

Jim Lyle Award 2019

Kelly Wood

First generation college student, Kelly Wood '83 graduated from the College of Engineering, and worked as an engineering executive at Boeing Aerospace Company, Oracle Corporation and Hewlett Packard. Wood became a financial advisor after a cancer diagnosis in 2002 founding Wood Financial Group where he serves women, pre-retirees and business owners.

The mission statement of Wood Financial is to dramatically improve the lives of their clients, employees and community. With that in mind the firm contributes 8% of gross revenue to non-profits benefiting young children, single mothers and aspiring educators.

"I can assure you he is a man who cares deeply about making a difference in our community...particularly dedicated to the advancement of young people, including those with special needs," said nominator Scott Curtis, vice president of Treasure Valley YMCA

Wood is heavily involved in service and volunteerism serving on the University of Idaho Alumni Association Board of Directors, Vandal Scholarship Fund, Boise Angel Fund, Treasure Valley YMCA, Interfaith Sanctuary, among others. Kelly, with wife Cathy have created a foundation, Pizzas for Teachers to recognize teachers who are making a difference in low income communities. Wood is also a career mentor for colleagues, college and high school students.

He has served the University of Idaho as our mascot, Joe Vandal at many events, playing Santa Clause for children and sharing Vandal t-shirts at athletics games with the help of his four children.

His nominators give glowing recommendations concerning Wood's character:

"Kelly is a friend of every U of I student and Alumni and he is constantly working to keep the U of I community, alumni and professionals connected," said Troy Swanstrom '87.

"He brings to this effort his unique and irrepressible humor and enthusiasm which plays a huge part in recruiting willing help and leaving those of us who participate with a great sense of joy and pride of knowing him and for being able to count ourselves among his friends," said Jody Hinton.

"Kelly's incorporation of his friends in contributing time, food and dollars is part of bigger initiative to motivate his friends and the larger community to contribute to important needs in the valley," Rev. Bill Roscoe President and CEO of Boise Rescue Mission Ministries.

"Kelly embodies the joy and fighting spirit of Joe Vandal," said Rev. Ronald Wekerle '84. "He is dedicated to improving our community by connecting UI graduates and challenging them to serve the needs of others by sharing their time, talents and resources."

The Jim Lyle Award recognizes the outstanding contributions of any living individual who has shown long-term dedication and service to the University and/or the Alumni Association through volunteerism. Kelly Wood's record of involvement and passionate concern for others demonstrates precisely the purpose of this award.