Dear Friends of the McClure Center,

The James A. & Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research is Idaho’s most trusted public policy research center. The McClure Center provides reliable information on tough policy issues, supports decision makers and fosters public dialogue. Our mission is to conduct nonpartisan research, inform public dialogue and policy and engage students in learning about public policymaking with a focus on critical issues facing the state, region, nation and world.

The 2020 Idaho legislative session has been a busy time for the McClure Center. In January, three University of Idaho undergraduate students arrived in Boise. Every day they venture across State Street to report on the happenings taking place at the Idaho State Capitol. Their articles are published in rural newspapers across the state, informing Idahoans in remote areas about the decisions that will affect their daily lives. In addition, all three interns author content for Idaho Public Radio. And, Logan is supporting the Idaho Public Television Idaho Reports team. McClure Center interns are smart and dedicated and their work could not be more important.

Logan Finney is a senior studying broadcasting and digital media. He is also a video producer for the University of Idaho student newspaper, The Argonaut. Madison Hardy is a senior, majoring in broadcast journalism and digital media. She specializes in news writing and video production. Riley Haun is a junior, studying journalism and political science. She also serves as copy editor for the University’s student-run magazine, Blot.

Engaging Students in Public Policy

JAMM-McClure Legislative Interns

In January, we welcomed three Journalism and Mass Media (JAMM)-McClure Legislative Interns to Boise: Logan Finney, Madison Hardy and Riley Haun.

Under the advisorship of University of Idaho JAMM professor Glenn Mosley, JAMM-McClure Legislative interns have been covering, as members of the press, the Idaho legislative session by attending House and Senate proceedings, committee meetings, hearings and special events. As part of their internship, Logan, Madison and Riley interact with lawmakers, the press and McClure Center staff to better understand the process of state-level policy construction. Their writing is published in rural newspapers across the state, informing Idahoans in remote areas about the decisions that will affect their daily lives. In addition, all three interns author content for Idaho Public Radio. And, Logan is supporting the Idaho Public Television Idaho Reports team. McClure Center interns are smart and dedicated and their work could not be more important.

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Left to right: Riley Haun, Logan Finney, Madison Hardy on the steps of the Idaho State Capitol
McClure Legislative Research Scholars

The three McClure Legislative Research Scholars, Madeleine Curtright, Megan Smith and Mary Alice Taylor have been hard at work in Moscow. They have been conducting nonpartisan research on timely issues being discussed by the legislature, engaging with McClure Center staff and authoring reports on their work for legislative chairs and vice chairs.

Under the advisorship of University of Idaho political science assistant professor Markie McBrayer, Madeleine Curtright, a political science major and senior, is researching liquor licensing in Idaho. Megan Smith, a junior majoring in political science, is studying broadband. Mary Alice Taylor is a senior double majoring in economics and political science; her research focuses on rural hospitals.

Directed Research

We are hosting a seventh University of Idaho undergraduate student this spring semester. Senior and journalism major, Chris Smith, is conducting research on collaborative governance processes, which will be shared with the Governor’s Salmon Workgroup.

4H/Know Your Government Conference

The 32nd 4H/Know Your Government Conference was held in Boise on President’s Day Weekend. Over 171 youth from 8th to 11th grade traveled to the capital city to learn how two of the three branches of government operate. They spent two and half days learning by doing, participating in mock criminal trials, creating mock legislation and acting as the press corps for the conference. For the third year, the McClure Center was once again honored to be part of the conference, serving on the student-led steering committee, helping to shape policy-related curricula and guiding the student press team in reporting and using social media.
Conducting Nonpartisan Research and Informing Public Dialogue and Policy

Governor’s Salmon Workgroup Update

Our work to co-facilitate Governor Little’s Salmon and Steelhead Workgroup continues. In January, the Workgroup met in Boise, with an evening public comment period in the Idaho State Capitol and a full day meeting at the University of Idaho Water Center. Last week, a short meeting was held in Nampa. The next meeting is scheduled for April 28-29 in Lewiston.

Learn more>>

Early Childhood Education Federal Award

In early 2020, Idaho was awarded a Preschool Development Grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/U.S. Department of Education. This $3.3M federal grant, a first for Idaho, focuses on researching the availability and accessibility of early childhood education in Idaho, developing a strategic plan to improve services statewide and increasing the collaboration and coordination of service providers across Idaho. The McClure Center is excited to be part of this important work. Some of our activities will include holding townhall meetings and focus groups to determine community childcare needs, conducting literature reviews, coordinating with care providers, convening stakeholder meetings and creating a strategic plan to help guide Idaho’s early childhood education policies in the future.

Learn more>>

Idaho Science & Technology Policy Fellowship

The Idaho Science & Technology Policy Fellowship (ISTPF) is a new, nonpartisan program that connects science and engineering with policy. Hosted by Idaho’s three research universities, Boise State University, Idaho State University and the University of Idaho, the fellowship places Idaho scientists, social scientists and engineers in state agencies to develop and implement solutions to address challenges facing Idaho in areas such as water, energy, fire, public health and economic development. We are thrilled to serve as the lead for the University of Idaho. The ISTPF anticipates announcing the first call for fellows later this month.
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.

Upcoming Events

We are delighted to invite you to several upcoming events:

- **Law Symposium:** The Idaho Law Review and the McClure Center for Public Policy Research present: *Democracy Evolved: The Future of American Elections*. about this day-long event, which takes place in Boise on April 3 and features outstanding panelists from across the United States.

- **Policy Pub:** The McClure Center will host two events this spring, with dates and locations soon to be announced.

- **Vandal Voices:** McClure Center director, Dr. Katherine Himes, will speak about her work in science diplomacy on June 4, 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Amsterdam Bar in Boise. More information will be available here this spring.

Learn more>>

New Exhibit Opens in McClure Gallery

We invite you to view the new McClure Gallery exhibit, which features U.S. Senator Jim McClure and his leadership on energy and energy policy. During his time as chair of the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator McClure drove an electric car and advocated for diversified energy sources such as solar and nuclear, ideas that are still considered progressive today.

The exhibit, in the GAR Building, includes photos and documents that highlight McClure’s active involvement in energy matters. The GAR Building is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Consider dropping in to see Idaho history in person. All photos and documents are courtesy of the University of Idaho Special Collections.

In the Media

We are pleased to feature recent press on this new section of the McClure Center’s website>>

Winter highlights include:

- **Supporting State Science and Technology Policy Fellows (31 Jan. 2020):** Today, the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) announced $448,550 in funding to support science and technology policy fellowships in Idaho, Missouri and Virginia to connect scientists with policymakers and support the use of scientific evidence in decision making.

Learn more>>

- **Governor’s Salmon Work Group to Address Salmon Recovery in Idaho (21 Jan. 2020):** Governor Brad Little created a salmon work group to come up with ideas on how to help the salmon return to Idaho; the group met in Boise this weekend.

Learn more>>

We encourage you to peruse this page and follow us on @UIMcClure

Thank you for your continued support of the McClure Center for Public Policy Research. Your financial contribution ensures citizens and decision makers have access to accurate, nonpartisan, evidence based research on challenges facing Idaho, the nation and the world. The McClure Center is in the midst of an ambitious $3 million capital campaign, and has raised $1.2M to date. 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

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Learn more>>