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### **Workshop on Biodiesel Use in School Bus Fleets Open to Public**

BOISE / MOSCOW, Idaho – A team of researchers and educators from the University of Idaho will present an alternative fuel workshop on Sept. 15-16, focusing on cleaner-burning biodiesel fuel with an emphasis on school bus transportation fleet usage.

The workshop will be at the Centre on the Grove in Boise and held in conjunction with the Alternative Fuels Festival Sept 16-18 in Boise. Representatives of school bus and other transportation fleets, interested school patrons and the general public will learn about biodiesel production, availability and usage from leading experts and users nationwide. Barriers to biodiesel usage in other transportation fleets will also be discussed.

Health concerns are just one of the environmental issues faced by the public with the use of fossil fuels in diesel fleets including school district transportation systems.

Some 24 million American children spend an average of 1.5 hours every weekday riding buses to and from school, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Diesel fuel powers nearly 90 percent of the approximately 450,000 school buses on U.S. roads today.

“This event is just the place for consumers to bring their questions about the advantages of using the environmentally friendly substitute for petroleum based fuel in school bus and other diesel fleets,” said Jon Van Gerpen, UI researcher and workshop co-chair.

The educational program is the second event of its kind being held in Boise as part of a five-year, national USDA grant awarded to UI totaling \$950,000 to bring nationwide education to the public about biodiesel fuels made from oil crops.

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## WORKSHOP TO EXAMINE ADVANTAGES OF BIODIESEL USE -2

Biodiesel is an alternative fuel made from renewable resources such as rapeseed and mustard oil and is one of the most thoroughly tested alternative fuels in the marketplace, added Van Gerpen.

Biodiesel can be used in any unmodified diesel engine in its pure form or blended with petroleum diesel. Biodiesel significantly reduces emissions such as carbon monoxide, unburned hydrocarbons and particulate matter. In its pure form, biodiesel is biodegradable and non-toxic.

Other workshop coordinators are Charles Peterson, interim dean of UI engineering and event co-chair; Bingjun Brian He and Dev Shrestha, biological and agricultural engineering, and Douglas Haines, business and marketing department, all of UI.

A full agenda and registration information may be found at the website:  
*[www.biodieseleducation.org](http://www.biodieseleducation.org)*.