

MCCLURE CENTER

MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER



University of Idaho

McClure Center for
Public Policy Research

Dear Friends of the McClure Center,

Student engagement is at the core of the McClure Center's work. While sustaining student programs in 2020 was challenging, our commitment to create meaningful applied learning and research experiences for students never wavered.

So far in 2021, we welcomed two JAMM-McClure Legislative Interns and three McClure Legislative Scholars. We are excited to host three Martin-McClure Ambassadors and a Water Policy Intern and launch a history-public policy fellowship for Ph.D. students – all of which take place this summer.

Operating in the state capital allows the McClure Center to offer cutting-edge experiences in the seat of policy construction. Connecting students with applied learning and research experiences in Boise and in the State Capitol building is life changing for our students and honors the legacy of Senator Jim McClure.

Fostering the next generation of Idaho's leaders is a joy and an honor. Sharing their success with you is our great pleasure!

Engaging Students in Public Policy

JAMM-McClure Legislative Interns

In January, our Legislative Interns reported for duty, ready to cover the 2021 First Regular Session of the Idaho Legislature. Alexandra Duggan and Conner Swersey relocated from Moscow to Boise and joined the Idaho Press Corps. Duggan and Swersey have spent this session, like other reporters, balancing the use of Idaho PTV's **Idaho in Session** streaming services with occasional visits to the Idaho State Capitol to interview lawmakers and chronicle policy construction and state politics as they unfold. Their coverage for rural weekly Idaho papers continues to be a tremendous service to Idahoans and an important career builder.

You can read their coverage of this session through **Idaho Public Radio** and in the **Aberdeen Times**, **Bonner County Daily Bee**, **Coeur d'Alene Press**, **Idaho County Free Press**, **Owyhee Avalanche** and **Power County Press**. Thank you to the **University of Idaho School of Journalism and Mass Media** for this longstanding partnership!



Alexandra Duggan is a Treasure Valley native and senior at the University of Idaho, studying psychology with a minor in journalism.



Conner Swersey is a senior at the University of Idaho, studying journalism and political science. He is from Salmon, Idaho.

McClure Legislative Research Scholars

Undergraduate students in the McClure Legislative Research Scholars (a partnership with the [University of Idaho Department of Politics and Philosophy](#)) are guided by Professor Markie McBrayer and tackle research topics of interest to the Idaho Legislature. During the legislative session, the Scholars travel to Boise to present their research to Idaho lawmakers. This year, the Scholars used Zoom to continue the program from Moscow and deliver their presentations remotely.

Students and their reports this year include:



Hailee Gabbard

(junior, political science and English double major)

Idaho Education:
Investment for the Future

Abstract: Idaho spent an average of \$6,747 per pupil in 2018-19, ranking last in the nation in terms

of per-pupil funding. In conjunction with low levels of spending, Idaho ranks 43rd in the nation in terms of education quality. This report examines both the short- and long-term effects of underfunding school systems.



Niklas Kleinworth

(senior, political science and pre-health professional major)

Coping with COVID-19:
An Analysis of Pandemic Healthcare in Idaho

Abstract: Much of the available scholarly literature on COVID-19 focuses on controlling the spread of the virus throughout communities. However, an area largely ignored is how hospital systems in states such as Idaho are managing increased patient load. Most issues particular to the Gem State's patient volume management are related to pre-pandemic concerns within the healthcare system. By combining both short- and long-term solutions, the author recommends key points of interest for the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Elizabeth Marshall

(senior, political science major)

Addressing Alternatives:
Exploring Three Alternatives to Traditional Incarceration in Idaho

Abstract: Three alternatives to traditional incarceration and probation and the impact they have had/could have in the state of Idaho were studied. The alternatives researched are remote monitoring, drug treatment courts and mental health courts. The report discusses how the state of Idaho has implemented these alternatives to varying degrees and levels of success.

Summer 2021 Student Programs

Martin-McClure Ambassadorship

This summer, we will welcome three Martin-McClure Ambassadors (a record number!): Stella Davidson, a junior from Boise; Natalie Mesplay, a junior from Boise and Matty Murphy, a sophomore from Boise.



Stella Davidson

(junior, international studies and public relations major)

"I am proud fifth generation Idahoan from Boise. This is my third year at the University of Idaho, and I am majoring in international studies and public relations with a minor political

science. Following graduation in May 2022, I intend to spend time in Boise preparing for my next steps. I am interested in continuing my education at law school or a graduate studies program focused on public policy. Whichever route I choose, my career will involve advocacy and putting my skills to use to create real change in our communities. While my plans to study abroad in Lyon, France were interrupted by the coronavirus pandemic, I look forward to opportunities to travel extensively in the future!"



Natalie Mesplay

(junior, international studies and history double major)

“I am from Boise, currently double majoring in international studies and history at the University of Idaho. Because of COVID, I shifted my study abroad plans from spring to fall

2021. I look forward to my semester in South Korea. After graduation in May 2022, I would like to work abroad as a teacher, for an international organization or with an NGO.”



Matty Murphy

(sophomore, history and international studies double major)

“I am a sophomore at the University of Idaho, studying history and international studies double major with a minor in French. Following high school in Boise, I

studied in Belgium for year as a Rotary exchange student. Presently, I am looking into a number of opportunities to study Arabic in North Africa or perhaps the Middle East. Among the many activities I am involved with on campus, I host a weekly radio show with student run KUOI 89.3 FM. In my spare time, I like to read magazines like *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic* and *The Economist*.”

The Martin-McClure Ambassadorship was created through a partnership between the **University of Idaho Martin Institute** and the McClure Center. International Studies undergraduates are provided research awards to explore topics at the intersection of international affairs and public policy. This summer research program takes place in Boise and offers students an opportunity to better understand local and international relationships throughout the world.

Water Policy Internship

In 2019, the **Idaho Water Resources Research Institute** (IWWRI) and the McClure Center launched the Water Policy Internship. The Water Policy Internship, a biannual research program, is an

opportunity for University of Idaho undergraduates to explore scientific and public policy research related to water resources management. This summer’s Water Policy Intern will be announced in early April.

McClure in History Program

This summer, the McClure Center, in partnership with the **University of Idaho Department of History**, will launch the McClure in History Program. This program explores public service and inflection points in Idaho, U.S. and world history through a public policy lens. One University of Idaho history Ph.D. student will spend time with Senator McClure’s material in the University of Idaho Library Special Collections. The student will also have a residency in Boise, where they will gain advanced archival research expertise in state, city and Idaho Public Television archives, and be provided with mentorship and networking opportunities. The student will curate the McClure Center Gallery exhibit, which will be displayed in Boise and Moscow, as well as online.

We look forward to updating you on these students in the summer newsletter and on twitter.

Conducting Nonpartisan Research and Informing Public Dialogue and Policy

In 2020, the McClure Center was contracted by the Idaho Association for Education of Young Children (Idaho AEYC) to conduct a statewide needs assessment of early childhood care and education (ECCE) in Idaho. The statewide Needs Assessment was published in February 2021.

[Read the full report>>](#)

We also would like to express our gratitude to our student research assistants. This work could not have been accomplished without their time, effort and skills.



Amanda Douglass
3L law student



Jared Smith
2L law student



Olive Swan
senior, International Studies and French

In The Media

We are pleased to feature recent press on our [In the Media page](#).

Winter highlights include:

- *Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children Releases Needs Assessment for Idaho Preschool Development Grant.* (23 Feb. 2021)

The Idaho Early Childhood Care and Education statewide needs assessment outlines the systems and supports for early education in Idaho.

[Read more>>](#)

- *Governor's Workgroup Finishes up Recommendations to Help Salmon Return to Idaho* (18 Dec. 2020)

Governor Little's Salmon Workgroup finishes 18-month long collaboration process with final report.

[Watch the video>>](#)

Selected JAMM-McClure Articles:

- *Bill Enhancing Medicaid Funds Passes the Idaho House* (1 March 2021).

Alexandra Duggan reports on House Bill 216 as Medicaid funding works through the legislature.

[Read more>>](#)

- *Power or People* (26 Feb. 2021)

Connor Swersey dives deep into the power struggles in the 2021 legislative session.

[Read more>>](#)

- *The Fight for Hemp; How One Idaho Representative is Putting all She's Got into State Ag* (22 Jan. 2021)

Alexandra Duggan explains the long battle to legalize hemp production in Idaho.

[Read more>>](#)

- *Idaho National Guard Activated to Washington, D.C.* (16 Jan. 2021)

Connor Swersey reports on the deployment of Idaho National Guard troops to defend the Nation's Capital.

[Read more>>](#)

To stay current, we encourage you to follow us on

 [@UIMcClure](#)

Vandal Giving Day 2021

April 6-7, 2021 is Vandal Giving Day.

The McClure Center is committed to creating and supporting life-changing undergraduate student programs. These applied learning and research experiences focus on local, state, national and international policy, as well as connections with journalism and communications. Your Vandal Giving Day donation directly funds these student programs.

Your gift not only makes a difference to these students, it makes a significant, lasting impact by preserving Senator McClure's legacy of working across the aisle.

Join us for Vandal Giving Day

2021 on April 6-7. Together, we can make sure Vandals have the support they need to explore, grow and thrive!

To donate, visit the McClure Center's website or contact me at 208-364-4549.

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Warmest wishes,

Katherine Himes, Ph.D.

Director, James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research

Based in Boise, the University of Idaho's James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research conducts nonpartisan public policy research, informs public dialogue and policy and engages students in learning about public policymaking. The Center's approach to addressing society's complex issues sustains Senator McClure's legacy of thoughtfully pursuing bipartisan collaboration and sound public policy.