

MCCLURE CENTER

MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER



University of Idaho

McClure Center for
Public Policy Research

Dear Friends of the McClure Center,

A signature, and much loved, aspect of the McClure Center is providing applied learning and research opportunities to University of Idaho students. Every year we are excited to offer immersive, hands-on experiences to a new cadre of ambitious, energetic minds.

The McClure Center's student programs inspire innovative problem solvers and informed civic leaders with a passion for discovering and utilizing knowledge. Our applied learning and research experiences focus on local, state, national and international policy, as well as connections with journalism, history and communications.

McClure Center student programs range from mentoring high school students through the 4-H Know Your Government Conference to providing undergraduate, graduate and professional students with engagement in public policy research.

April 5-6, 2022 is [Vandal Giving Day](#) and is a distinct opportunity for you to support the [applied learning and research experiences](#) offered through the McClure Center.

McClure Center Student Programs

Future Leaders – 4-H Know Your Government Conference

The McClure Center joined the [4-H Know Your Government \(KYG\) Conference](#) in 2018. Since then, every Presidents' Day Weekend, we have guided the KYG Press Corps.

KYG students range from 8th to 12th graders. During the KYG Conference, participants have opportunities to participate in mock legislature or mock criminal trial, interview for an appointment to the 20-student steering committee charged with planning the next year's conference, act as bill writers and bill sponsors, judge a mock criminal trial or join the reporter corps.



Members of the KYG youth steering committee with Crystal Callahan from the McClure Center.



KYG students meet with Governor Little.



2022 KYG Conference participants.

Undergraduate Students

JAMM-McClure Legislative Internship and Tod Neuenschwander Communications Scholarship

2022 marks the 7th year of the **JAMM-McClure Legislative Internship**, a partnership with the [University of Idaho School of Journalism and Mass Media \(JAMM\)](#). In January, University of Idaho undergraduate students Abigail Grant and Jessica Megis reported for duty in Boise and will complete their internships following conclusion of the 2022 legislative session. Jessica is also the inaugural **Tod Neuenschwander Communications Scholar**.

The Neuenschwander Communications Endowed Scholarship was created in honor and memory of Tod Neuenschwander, who served for many years as a dedicated communications director and chief of staff to U.S. Senator James A. McClure. The endowment supports a University of Idaho undergraduate student who is eager to combine journalism experience with public policy and nonpartisan research in Boise or Washington, D.C. As the Neuenschwander Communications Scholar, Jessica is spending a portion of her time in Boise with Idaho Public Television, reporting on policymaking at the State House.

Abigail Grant: From Boise, Abigail is an identical twin who was born six minutes before her sister Emma. She recently graduated from the University of Idaho with a degree in international studies, as well as two minors (business and Spanish) and is continuing her education this semester with journalism courses. As an international studies undergraduate, she traveled to New York to participate in the Model United Nations (UN) and edited the Martin Journal. Abigail studied abroad in Valencia, Spain, where she experienced new cultures and environments. Unfortunately, her trip was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic; however, she hopes to travel in the near future. She is passionate, motivated, energetic and eager to learn.



Abigail Grant

Jessica Megis: An Idahoan and senior, Jessica grew up in Boise and Coeur d'Alene, where her connection to this state grew. She enjoys photography, kayaking, fishing and making new discoveries in the music industry. After studying journalism during high school, she pursued broadcasting and digital media at the University of Idaho. Covering untold stories, being creative with technical equipment and learning something new every day are just a few of the reasons why multimedia storytelling is important to Jessica. While she is eager to learn more about her industry, Jessica aims to work collaboratively and help produce work that will make a difference.



Jessica Megis

Faculty Partner Highlight

Glenn Mosley: Senior Instructor, Director of Broadcasting. Glenn is the editor and faculty partner for the JAMM-McClure Legislative Internship and Tod Neuenschwander Communications



Glenn Mosely

Scholarship. He guides the workflow of the McClure newsroom.

Glenn filed his first story as a college freshman in 1980. He brings many years of broadcasting and journalism experience to all the courses he instructs in the [University of Idaho School of Journalism and Mass Media](#). The Legislative Internship aligns closely with Glenn's early career as a press secretary and legislative aid to the Massachusetts State Senate. He guides our students on their fast-paced political reporting and helps them grow their technical skills beyond newspapers articles and into digital media.

"I am always so proud of and so impressed by the terrific students we send to the State Capitol to take part in this enormously challenging and ultimately gratifying program. It is no easy task, diving into the complex policy issues that are debated every year, but our students are up to the task, and their news stories add much to the public dialogue and understanding on these issues."

McClure Legislative Research Scholars

The **McClure Legislative Research Scholars** program began in 2018, responding to a request from Idaho policymakers in search of in-depth, evidence-based research to address complex policy questions. The McClure Center partners with the [University of Idaho Department of Politics and Philosophy](#) to engage students in two semesters of research and writing. Earlier this month, the Scholars delivered their nonpartisan research findings to lawmakers.

Jake Espeland (junior, political science): *A Review of Idaho Public Defense System*. This brief includes systematic issues and areas for improvement, opportunities for data reporting, reduction in attorney workloads and implementation of standards and metrics.



Jake Espeland

Katelyn Hettinga (junior, political science and agricultural economics): *Initiatives & Referendums*. This report details the history of Idaho's adoption of initiatives and referendums and the ensuing changes to the Idaho Constitution and State Code.



Katelyn Hettinga

Sara Murphy (senior, chemical engineering): *Water Policy in Idaho*. This brief outlines challenges related to Idaho water resources. The focus is agencies and how state institutions, including the legislative, executive and judicial branches, set policy and play a role in the creation of water policy in Idaho.



Sara Murphy

Hart Parr Dal Pra (senior, political science): *Interpersonal Violence and Idaho's Statutes*. This report focuses on current state statutes, including domestic violence statutes and malicious harassment statutes, as well as exploration of protections that exist in statutes and practice.



Hart Parr Dal Pra



McClure Legislative Research Scholars delivering presentations to Idaho legislators, March 2022.

Professional Students

College of Law

As part of our continued growth in student programs, the McClure Center welcomed two College of Law students this spring semester. The partnership with the [University of Idaho College of Law](#) connects law students with policymakers and supports development of professional skills in unique ways.

Kelsea Donahue: Kelsea is a third-year law student, spending spring with the McClure Center as part of the college's **Semester in Practice** program. Her portfolio focuses on the [Idaho Climate-Economy Impacts Assessment](#), a nonpartisan, science-based resource that connects the latest scientific



Kelsea Donahue

research on Idaho's changing climate with economic risks and opportunities that impact businesses, residents and local and state economies. During law school, Kelsea has held internships and externships with the Idaho Cattle Association and Idaho Public Lands Council, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and William Young and Associates. Kelsea earned a B.A. in environmental studies and a B.A. in English at Boise State University.

Taylor Loyden: Taylor is a third-year law student, participating in an **externship** with the McClure Center. She is authoring an [Idaho at a Glance](#) policy brief. In law school, Taylor has been a National Moot Court team member and part of the McNichols Appellate Advocacy Competition. She holds a B.A. in environmental business development from the University of North Florida.



Taylor Loyden

Students in Action

Videos

Learn more about the 4-H Know Your Government (KYG) Conference

[Watch this video>>](#)

KYG 2022 Press Corps production

[Watch the video>>](#)

Learn more about the JAMM-McClure Legislative Interns

[Watch this video>>](#)

Selected Articles Published in Idaho Newspapers, authored by the 2022 JAMM-McClure Legislative Intern and Tod Neuenschwander Communications Scholar

Bill on Privacy of Lethal Injection Supplies Stagnates
(11 March 2022)

Abigail Grant follows the progress of supply disclosures.

[Read more>>](#)

House Bills Changing Voter Rules for Security
(9 March 2022)

Jessica Megis reports on proposed voting rule changes.

[Read more>>](#)

Bills Target Vaccination Privacy, Mask Mandates
(26 Feb. 2022)

Jessica Megis updates on the legislation at the Capitol in February.

[Read more>>](#)

Public School Budget Pitch (21 Jan. 2022)

Abigail Grant reports on the K-12 budget presentations during Education Week at the Capitol.

[Read more>>](#)

Support McClure Center Student Programs on Vandal Giving Day

We are proud to share with you a slice of what our students experience when they work with the McClure Center. Watch this short [video](#).

You can support students as they engage in these life-changing opportunities by contributing to the McClure Center on Vandal Giving Day.



[Support the McClure Center on Vandal Giving Day](#)

Your donation will:

- **Provide scholarships**, including a new, semester-long program for Vandals to have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to live in Washington, D.C., experience public policy and earn college credit.
- **Sustain internships, externships and applied learning experiences**, such as the JAMM-McClure Legislative Internship, Tod Neuenschwander Communications Scholarship and Martin McClure Ambassadorship.
- **Foster career development** by ensuring the McClure Legislative Research Scholars, McClure in History Fellows and professional students engage with experts related to their research.

Your support will help future leaders develop the skills needed to navigate the complex challenges facing communities, Idaho, the nation and the world.

Go Vandals!



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 and Louise McClure's legacy of thoughtfully pursuing bipartisan collaboration and sound public policy.

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