
From: Office of the President <noreply@m.uidaho.edu>
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 6:01 AM
To:
Subject: Army ROTC tradition continues at U of I

Letter from the President



Office of the President, president@uidaho.edu
Oct. 17, 2025

Dear Vandals,

The University of Idaho campus is dotted with poignant reminders of our military history, from Memorial Gym to the Spanish-American War Memorial on the Admin Lawn. Our Army ROTC program dates back to 1893, when 1st Lt. Edward R. Chrisman arrived in Moscow to lead our military training program.

The Chrisman Raider Battalion, as our Army ROTC program is now known, has trained thousands of U of I students for military leadership, including retired Lt. Gen. Erik Peterson, who served as the Army's head of strategic procurement.

Earlier this year, the Army's proposed restructuring and consolidation threatened the U of I's standing as a host institution for Army ROTC. If we had lost our host designation, our U of I students would have been forced to travel across state lines for training under a different brigade.

Idaho U.S. Sen. Jim Risch '65, '68 led an effort to maintain the U of I's status as a host program.

"The University of Idaho's ROTC program is among the finest in the West, developing students into commissioned officers who have served our country with distinction for over a century," Risch said. "I am proud to have intervened to stop a decision that would have closed the program at the University of Idaho. I worked with President Green and President Trump to ensure the ROTC at my alma mater can continue its long-standing tradition of shaping the next generation of military leaders that will defend our freedoms against the threats of tomorrow, as it has done for decades."

The U of I's Army ROTC program helps the university recruit talented student leaders. Their ROTC scholarships cover tuition, fees, books and provide a monthly stipend in exchange for a military service commitment after graduation. While on campus, the students take classes in military science and leadership alongside their physical and tactical training. They graduate ready to take leadership roles as commissioned officers.

The Chrisman Raider Battalion currently consists of 87 ROTC cadets working toward their degrees.

"We are excited about the opportunity to continue to commission Army officers as a host program," said Lt. Col. Jason Ackerman, U.S. Army Cadet Command and Professor of Military Science at the U of I. "The University of Idaho's Chrisman Battalion has commissioned high quality, dedicated and driven officers into the Army since 1898, and we look

forward to continuing that legacy into the future both for the state of Idaho and for our nation as a whole.”

We will be honoring our military service members and celebrating the U of I’s military history next month at the state’s largest Veterans Day dinner. The sold-out event of over 600 active and retired servicemen, family and distinguished guests features Risch as the keynote speaker.

Our land-grant mission includes a call for military science training, which equips our students with valuable life skills and helps protect our country. We’re grateful for the opportunity to build on our rich traditions and continue to produce outstanding leaders for our U.S. military.

Go Vandals!

C. Scott Green
President



Snapshots

U of I launches Forest Innovations Institute

The new Forest Innovations Institute at the U of I will help forest landowners and industry partners apply the latest research and technology in a variety of fields from tree physiology to fire modeling. One of the institute's top goals is to prepare the next generation of forestry professionals.

[Learn more.](#)

Career Fair welcomes record number of students

The U of I's Fall Career Fair drew more than 1,700 students last week at the P1FCU Kibbie Dome. Over 200 employers were represented, from government agencies to large companies like Chobani and Panda Express.

[Learn more.](#)

POP Talks slated for Oct. 23

The third annual Power of Possibility (POP) Talks event features a wide range of U of I faculty members discussing their areas of expertise at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23, in the Bruce M. Pitman Center International Ballroom. The event will also stream online at U of I Live.

[Learn more.](#)



Sophomore Alex Terry was named Big Sky Conference Cross Country Athlete of the Week after placing third at the Lewis-Clark Invitational. The race was the final meet before the Big Sky Championships on Nov. 1 in Bozeman, Montana.



Copyright © 2025 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](#)