

Letter from the

# President



Office of the President, [president@uidaho.edu](mailto:president@uidaho.edu)  
Jan. 16, 2026

Dear Vandals,

The book closed on the University of Idaho's Brave. Bold. Unstoppable. philanthropic campaign at the end of 2025. But the tangible impacts and immense pride generated through the largest nonprofit fundraising campaign in Idaho history will resonate for decades to come.

The Vandal Family rallied to topple the \$500 million goal almost eight months ahead of schedule. But the momentum carried through the remainder of 2025. The new campaign benchmark will be revealed at next month's closing gala celebration. And the fruits of Vandal generosity are evident across the university and throughout the state.

Well over \$150 million of gifts made through the campaign are dedicated to students, providing scholarships and support that have helped us achieve 10 straight semesters of enrollment growth. Students pursue hands-on learning in Idaho's fields, lakes and forests or take internships with companies like Simplot, Micron and Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories.

Donor support is transforming the U of I's infrastructure through facilities like ICCU Arena, Rinker Rock Creek Ranch, the McCall Field Campus and the new Meat Science and Innovation Center.

The campaign is also illuminating communities in Idaho. One example is the Garth and Frances Reid Literacy Initiative. The College of Education, Health and Human Sciences program boosts early childhood literacy by providing teachers with tools and strategies to engage young learners and help them develop good reading habits.

The Vandal Family stepped up to meet this challenge even when it seemed impossible. When the \$500 million goal was discussed in 2019, there were plenty of skeptics, and rightly so. The university faced budget shortfalls and declining enrollment, and the new goal was more than double the previous campaign.

But close to 40,000 individuals and organizations contributed financially to make the Brave. Bold. Unstoppable. campaign a resounding success. Thousands more volunteered their time and effort because they believe in the U of I's mission to elevate students and lift our Idaho communities.

Along the way, we set records in enrollment and research and became the first and only Carnegie R1 university in the state. The campaign also reignited pride in the U of I and reinforced our brave and bold culture.

I'm always proud to be a Vandal, but even more so at this moment. The Vandal Family is known for looking out for each

other, and this campaign proves the validity of that reputation. I'm grateful for the many opportunities our donors provide for our students, our university and our state through their generosity.

Go Vandals!

C. Scott Green  
President



## Snapshots

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### **U of I student helps Idaho company up productivity**

Through the use of AI and automation, U of I graduate student Hunter Hawkins is helping Amalgamated Sugar improve safety and increase productivity. Hawkins devised a combination of AI algorithms to monitor the steam dryer at Amalgamated Sugar's plant and predict potential problems before they occur.

[Learn more.](#)

## UI Extension program introduces students to ag careers

Using robotics, UI Extension educators are giving Idaho high school students a taste of what they might experience in agricultural careers. Their goals are to show students how technology and problem-solving skills are applied in agricultural production and to plant seeds for future careers in the field.

[Learn more.](#)

## New projects tackle Idaho water challenges

Idaho faculty will lead projects addressing the state's water challenges thanks to funding from the Idaho Water Resources Research Institute. Scientists from the U of I, Boise State and Idaho State will lead the projects, which focus on water scarcity, water quality, technology and data, and water hazards in the state.

[Learn more.](#)



U of I grad and former Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne will have his name attached to the engine room of the USS Idaho, a nuclear-powered submarine set to be commissioned this year.

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