

## Theme – A Temple of Learning

On November 12, 1888 the Bannock Stake Academy, precursor to Brigham Young University-Idaho, was dedicated. Sarah Ann Barnes, one of the Academy's first teachers, described her feelings of that day, *"A Temple of learning was founded, on the solid rock of Revelation; which later was named The Ricks Academy. The memory of that day fills my very soul with joy, for it seemed like the angels of God were there."*

President Henry B. Eyring of the First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints said in a recent BYU-Idaho devotional, *"That this university and this temple are on a hill in Rexburg is a miracle because God, not man, revealed new designs for each and placed them here together.... The two places of learning fit together in their purposes almost as one.... And they both require a high standard of personal worthiness for the companionship of the Spirit.... The university will likewise encourage a thirst for learning by the Spirit. In concert with the temple, it will build students' confidence that the Spirit can become a constant companion."*

## Essay Contest Overview

Your essay should incorporate concepts from Sarah Barnes's comments, President Eyring's quote, as well as establish connections to the selected theme, the Spirit of Ricks, BYU-Idaho, and your experiences while attending here.

## Judging

Essays will be judged on content, grammar, structure and most importantly your ability to capture the essence of the Spirit of Ricks, and your experiences in relation to the theme. Judges will include both a student and employee panel. Winning essays will be recited at the Spirit Week Luncheon on Friday, October 9, 2009 and may also be reprinted or published online on the Spirit Week Web site.

## Rules

1. The contest is open to: (a) currently enrolled, on-track, full-time students, (b) current BYU-Idaho employees, and (3) all BYU-Idaho alumni.
2. The essay should not exceed more than 750 words.
3. Essays will be divided into three categories: (1) students (2) employees and (3) alumni.
4. Your essay should include both a cover page and information sheet. The cover page should only contain the title of your essay and your cell or home phone number on it. Be sure you do not include your name on your cover page or anywhere else in your essay. The information sheet should contain your contact information including name, category (student, employee or alumnus), address, cell and/or home phone number and e-mail address.
5. Submit two hard copies of your essay with essay cover sheets which can be downloaded from the Spirit Week Web-site at [www.byui.edu/spiritweek](http://www.byui.edu/spiritweek). If you are unable to mail or deliver hard copies of your essay, you may submit them via e-mail to [spiritevents@byui.edu](mailto:spiritevents@byui.edu). Refer to the essay cover sheet for specific information on submitting your essay.

## Deadlines

Essays must be received by 5 p.m. (MST) on Wednesday, September 30, 2009 in order to be judged.

## Prizes

Monetary awards will be provided to the top finalists. Amounts are listed below:

<u>Students</u>	<u>Alumni</u>	<u>Employees</u>
1st place \$200	\$150	\$150
2nd place \$150	\$100	\$100
3rd place \$100	\$75	\$75