



Letter from the

President

Office of the President, president@uidaho.edu

February 17, 2023

Dear Vandals,

The University of Idaho proudly awarded Kevin Satterlee an Honorary Doctor of Education at commencement in December. Satterlee was named president of Idaho State University in 2018 and has close ties to all three of the state's largest universities as an alumnus of Boise State and the U of I (College of Law).

Shortly after he started at ISU, Satterlee convened the President's Leadership Council to increase collaboration and coordination between the state's colleges, universities and the Board of Education. His dedication to Idaho students and commitment to collaboration is helping elevate higher ed throughout the state. We asked him a few questions about the council, higher ed in Idaho and collaboration:

Green: Higher education seems to be in your blood. From where does your passion for higher education in Idaho stem?

Satterlee: I have experienced first-hand what an education can do for a person. I want that experience for all of our

students in Idaho. I truly believe that an education can change lives. I know that it did for me.

Green: As a newly minted president, I was surprised to hear that the state's presidents rarely communicated. That changed when you chartered and chaired the Presidents Leadership Council. What was your vision for the PLC in 2019?

Satterlee: My vision was to help create and foster an educational ecosystem where all of Idaho's higher education system was working towards one collective goal with one collective mission — a group where we could all use our resources to help better student's lives through education without competition and jockeying for position.

Green: All by itself, realizing that vision would be a huge accomplishment, but how has the PLC evolved since then?

Satterlee: Idaho's higher education leadership have always met regularly to collaborate on matters that affect all of our institutions, but in 2019, we began meeting monthly with a new philosophy, mission and approach to work together to improve access to education for all Idahoans. Our focus has evolved, but our purpose is the same — we are collaborating to ensure that every student has the opportunity to receive the best possible education. The PLC allows us to work together to remove barriers and to streamline access to all our institutions.

Green: What are the biggest wins for the PLC so far?

Satterlee: One of the biggest wins in my opinion is that the presidents consider each other more than colleagues, we consider ourselves as friends who care about each other, our institutions and our collective success. As a collective, the PLC has worked on realizing efficiencies for the system of

higher education in Idaho with a consolidated purchasing system, and consolidations of our Risk Management and Internal Audit operations. We have also collaborated on system-wide initiatives like joint line item requests that would further the entire system and benefit all of our institutions, not just one institution. An example of this success was the joint nuclear proposal that was funded last year. This proposal was created by both Idaho State and the University of Idaho and provides for new faculty to further our partnership with the Idaho National Laboratory.

Green: I often hear that collaboration in higher education is a contact sport. Are there still areas where our colleges and universities can be more collaborative where all boats rise?

Satterlee: Yes. But the scarcity of resources from the State feeds the competitive side of our system, rather than the collaborative side. We need to embrace and reward the cooperative endeavors, not the competitive ones.

Green: I have personally seen how you often put the higher education system above your individual needs. How did you develop a penchant for collaboration?

Satterlee: I don't think it came naturally. The natural tendency is toward competition. It's like self preservation as an instinct has to be overcome to realize that we can do more together. But the larger goal of safety in the community can be met better for our students by doing so together, rather than in competition.

Green: There are times when the presidents all agree on a path, but run into trouble executing. What's the key to working with schools that have been, and sometimes still can be, bitter rivals?

Satterlee: Establishing trust. That has to be the number one

goal. If we lean into old inter-institutional rivalries, we will never get to the level of trust needed to build the kind of collaborative mission-centric programming we need to move forward. And to earn trust, you have to extend trust. The worst way to establish trust is to say to someone, "Trust me." You have to act in a manner that builds trust.

Green: What is one thing Vandals should know about Bengals?

Satterlee: That we are the same. That we have the same dreams, goals and hopes. And that, if we work together, we can achieve those together.

Green: I am truly grateful for your leadership and the collaborative work we are doing together across the state. Thank you for putting in the hard work to turn your vision of smart collaboration into reality.

Go Vandals!

C. Scott Green
President



Snapshots

U of I students help increase winery

efficiency

Three computer science students from the U of I built and installed components to automate Laurel Grove Wine Farm in Virginia. Their work allows the vintner to use artificial intelligence and big data to monitor the grape growing process. [Learn more.](#)

Burley company pledges \$500,000 for CAFE

Redox Bio-Nutrients, based in Burley, contributed \$500,000 to the Idaho Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (CAFE). Construction is underway at the facility in Minidoka County. CAFE will be the nation's largest research dairy and help address constraints on water usage and environmental quality while supporting the dairy, livestock, cropland and food processing industries. [Learn more.](#)

Christine finds calling, opens Boise restaurant

U of I graduate Danielle Christine overcame numerous obstacles to establish Haute Foods and Apericena restaurant in Boise. A semester abroad in Nicaragua inspired her fresh, healthy menu and her passion for service helped earn her the U of I Alumni Association's Brave and Bold Young Alumni Award. [Learn more.](#)

Did
you?
know

Last Saturday's basketball doubleheader drew the largest crowd in ICCU Arena history. A record 3,310 fans watched the Idaho women defeat Eastern Washington before the Vandal men dropped a hard-fought game to the Eagles.



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