

MCCLURE CENTER

SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER



University of Idaho

McClure Center for
Public Policy Research

Dear Friends of the McClure Center,

2020 certainly has been filled with challenges – being apart from loved ones, working from home, supporting students in their education, keeping communities whole, living with the impacts of wildfire and unhealthy air quality...the list goes on. We hope that all of you are safe and well.

The McClure Center is successfully navigating uncertainty. We have pivoted in our approach in order to continue to engage students in public policy, conduct nonpartisan research and inform public dialogue and policy, host events and advance our capital campaign. We are delighted to share our latest news with you.

Engaging Students in Public Policy

McClure Legislative Scholars Program

Fall 2020 marks the third year of the McClure Legislative Scholars Program. This program combines faculty experts from the University of Idaho's **Department of Politics and Philosophy** with the McClure Center to engage University of Idaho undergraduate students in applied research that spans two semesters.

The McClure Legislative Scholars Program has expanded from three to four students over the past year.

This year four political science majors, guided by assistant professor **Dr. Markie McBrayer** and the McClure Center, are conducting nonpartisan research for Idaho policymakers. This year's undergraduate researchers are Jacey Bacon, Hailee Gabbard, Niklas Kleinworth and Elizabeth Marshall.

Jacey Bacon, a political science and public relations senior from Lapwai (ID), is researching vulnerable student populations and how school funding correlates with these populations. "I am interested to see how changes in the way we fund our schools could potentially help the kids who need it most."

Hailee Gabbard, a junior majoring in political science and English from Kent (WA), is researching investment in K-12 education, specifically "understanding the disparity of funding between counties and its effect on students for the short- and long-term."



Jacey Bacon, U of I senior



Hailee Gabbard, U of I junior

Niklas Kleinworth, political science and pre-health professions senior from Coeur d'Alene (ID), is exploring community responses to COVID-19. He "seeks to understand which management techniques and policies worked well in mitigating the surge of patients in designated health resource shortage areas."



Niklas Kleinworth, U of I senior

Elizabeth Marshall, a senior in political science from Sandpoint (ID), is researching alternatives to traditional methods of criminal punishment, such as mental health courts. "I am excited to work with the McClure Center this year as I delve deeper into Idaho's criminal justice system and public policy."



Elizabeth Marshall, U of I senior

This year is the first time the Legislative Scholars Program occurs during an election year, an uncertain Legislative Session and a global pandemic. Undeterred by uncertainty, these Scholars will create in-depth, evidence-based reports and presentations that will be delivered virtually to the Idaho Legislature in the spring.

College of Law Student

Allison Olson, University of Idaho College of Law student, continues to work with the McClure Center and **Governor's Office of Species Conservation**. This fall, she transitioned from a legal externship to pro bono work in support of the **Governor's Salmon Workgroup**. Allison is in her second year of law school, and holds a B.A. in environmental studies and Spanish from Boise State University.



Allison Olson, U of I law student

Conducting Nonpartisan Research and Informing Public Dialogue and Policy

Idaho Science & Technology Policy Fellowship (ISTPF) Holds Orientation and Places Fellows

The **ISTPF** is a new, nonpartisan program that connects science, social science and engineering with policy. Hosted through a partnership among Boise State University, Idaho State University and the University of Idaho, the fellowship places Idaho scientists, social scientists and engineers in Idaho state agencies for a year of hands-on service and training. ISTP fellows are addressing challenges facing Idaho such as water, energy, fire, public health and economic development. The McClure Center is thrilled to serve as the lead partner.

The **first cohort of ISTP fellows were named** in July. Dr. Sarah Hendricks is spending her fellowship year in the Governor's Office of Species Conservation. Dr. Veronika Vazhnik, the ISTP CAES fellow, is serving in the Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources.

Fellows participated in a comprehensive science policy orientation the week of August 31. This was an opportunity to learn about science policy, the history of science and technology policy in the U.S., how science policy works in federal government, public policy analysis, the three branches of government in Idaho, science policy communications and more. ISTPF orientation speakers included Governor Brad Little, Idaho State University Executive Vice President and Provost Laura Woodworth-Ney, other current and former state government leaders, science policy experts and professors. Advanced graduate and professional students, postdoctoral fellows and faculty from the three universities, as well as Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES) affiliates, also engaged in orientation activities.

The fellowship program is similar to a program started nearly 50 years ago by the **American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)**, which places scientists and engineers in fellowships to support Congress, executive branch agencies and the judiciary.

The **California Council on Science and Technology** in partnership with the **Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation** and the **Simons Foundation** provided startup funding for the ISTPF. **The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, CAES** via **Idaho National Laboratory** and individual contributions enabled the launch of the first

cohort. Idaho is one of 21 states developing a science policy fellowship program at the state government level. We encourage you to follow the ISTPF on the [ISTPF website](#) and [ISTPF twitter](#).

Upcoming Events

We are pleased to invite you to two upcoming (virtual) events:

- Rangeland Fall Forum, October 1-2, 2020
- College of Law Symposium, October 20 and 27, 2020

Rangeland Fall Forum 2020

Review – Reimagine – Reposition is the theme of the virtual 2020 Rangeland Fall Forum.

The McClure Center is delighted to partner with the University of Idaho Rangeland Center and the [Society for Range Management](#) (SRM) Idaho Chapter to foster reflection, discussion and innovation. This event will bring together researchers, land managers and producers to consider how to conserve and restore

rangelands. This is the fourth consecutive year that the McClure Center has supported the Rangeland Fall Forum.

Register online at the [Rangeland Center's webpage](#), and join us from the comfort of your own computer on October 1 and 2, 2020.

Law Symposium

The Idaho Law Review and the McClure Center for Public Policy Research present: Democracy Evolved: The Future of American Elections. Outstanding panelists from across the United States will speak during the four symposium sessions:

Tuesday, October 20

- 12pm MST: “American Democracy in 2020”
- 4pm MST: “Emerging Technologies and Electoral Innovation”

Tuesday, October 27

- 12pm MST: “Native American Voting Rights”
- 4pm MST: “New Visions of American Democracy”

More information is available on the [symposium website](#).



In The Media

We are pleased to feature recent press on this new section of the [McClure Center's website](#).

Summer highlights include:

Two Inaugural Science Policy Fellows Will Address Important Idaho Issues (9 July 2020) The connection between scientists and policy makers in Idaho will be formalized with the naming of the first two fellows.

[Read more>>](#)

We encourage you to peruse this page and follow us on [twitter](#).

McClure Center Capital Campaign

The McClure Center is in the midst of an ambitious \$3M capital campaign, and has raised over \$1.3M to date. This is the result of contributions from many individuals, corporations and non-profit organizations, as well as grants and contracts.

We want to highlight a new endowment, the creation of which was led by many McClure Center advisory board members. The recently established Tod Neuenschwander Communications Scholarship is designed to provide undergraduate University of Idaho students the unique opportunity to spend spring semester in Boise at the McClure Center, covering

the Idaho legislature's public policy agenda. As the endowment grows, the scholarship will support student applied learning experiences in other locations – for example, in Washington D.C., covering the work of the Idaho Congressional delegation.

This prestigious scholarship honors Tod Neuenschwander, who was a superb communicator, serving Senator James A. McClure for over 30 years in the U.S. Senate, and as a business partner in Washington D.C. through the 1990s. Tod worked in radio, television and evolved into an accomplished professional political strategist. He combined his friendly demeanor, keen intelligence and high integrity to effectively communicate the essence of detailed, technical and politically challenging major public policy issues.

We encourage you to support the McClure Center. Your gift not only makes a difference, it makes a significant, lasting impact by preserving Senator McClure's legacy of working across the aisle. Your gift champions the McClure approach to problem solving and decision making.

To donate, visit the [McClure Center's website](#) or contact me at 208-364-4549.

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.