

December 15, 2020

Dear Friend of the McClure Center,

In this season of thanks and gratitude, we want you to know **how much your generous support has meant** for the James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research. With your support, the McClure Center has served Idaho, the region and beyond, providing reliable, nonpartisan information on critical policy issues.

As Senator McClure's long-serving staff member (Jeff Cilek) and campaign manager (Phil Reberger), we worked closely with Jim and Louise. We know how much they valued evidence-based decision making and bipartisan collaboration. **We could not be prouder of the McClure Center's work** – conducting research with integrity to inform public policy, convening diverse stakeholders to tackle pressing challenges, engaging students in public policy and advancing the University of Idaho, Louise's and Jim's beloved alma mater.

In the past three years, the McClure Center

- **Secured over \$600K in research grants and contracts**, ranging from the U.S. Department of Education (part of Idaho's Preschool Development Grant) to Idaho National Laboratory and Idaho state agencies.
- **Communicated research findings through *Idaho at a Glance* policy briefs and full-length research reports**, covering topics such as family forest ownership, Hispanics in Idaho, economic impact of small modular nuclear reactors and an assessment of the Owyhee Initiative, a diverse multi-stakeholder group with federal legislation supported by U.S. Senator Mike Crapo.
- **Engaged 36 University of Idaho students in immersive applied research and learning experiences** – all centered around public policy. These undergraduate and law students connected their knowledge and training in journalism, international affairs, political science or the law with local, state and federal policy. Some **covered the Idaho Legislative Session for rural newspapers across the state** as members of the Idaho Press Club, others **performed research to assist Governor Little's Salmon Workgroup** and several shadowed U.S. Senator Jim Risch and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Their work is not just a resume-builder; it is utilized by Idaho policymakers.
- **Created and led the launch of the Idaho Science and Technology Policy Fellowship (ISTPF)**, a multi-institutional collaborative effort among Boise State University, Idaho State University and the University of Idaho. This nonpartisan program – **one of only seven in the United States** – connects science and engineering with policy, placing advanced degree holders in state agencies for one year to develop and implement solutions that address challenges facing Idaho in areas such as energy, conservation, fire, water and public health. **Idaho welcomed its first class of fellows this autumn.**

The McClure Center has accomplished big things. And these are just the highlights.

This impressive work is a credible and valuable tool for elected leaders and policy makers. The McClure Center's output is a fitting tribute to Senator McClure's legacy as one of the nation's most impactful legislators.



Jim saw that policymakers need science-based facts to inform their decisions. We both believed the University of Idaho's people could be an excellent resource for them, but we could not have envisioned what good work is coming out of this evolving McClure Center. I am so pleased. – Louise McClure



But we need your help. There is more important work to be done.

We both had the incredible opportunity to serve in our nation's capital and be part of significant public policy development and implementation. We know how absolutely transformative it will be for **University of Idaho undergraduate students** to spend a semester in Washington, D.C. with an internship on Capitol Hill, a federal agency, the judicial branch, a public policy think tank or a national non-profit organization. Imagine the educational impact of connecting University of Idaho studies in political science, biology or engineering with applied learning experiences in federal policy. **The McClure Center is the sole entity at the University of Idaho that places Vandals in the State House. The McClure Center can make this happen for Vandals in D.C.**

Your support can make this possible. Your support will ensure that Vandals arrive in Washington as early as next year. \$10,000 fully covers a student's living expenses, tuition, professional development and program administration for a full semester.

Of course, the **McClure Center is advancing other major initiatives**, including the new faculty research affiliates program (\$5,000 per affiliate), a public policy communications scholarship named for Tod Neuenschwander, Senator McClure's long-serving chief of staff (\$5,000 per student) and advanced research experiences for doctoral students (\$10,000 per student). We are thrilled to share that the McClure Center's \$3M capital campaign has crossed the \$1.5M threshold; as we head toward the finish line, **it is so important to support cornerstone efforts like these.**

Please know that **your gift – of any size – really will make a difference.** There is so much to accomplish, and **every contribution helps.** Gift categories are listed on the enclosed card, as well as on the University of Idaho's giving page: www.uidaho.edu/giveMcClure

Our best regards,

Jeff Cilek
Chair, McClure Center Advisory Board

Phil Reberger
Past Chair, McClure Center Advisory Board

Donations to the University of Idaho qualify for a 50% tax credit – a reduction in the actual Idaho income tax you owe. If you itemize your taxes, a donation to the University of Idaho allows income tax deductions on both your state and federal returns, plus a 50% Idaho income tax credit (up to \$1,000 credit, if filing jointly).

The CARES Act gives donors three big benefits that we want to share with you

- 1. For your 2020 tax return, you can deduct up to \$300 even if you don't itemize your 2020 income tax return and take the Standard Deduction instead.*
- 2. For tax year 2020 only, you can choose to apply a 100% of adjusted gross income (AGI) limit to cash gifts to public charities. In other years, it has been a 60% limit.*
- 3. In 2020, the annual Required Minimum Distribution from an IRA is now waived. This means that IRA owners ages 72 and up do not have to take funds out of their IRA this year. However, you may still make direct distributions to charity from your IRA as Qualified Charitable Distributions, just as before, if it makes financial sense for you to do so.*