
From: Office of the President <noreply@m.uidaho.edu>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2026 6:01 AM
To:
Subject: Vandalizing the state

Letter from the President



Office of the President, president@uidaho.edu
March 27, 2026

Dear Vandals,

The Vandal Gold flora and fauna along the wall of downtown Moscow's Prichard Art Gallery were Mikaela Herrick's opening flourish in 2023. Since then, she's done a tremendous job of [Vandalizing the state](#).

Herrick earned a degree in studio art and design from the University of Idaho in 2023. Her senior capstone project helped transform the former Moscow Police Station into the U of I's downtown art gallery. The "Here We Have Idaho" mural became the first in a series of nine Vandal-themed murals now dotting the state.

The U of I's marketing team commissioned the murals on structures owned by Vandal supporters. The black and gold art decorates, among others, Superior Floors and Forty Two Bar and kitchen in Moscow, grain silos along Highway 26 near Gooding, a farmhouse in Dubois and even a boathouse at Half Round Bay on Lake Coeur d'Alene.

Herrick leans on her Vandal education along with creativity and problem-solving to create art in spaces that aren't always accommodating. Her canvases also vary in size, shape and surface type, adding to the complexity.

"I'm not the biggest fan of heights, so getting on the lifts has taken some getting used to, but I love the challenge," Herrick said of the machines that allow her to paint murals that are sometimes more than 20 feet high. "I've tried to look at other large-scale murals and study different methods people use. I've taken tips and tricks from a lot of different places."

Herrick sometimes uses a projector to stencil the outline of her projects on large canvases. To paint a boathouse along a busy waterway, she tried using a virtual reality headset, but because of the waves moving the boathouse she ended up doing most of the work freehand. Her most recent project, which can be seen from Highway 95 at Nez Perce, is also the largest, taking more than a month to complete.

Originally from Kooskia, Herrick enrolled at the U of I in the College of Business and Economics, but after one semester she returned to the subject she had loved since childhood.

"I walked by the art building on my way to my business classes and kept thinking, 'I should be in there,'" Herrick said.

She thrived in the College of Art and Architecture and quickly found a niche in mural painting after graduation.

Like most U of I alumni, Herrick relished her time in Moscow as she learned from dedicated professors and honed her passion

into a rewarding career. And while many show their Vandal support with a T-shirt, hat or bumper sticker, Herrick uses lots of black and gold paint to spread U of I pride across the Gem State.

Go Vandals!

C. Scott Green
President



Snapshots

Symposium to showcase Deep Soil Ecotron

The inaugural Deep Soil Ecotron Symposium will showcase the U of I's new lab where scientists from around the world will manipulate and study soil at depths up to 10 feet. The free event takes place April 6-7 at the Seed Potato Germplasm Laboratory in Moscow.

[Learn more.](#)

ECHO Idaho takes on substance use disorders

The U of I is providing Idaho health care professionals with the latest science on treating substance use disorders and pain through the ECHO Idaho program. The online training series provides up-to-date information for health care workers across the state so they can prescribe medications for opioid use disorder and treat these conditions.

[Learn more.](#)

Ambassadors needed for Vandal Giving Day

Vandal Giving Day is coming up April 7-8, and ambassadors are needed to help expand our reach. Vandal Giving Day is an annual event that unites U of I alumni, friends, employees and students in support of scholarships, programs and research excellence at the U of I. Ambassadors encourage participation in their networks and lead by engaging their communities.

[Learn more.](#)

Did
you?
know

Vandal track and field athletes Keenan Kuntz and Blake Sturgis were named Big Sky Conference Athletes of the Week after the first meet of the outdoor season.

Copyright © 2026 University of Idaho, All rights reserved.

You received this email because of your affiliation with the University of Idaho.

University of Idaho
875 Perimeter Drive
Moscow, ID 83844
info@uidaho.edu

[Forward this email to a friend](#)