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**From:** Office of the President <noreply@m.uidaho.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 6, 2026 6:00 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Internships boost students and regional companies



# Letter from the President

Office of the President, [president@uidaho.edu](mailto:president@uidaho.edu)  
**Feb. 6, 2026**

Dear Vandals,

For companies like AgWest Farm Credit, the University of Idaho is a fertile field. Talented students armed with problem-solving skills make great employees for AgWest and hundreds of other companies attending the U of I's [Spring Career Fair](#) next week.

Addie Grow serves as internship coordinator for AgWest, and she says the company's mission aligns nicely with the U of I's. AgWest recruits Vandals for its intern program as well as its trainee programs.

"We see it as part of our mission to invest in our rural communities, which is why we're intentional about building relationships with our land-grant universities," Grow said. "We

engage with the U of I every year and we've had great students join us."

Macy Smith, from Grangeville, interned at an AgWest branch in Lewiston last summer. She learned about credit analysis and conducted a project analyzing the health of several farms in the region.

"I was interested in the finance side of things and the work really connected with the classes I was taking," said Smith, who graduates from the U of I this spring. "The company environment was great. I really liked the structure, and how integrated the interns were in the company."

Headquartered in Spokane, AgWest employs nearly 1,300 people across the West. With 10 branches in Idaho, Grow appreciates the perspective that U of I students and graduates often bring to the company.

"Our employees don't have to have agriculture backgrounds, but they usually develop a passion for it," Grow said. "Our mission and purpose are built around agriculture, so working here, you find out how vital it is for our communities."

Internships benefit both students and employers. Interns can explore careers in lending and insurance at AgWest. They receive coaching from employees and valuable experience in a growing regional company. Students get a glimpse of how their education translates into real-world practice and the company has access to a pipeline of quality employees who are job-ready at graduation.

"To have a couple of months on the job, gaining experience before you graduate is so valuable," Smith said.

The U of I continues to elevate the student experience through internships and other hands-on learning opportunities. Career fairs and college networking nights help students discover companies like AgWest.

“The U of I career fairs are always well attended, and the students are very well-prepared,” Grow said. “The students that we talk with understand the assignment. They make it easy.”

We appreciate the engagement of business partners, who enhance the U of I student experience and open doors for rewarding careers.

Go Vandals!

C. Scott Green  
President



## Snapshots

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### Presidential Grove preservation underway

The U of I is planning to preserve and restore the Presidential Grove in Moscow after it was damaged by a windstorm in December. Historic trees were affected but are being preserved and repurposed by student groups for future projects.

[Learn more.](#)

## Chobani scientist pursues food science degree

Peter Krell, a senior innovation scientist with Chobani, is working toward his master's degree in food science while maintaining his full-time job. Krell is taking classes remotely from the Magic Valley, increasing his knowledge and skills to help develop new products at Chobani.

[Learn more.](#)

## Professor surveys Idaho's water sentiments

U of I Professor Robert Mahler conducts one of the country's longest standing and most comprehensive surveys exploring public perceptions about water. Launched in 1988, Mahler's survey shows that most Idaho residents dislike government regulations but value the state's water supply and would take steps to protect and conserve it.

[Learn more.](#)

Did  
you?  
know ■

Jeff Hovenier, former U.S. ambassador to Kosovo, delivered the Martin Forum address on Wednesday as part of a weeklong visit to the U of I. Hovenier was hosted by the Martin Institute.

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