programming, advanced research agendas, and innovative relationships. Currently, the Boise State School of Respiratory Care has 12 full-time faculty, numerous adjunct faculty, and three dedicated staff members who oversee nearly 500 students across the prelicensure baccalaureate BSRC, online RRT-BSRT, and the online Master of Science in Respiratory Care (MSRC) programs.

Overview

Although the Respiratory Care program has been a part of Boise State University for 50 years, the programming has expanded to serve respiratory care practitioners at every stage of their career. In late 2025, the Department of Respiratory Care transitioned to the School of Respiratory Care Sciences (SRCS). Nested under the innovative College of Health Sciences, the SRCS houses three distinct programs: two at the undergraduate baccalaureate level and one at the graduate level. Each program has been carefully curated to support the development of students at specific stages of their career trajectory.

The prelicensure baccalaureate program (BSRC) provides entry-to-practice students with an education that emphasizes deep development of clinical competency and skill rooted evidence-based care and critical thinking. Additional curriculum has been developed to support the development and mastery of skills related to evidence-based inquiry, research methodology, health advocacy, and professional development- ensuring that 'GoBronchi' graduates are well prepared to positively impact the profession upon graduation.

The online degree advancement program (RRT-BSRC) provides a pathway for students who have completed an associate-level degree in respiratory care and who hold the RRT credential to complete a baccalaureate-level degree. The RRT-BSRC program focuses on the development and mastery of advanced skills related to professional and communication, advanced critical inquiry, leadership and education development, and advocacy through relevant curriculum curated to support the academic and professional development of current practitioners. In this program, students are also challenged with developing technological competency inherent to online education.

Prelicensure Program Baccalaureate of Science in Respiratory Care (BSRC)

The prelicensure Respiratory Care program was transferred to Boise State in 1970, as a two-year Associate of Science Degree program. In 1977, it was changed to a three-year, Associate of Science Degree Program. In 1982, an optional Bachelor of Science Degree was added. In 2012, the associate degree was eliminated, and the curriculum was changed to a four-year, Bachelor of Science Degree program. In 2018, the curriculum was expanded to 5 semesters to add depth to existing cognitive, psychomotor, and affective competencies and to support the development of skills required for academic and professional advancement within the field. The BSRC program has held full accreditation from

the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) for several decades.

The BSRC program consists of one year of prerequisite courses including two semesters in English, two semesters in anatomy and physiology, one semester of each of the following: chemistry, mathematics, medical terminology, social science electives and liberal arts electives. Students may be eligible as freshmen; however, most students apply to the program in their second year at the BSU.

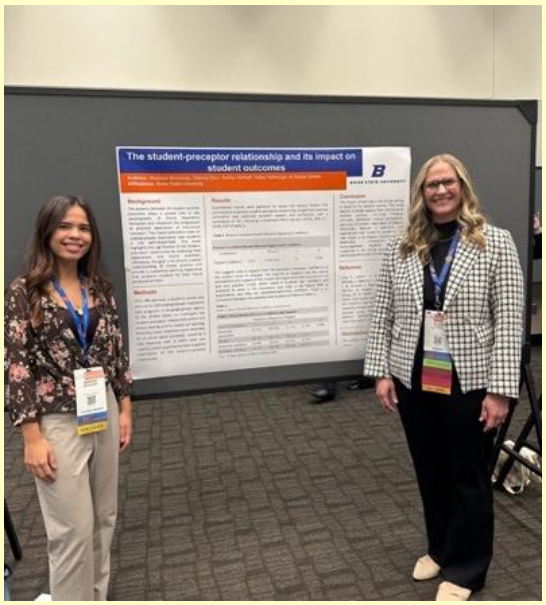
Coursework across the first four semesters of the BSRC program is focused on the development of clinical theory and application with an emphasis on bridging the academic and clinical settings. All courses in the final semester are offered online to support the development of advanced skills, navigation of online learning environments, and a clinically based internship-- throughout which students may identify potential employers through extended clinical opportunities both in the Boise valley and beyond.

The BSRC program offers students excellent preparation for entering the field through integrated didactic, laboratory, and clinical courses. Students have full access to the Lonny J. Ashworth Ventilation Lab, which houses a variety of modern critical care ventilators, non-invasive equipment, and other state-of-the art technology which supports the educational and research-based goals of the program.

An ASL 5000 Breathing Simulator which allows deliberate repetitive practice with high-fidelity equipment were added to the repertoire for BSRC students to increase exposure to unique clinical scenarios. Students also have many opportunities to work with physician partners during advanced airway days and directed clinical labs. Additionally, optional remote clinical rotations have expanded opportunities for students to explore various clinical environments and roles as well as to assess the variability in practice across states.

In addition to exceptional clinical preparedness, students in the BSRC program participate in research activities as part of the curriculum. Students are introduced to skills related to the critical review of research, mentored by faculty

throughout the research design, implementation, and assessment phases, and then work to understand the abstract and manuscript development process.



The School of Respiratory Care Sciences supports the development of critical inquiry through tailored curriculum designed to integrate students into the research and dissemination process. As a result of this commitment, Boise State students have consistently presented original research at the Open Forum presentations at the American Association for Respiratory Care International Congress and several have gone on to publish their work in peer reviewed journals.

The following table lists the courses required to earn the Bachelor of Science Degree through the BSRC Program pathway:

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
Pre-Requisite Courses		
BIOL 227*	Human Anatomy & Physiology (FN)	4
ENGL 101*	Introduction to College Writing	3
HLTH 101*	Medical Terminology	3
MATH 254, Math 153, PSYC 295, KINES 301, or any college-level statistics course*		3
UF1XX	Foundations of Intellectual Life	3
BIOL 228*	Human Anatomy & Physiology	4
CHEM 101/101L or CHEM 111/111L*	Chemistry (FN)	4
COMM 101	Foundations of Communication (FC)	3
ENGL 102*	Intro to College Writing & Research	3
	Foundations of Social Sciences (FS) in two different disciplines	6
	Foundations of Humanities (FH)	3
	Foundations of Arts (FA)	3
1st Year: Fall Semester		**Total: 18**
RESPCARE 105	Interdisciplinary Patient Care Skills Lab	2
RESPCARE 203	Foundations of Respiratory Care	3
RESPCARE 204	Foundations of Respiratory Care Lab	2
RESPCARE 208	Clinical Practicum I	1
RESPCARE 217	Pulmonary Assessment	1
RESPCARE 220	Cardiopulmonary Renal Physiology	3
RESPCARE 302	General Pathology	3
UF 2XX	Foundations of Ethics in Society	3
1st Year: Spring Semester		**Total: 16**
RESPCARE 223	Respiratory Care Therapeutics and Introduction to Mechanical Ventilation	4
RESPCARE 224	Respiratory Care Therapeutics and Introduction to Mechanical Ventilation Lab	2
RESPCARE 228	Clinical Practicum II	4
RESPCARE 229	Cardiopulmonary Diagnostics	3
RESPCARE 282	Intro to Evidence-Based Inquiry	3
2nd Year: Fall Semester		**Total: 16**
RESPCARE 301	Principles of Pharmacology	3
RESPCARE 303	Advanced Mechanical Ventilation	4
RESPCARE 304	Advanced Mechanical Ventilation Lab	2
RESPCARE 308	Clinical Practicum III	4
HLTH 382	Research Methods in Health	3
2nd Year: Spring Semester		**Total: 16**
RESPCARE 323	Neonatal and Pediatric Respiratory Care	3
RESPCARE 324	Neonatal and Pediatric Respiratory Care Lab	1
RESPCARE 328	Clinical Practicum IV	4
RESPCARE 329	Cardiopulmonary Diseases and Management	3
RESPCARE 376	Professional Ethics and Advocacy in Respiratory Care	3
RESPCARE 422	Research in Respiratory Care I	1
3rd Year: Fall Semester		**Total: 15**
RESPCARE 408	Clinical Practicum V	4
RESPCARE 423	Advanced Neonatal, Pediatric and Adult Critical Care	3
RESPCARE 425	Education and Leadership in Respiratory Therapy	3
RESPCARE 482	Research in Respiratory Care II	2
RESPCARE 490	Professional Preparation Capstone (FF)	3

Online RRT-BSRC Program

The faculty and staff launched the RRT-BSRC, Degree Advancement program (DAP) in 2007 to provide a seamless pathway for credentialed practitioners holding an associate degree to complete their baccalaureate education at Boise State University. The program, delivered fully online, was one of the earliest of its kind both at the university and nationally. It offers a rigorous yet flexible option for students worldwide to earn a Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care (BSRC). What began with just 17 students has expanded to a thriving enrollment of more than 400, making Boise State's Degree Advancement Program the largest respiratory care baccalaureate completion program in the world.

The RRT-BSRC program holds full accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care, offers an accelerated master's option, and was recently honored with the University Professional and Continuing Education Association's (UPCEA) "Outstanding Program Award" recognizing it not only as a leader in respiratory care education, but as one of the top online programs across all disciplines. Through the School of Respiratory Care Sciences, the RRT-BSRC continues to provide qualified practitioners with an accessible, high-quality route to advancing their academic and professional credentials.

The admission requirements for the RRT-BSRC Program include:

- An associate-level degree (e.g., AS/AAS) in respiratory care from a regionally accredited college or university.
- Successful completion of 35 or 64 undergraduate semester credit hours from a regionally accredited college or university (35 credits for the associate of applied science or the associate of health science degree plus additional course work to meet general education requirements, and 64 credits for the Associate of Science degree).
- A valid Registered Respiratory Therapist credential issued by the National Board for Respiratory Care.
- Admission to Boise State University.

The RRT-BSRC is delivered entirely online, offering ten 7-week courses (30 credits) that students may complete individually, aligned with their academic and professional goals. This flexible structure allows registered respiratory therapists to advance their education and career objectives without the need to relocate or interrupt their professional responsibilities.

Over the past 18 years, the program has awarded degrees to more than 1,600 GoBronchi graduates, representing all 50 states and multiple countries. Designed to remain both accessible and affordable, the program maintains a tuition rate of $300 per credit hour for all students, regardless of residency.

In response to the evolving needs of the respiratory care profession, the curriculum has expanded to include elective options in quality improvement, sleep medicine, educational methodology, and the application of epidemiology in respiratory care research. This ongoing evolution ensures that graduates are well-prepared to meet emerging challenges and opportunities within the field.

The pathway to the RRT-BSRC program is dictated by the type of associate-level degree learned by a candidate. See below for degree pathways specific to associate-level degrees:

Degree Completion Program - Students with an Associate of Science Degree

The following describes the requirements of the Baccalaureate Degree program's curriculum for transfer students who earned an academic associate of science degree in respiratory care from a regionally accredited college or university other than Boise State University.

To be admitted to the BSU's RRT-BSRC Degree Advancement program, each student must meet the following criteria:

- Earned an academic associate of science in respiratory care from a regionally accredited university or college or the equivalent of a bachelor of science in respiratory care from an internationally accredited university or college,
- Passed the necessary examinations to be credentialed as a registered respiratory therapist (RRT) by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) and,
- Have permission from the program director.

Degree Completion Program for Students with an Associate of Applied Science Degree or Associate of Health Science Degree

The following describes the requirements of the BSU Baccalaureate Degree program's curriculum for transfer students who earned an associate of applied science degree in respiratory care or an associate of health science degree in respiratory care from a regionally accredited college or university other than Boise State University.

To be admitted to the RRT-BSRC Degree Advancement program, each student must meet the following criteria:

- Earned an associate of applied science degree in respiratory care or an associate of health science degree in respiratory care from a regionally accredited university,
- Passed the necessary examinations to be credentialed as a registered respiratory therapist (RRT) by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC),
- Completed BSU general core foundation courses before enrolling at Boise State University
- Have permission from the program director.

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
Required Courses		
RESPCARE 355 (Taken in 1st semester during 1st or 2nd 7 week)	Professional Communication in Health Care	3
RESPCARE 440	Senior Theory: Advanced Concepts	3
RESPCARE 441	Teaching Techniques for Health Care Professionals	3
RESPCARE 444	Leadership and Management for Health Care Professionals	3
RESPCARE 445	Patient Advocacy and Ethical Considerations	3
RESPCARE 432	Critical Review of Health Care Research	3
RESPCARE 480 *(Recommended taking in final semester*)	Capstone	3
Elective Courses Choose 3 of the following 8 courses	**Recommend taking 1 elective a semester** ***Part of our Accelerated Masters program**	
RESPCARE 431	Quality Improvement in Health Care	3
RESPCARE 442	Sleep Medicine	3
RESPCARE 443	Current Topics in Respiratory Disease	3
RESPCARE 446	Introduction to Disease Management	3
RESPCARE 497	Special Topics: Analysis of Cardiopulmonary Disease	3

RESPCARE 505* (Spring Only)	Evidence Based Medicine	3
RESPCARE 510* (Spring Only)	Advanced Cardiopulmonary Physiology	3
RESPCARE 527* (Summer Only)	Advanced Pharmacology for the Respiratory Care Practitioner)	3
	Total	30**

Master of Science in Respiratory Care

The online Master of Science in Respiratory Care Degree program is the latest in innovative online offerings from the Boise State University School of Respiratory Care Sciences. It is also among some of the newest programs to be added to Idaho's largest graduate college, with 103 doctoral, master's, and graduate certificates. Designed specifically for the working respiratory care provider, the Boise State MSRC program offers an inclusive curriculum for those desiring an advanced degree with limitless potential. Students take no more than six graduate credits per semester, meaning students can earn this 36-credit MSRC degree in only two years with no need to travel to Boise until graduation day, and even that is optional!

The program curriculum has an emphasis on educational leadership and content that focuses on the mastery of learning outcomes that include professional communication, leadership development, educational development, evidence-based inquiry, advanced knowledge, and organizational management.

Ensuring that students experience the same level of exceptional commitment and attention from faculty that has become synonymous with BSU is a top priority. As such, the Boise State MSRC program subscribes to a cohort-based model, admitting around 25 students each fall. This model, along with seven-week, sequential terms, supports the development of an online learning community in which professionals from across the country work together to expand their worldview, challenge the status quo, and develop knowledge specifically targeted at advancing the field of respiratory care.

Although the MSRC has always prided itself on a flexible curriculum that can be tailored to meet individual needs, the curriculum has evolved since its 2018 launch to include more opportunities for students to achieve their educational goals. Students now can take an elective pathway that includes advanced pharmacology for respiratory care and a clinically based practicum, rather than the more traditional research-based Capstone project as a culminating activity. Either option supports students as they work to demonstrate the mastery of each of the program's learning outcomes in the context of their individual academic and professional goals. Regardless of their path, students are mentored closely by

faculty toward the goal of developing a defensible and publishable body of work. MSRC alumni have presented over 30 professional conference abstracts, and at least 10 have moved forward with publication of their capstone work. To date, the program has celebrated over 100 alumni, representing a diverse clinical and educational community across the respiratory care profession. Additionally, the MSRC program has been recognized with the AARC APEX award for educational programming 3 times, one of only a handful of programs to be consistently recognized each award cycle.

The program is competitively priced and is supported by a university-specific fee model that does not impose out-of-state tuition on students in this program. Students who hold an active NBRC registry credential (RRT) as well as a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university are encouraged to apply. Priority deadline for admission to the fall cohort is July 15th; however, applications will be reviewed once completed. The Boise State MSRC achieved initial continuing accreditation from the Commission for Accreditation of Respiratory Care (CoARC) for degree advancement programs in 2025.

Curriculum

The Boise State MSRC Degree program consists of 36 credits, offered completely online, and has been thoughtfully designed for respiratory care practitioners who are dedicated to lifelong learning and who are interested in academia, leadership, or becoming a bedside consultant through the advanced understanding of both disease and patient management. The final program requirement is a cumulative activity consisting of either a research-based capstone project that demonstrates mastery of six program learning outcomes or a clinically focused practicum opportunity aimed at positioning respiratory care providers in new or novel roles. The six program learning outcomes, aimed at holistic development of the respiratory care practitioner, include:

- **Professional Communication.** Students will utilize effective oral and written communication skills consistent with professional communication as may be published in a peer-reviewed journal or presented at a professional conference.

- **Leadership Development**
  Students will apply leadership and management theory through the lens of change theory to both the educational and clinical environments.
- **Educational Development**
  Students will utilize educational theory in the development of an educational module to inform colleagues, patients, or the public.
- **Evidence-Based Inquiry**
  Students will apply research design, methods, and analysis to answer a critical research question relevant to the advancement of the field.
- **Advanced Knowledge**
  Students will explain advanced concepts relating to critical care pathophysiology, disease management, clinical management, and care coordination.
- **Organizational Management**
  Students will apply organizational management theory, quality improvement standards, ethical practice, and innovative approaches for organizational change.

These six outcomes are mastered throughout a rigorous, inclusive curriculum wherein students are allowed, and encouraged, to tailor assignments to serve individual interest or purpose. The curriculum framework consists of three main areas of leadership, education, and clinical management, which cumulatively support an emphasis in educational leadership. Students work through course content toward the development of a research-based capstone or clinically focused practicum requirement under close advisement and mentorship of MSRC faculty. Upon completion of this program, graduates are prepared for a variety of opportunities throughout any of the healthcare, academic, or leadership environments.

Although this is a cohort-based program, an extended version of the program is available. Additional detailed information about the MSRC curriculum, capstone project, and admissions is included on our website. Applications for the upcoming fall semester are welcome.

A brief overview of the MSRC curriculum

Semester/Course Number	Course Title	Credits
First Fall Semester		
RESPCARE 500	Educational Leadership	3
RESPCARE 505	Evidence Based Medicine	3
First Spring Semester		
RESPCARE 510	Advanced Cardiopulmonary Physiology	3
RESPCARE 516	Advanced Pulmonary Disease Management	3
First Summer Semester		
RESPCARE 521	Applied Research Methods	3
Take one of the following		
RESPCARE 525	Educational Methodology	3
RESPCARE 527	Advanced Pharmacology for the Respiratory Care Practitioner	3
Second Fall Semester		
RESPCARE 530	Advanced Cardiovascular Disease Management	3
RESPCARE 535	Managing Organizational Change	3
Second Spring Semester		
RESPCARE 540	Healthcare Management	3
RESPCARE 545	Ethics of the Profession	3
Culminating Activity: Take one of the following in Second Summer Semester		
RESPCARE 570	Capstone	6
RESPCARE 575	Practicum: Respiratory Care Specialty Roles	6
	Total	36

BSRC Faculty and Staff

Camille Stover, MET, RRT, RRT-NPS, FAARC, is the program director and clinical associate professor for the entry-to-practice program. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care and a master's degree in educational technology from Boise State University. Camille has been with the BSU since 2017, serving as a graduate assistant, a faculty member, and now, as program director. She combines her clinical background with a strong focus on educational technology to help grow the next generation of respiratory care practitioners. As program director, she oversees curriculum development, accreditation reporting, and the integration of research threads into the entry-to-practice program. In addition to her role within the School of Respiratory Care Sciences, Camille has served as the Delegate for the state of Idaho in the AARC House of Delegates for the last five years.

Alyssa Zemke, MSRC, RRT, RRT-ACCS, is the director of clinical education for the Department of Respiratory Care. She has been a respiratory therapist in the valley since 2006 with adult critical care as her area of expertise. Alyssa graduated from Boise State's on-campus Respiratory Care Program in 2006 and earned her Master of Science in Respiratory Care in 2020 with an emphasis on the development and implementation of a chest trauma pathway. Her research interests include tracheostomy and laryngectomy management and care, tobacco cessation and prevention, as well as the use of esophageal pressure monitoring to find optimal PEEP levels. Alyssa has been an adjunct faculty at Boise State since 2010. She and her husband have two kids and enjoy spending time together outdoors.

Trevor Lee, MSRC, RRT earned his Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care in 2018 from Boise State and a Master of Science of Respiratory Care (MSRC) from Boise State University in 2023. Trevor worked at Duke University Hospital in Durham, North Carolina, with a clinical background primarily in the adult CTICU and emergency department. Advancing the profession of respiratory care has become one of Trevor's passions, and he hopes to instill this in each student within the Respiratory Care department.

Danny Poague, BSRT, RRT, RRT-ACCS, earned his Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care from Boise State University, where he is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Respiratory Care (MSRC). Since graduation, Danny has worked clinically in the Treasure Valley, primarily in adult critical care units. He served on his department's pulmonary patient educator team and holds the adult critical care specialist (RRT-ACCS) credential. A dedicated lifelong learner, Danny is passionate about advancing professional education and promoting ongoing development within the respiratory care field. Originally from Pennsylvania, he now resides in Boise with his wife and three children. He joins the Boise State Respiratory Care Department as a clinical instructor, supporting the on-campus Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care (BSRC) program.

Megan Koster, EdD, RRT, RRT-NPS, FAARC, earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Respiratory Care as well as a Master of Health Science Degree from Boise State University. She obtained a Doctor of Education with an emphasis in transformative leadership from the University of New England in 2017. Shortly after this, she was tasked with developing the online Master of Science in Respiratory Care (MSRC) program at Boise State University. Her clinical career focused on neonatal and pediatric intensive care. Throughout her career in education, she has taught respiratory therapists at every stage in their career, in all three programs offered by the School of Respiratory Care Sciences, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and across multiple modalities. With a deep background in curriculum development, instructional design, and a special interest in assessment methodology, Dr. Koster continues to work wither her team to advance the profession by creating thoughtful, relevant, and accessible educational opportunities. She currently serves as the Divisional Dean for the School of Respiratory Care Sciences.

Amanda Leightner, PhD, RRT, RRT-SDS, RPGST, CCSH, FAARC, earned her Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care in 2000, her Master of Health and Human Services in 2013, and her PhD in Health Sciences in 2022, all from Youngstown State University. Her previous work experience includes critical care, trauma, NICU, and Polysomnography. Areas of research interest include cultural competencies, respiratory care fundamentals, and polysomnography with a focus on Positive Airway Pressure (PAP) adherence. Her

most recent research focused on PAP adherence, disruptive behavior in the respiratory workforce, and a neuro-accounting study. She currently serves on the National Board Respiratory Care (NBRC) board of directors, serves as the AARC sleep section chair, president of the Lambda Beta Board of Directors, and the Ohio Society for Respiratory Care program planning committee. She is one of only five in the United States who holds every polysomnography credential. In 2025, Dr. Leightner became the inaugural Merrick Family Endowed Professor in Respiratory Care at Boise State University.

Daniel Lemus serves as the business operations manager for the School of Respiratory Care Sciences. Daniel earned his master's degree in public administration through Boise State University in 2021. He started his career at the College of Western Idaho and moved to Boise State University in 2018. Daniel joined the respiratory care team in August of 2022 and couldn't be happier. The quality of the program, the great people he works with, and the community around the program all continue to impress him. Both he and his wife are Boise natives and love taking advantage of the diverse landscape the *Treasure Valley* holds.

Tina Stryker has administrative experience and a sociology degree from California State University, Stanislaus, that she brings to the department. When away from the office, she enjoys adventurous outings with her husband and two daughters, discovering new events, activities, and culinary delights around town. She serves as the management assistant for the School of Respiratory Care Sciences with a special interest in the BSRC program. Tina is a recent addition to the Boise State University community, she brings a wealth of administrative experience and a sociology degree from California State University, Stanislaus, to the department. When away from the office, she enjoys adventurous outings with her husband and two daughters, discovering new events, activities, and culinary delights around town.

Full-Time RRT-BSRC Faculty and Staff

T. J. Wing, Ed.D., RRT, FAARC, earned his Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy in 2002, a Master of Health Science with a Leadership emphasis in 2008, and a Doctorate in Educational Technology in 2018 from Boise State University. He has been teaching adult critical care and neonatal/pediatric emergency medicine in the Respiratory Care Program since 2003. TJ helped develop the RRT to BS program from the ground up, creating and delivering many of the foundational courses that are offered today. He has taught online courses since 2007 while completely dedicating his teaching workload to 100% online since 2015. TJ is passionate about online education, with his dissertation focusing on formative versus summative assessment within online health care courses. He has several publications ranging in topics from advanced mechanical ventilation to ways to effectively deliver online healthcare education. TJ has presented at the AARC International Congress, AARC Summer Forum for Educators, as well as many local conferences.

Lanny Inabnit, PhD, RRT, RRT-ACCS, RRT-NPS, RCP, FAARC earned his Associates of Applied Science degree in Respiratory Therapy from Southern Illinois University in 1994, a Bachelor of Science in Health Services Management from East Carolina University in 2009, a Master of Science in Respiratory Care Leadership from Northeastern University in 2014, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Health Services Research from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 2024. Lanny's research interests are related to COPD outcomes in urban and rural populations. He currently serves on the North Carolina Respiratory Care Board and has served as a Delegate for North Carolina in the AARC House of Delegates. He has been an active member of the AARC since 1993. Lanny lives in Concord, North Carolina, with his wife. He has two adult children, Kiley and Eli.

Brian Cayko, MBA, RRT, FAARC earned his Bachelor of Science in 2002 from Montana State University, an Associate of Applied Science in Respiratory Therapy in 2004, a Master of Business Education (Healthcare Track) from the University of Mary in Bismark, ND, and is currently a doctoral student at the University of Montana in Educational Leadership. He has been teaching respiratory care education since 2008 & has previously served as director of clinical education for an entry-level RT program. Brian has been with the Boise State Degree Advancement program since 2016. Brian has passionately served the profession at the state and national levels. His experience includes chair of the AARC Bylaws & Social Media Committees, House of Delegates, and numerous other AARC, MSRC, & Montana Licensing Board Committees. His clinical background is in adult critical care. Brian received the esteemed Fellow of the AARC designation in 2018 in recognition of his service to the profession.

Jhaymie Cappiello, MS, RRT, RRT-ACCS, RCP earned his Bachelor of Science in Cardio-Respiratory Sciences in 1984 from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and his Master of Science in Respiratory Care Leadership from Northeastern University in 2014. Jhaymie entered respiratory care as a clinician in 1980, spent his last 29 years at Duke University Hospital in various roles, and taught as adjunct faculty in degree advancement programs for the last seven. Jhaymie was awarded the AARC Practitioner of the Year- Acute Care Specialty Section in 2008 and the Gail Gane Educator of the Year from the NCSRC in 2020. Jhaymie is a strong believer in the high value of the respiratory care practitioner within healthcare. “It is not without this fundamental specialty that a highly vulnerable population will be properly cared for”. Jhaymie lives with his wife in Raleigh, North Carolina and loves to cook!

Jessica Foreman-Starks, MSRC, RRT, RRT-ACCS has been a respiratory care practitioner since 2011. A lifelong Bronco, Jessica is a graduate of all three BSU respiratory care programs, graduating from the on-campus program in May 2011, the degree-advancement program in December 2011, and the MSRC program in August 2020. She has worked in a variety of clinical settings, including level IV NICU, chronic disease management and patient education, and even organ

transplant coordination. She has lived and worked in the Bay Area of California since 2014, where she now resides with her partner, two sons, and her cat.

Mandy Hart MS, Senior Academic Programs Coordinator is a graduate of Boise State University with a bachelor's degree in general studies. She earned her Master of Science in Academic Advising from Kansas State University in 2016. Mandy has worked at Boise State University off and on for the last 10 years. She joined the respiratory care team at the beginning of the Spring 2023 semester. Mandy grew up in Idaho and loves everything about Boise and Boise State University. She enjoys outdoors and spending time with her dogs.

MSRC Faculty

Kristen McHenry EdD, RRT, RRT-ACCS, FAARC

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Assistant Professor, School of Respiratory Care Sciences
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Dr. McHenry has been a registered respiratory therapist since 2005, primarily working in adult critical care. She earned her B.S. in Cardiopulmonary Science in 2005, M.S. in Allied Health Education in 2013, and an EdD in Higher Educational Leadership in 2017, all from East Tennessee State University. She began teaching in adjunct roles in 2008 and full-time in 2013. She has served as a director of clinical education (DCE) and program director (PD) for an entry into professional practice RT program and a PD for the CoARC-accredited MSRC degree advancement program. Dr. McHenry continues to serve clinically as a staff therapist in an outpatient multidisciplinary ALS clinic in East Tennessee. She serves as a site visitor, board member, referee, and Commissioner for the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) and serves as the chair of the CoARC degree advancement (DA) committee. She also serves as a faculty associate for Boise State's eCampus. Research interests include adult critical care, neuromuscular disease, and the scholarship of teaching and learning, with a special emphasis on online education.

Megan Koster, EdD, RRT, RRT-NPS, FAARC
Divisional Dean, School of Respiratory Care Sciences

Clinical Professor
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Dr. Koster has been a registered respiratory therapist since 2007, specializing in neonatal and pediatric intensive care. She earned a Master of Health Science with an emphasis in health promotion from Boise State University in 2011 and a Doctorate in Education with an emphasis in transformative leadership from the University of New England in 2017. Dr. Koster works with both undergraduate and graduate students and across modalities to help them realize their educational goals. In addition to maintaining her clinical competency, she participates in survey-based research with special interests in student development, curriculum design, and assessment methodology. However, she has an emerging interest in sleep medicine and its intersection with educational performance. She has mentored dozens of BSRC and MSRC students through their capstone process toward dissemination and enjoys helping her students succeed. Dr. Koster also remains active with the Idaho Society of Respiratory Care, currently serving as a delegate for the state.

Amanda Leighter, PhD, RRT, RRT-SDS, CCSH, RPSGT, RST, FAARC, is the Merrick Family Endowed Professor

Clinical Associate Professor, School of Respiratory Care Sciences
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Dr. Leightner earned her Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care in 2000, her Master of Health and Human Services in 2013, and her PhD in Health Sciences in 2022, all from Youngstown State University. Her previous work experience includes critical care, trauma, NICU, and polysomnography. Areas of research interest include cultural competencies, respiratory care fundamentals, and polysomnography with a focus on positive airway pressure (PAP) adherence. Her most recent research focused on PAP adherence, disruptive behavior in the respiratory workforce, and a neuro-accounting study. She currently serves on the National Board Respiratory Care (NBRC) board of directors, serves as the AARC sleep section chair, President of

the Lambda Beta Board of Directors, and the Ohio Society for Respiratory Care program planning committee. She is one of only five in the United States who holds every polysomnography credential. In 2025, Dr. Leightner became the inaugural Merrick Family Endowed Professor in Respiratory Care at Boise State University.

Contact Information

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