

MCCLURE CENTER

# AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER



University of Idaho

McClure Center for  
Public Policy Research

*Dear Friends of the McClure Center,*

We are incredibly excited to share news about the [Idaho Science & Technology Policy Fellowship \(ISTPF\)](#)!

The ISTPF has grown significantly since its start in 2020 — we welcome our fifth cohort of fellows this month! This program sustains Senator and Louise McClure's legacy of supporting policy that is well-researched, evidence-based and rooted in science.

We invite you to [join ISTPF's science policy training online offerings August 26-30](#). And we invite you to **welcome the fellows during the Welcome Luncheon on August 27**.

## About the ISTPF

The ISTPF is a nonpartisan program that connects science with policy by fostering a network of **science, social science and engineering leaders** who understand government and policymaking and are prepared to develop and **implement solutions to address pressing challenges** facing Idaho.

**ISTP fellows support decision makers in Idaho**, serving in yearlong assignments in executive branch agencies and the Legislative Services Office. Fellows hold advanced technical degrees in science, social science or engineering.

***The ISTPF keeps Idaho talent in Idaho and brings talent back to the state.***

The ISTPF is a partnership among Boise State University, Idaho State University and the University of Idaho and the McClure Center serves as the lead. [The ISTPF is guided by an advisory board](#) comprised of government, business and university leaders.

Idaho is one of only seven states with a science and technology policy fellowship program.

## 2024-2025 Fellow Welcome Lunch

Please join us in welcoming the  
2024-2025 Idaho Science &  
Technology Policy Fellows

August 27, 2024  
Capitol Annex

12:00-1:30 p.m.



RSVP to  
[istpf@uidaho.edu](mailto:istpf@uidaho.edu)  
by Aug. 19, 2024

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## Impact of the ISTPF

In 2020, the ISTPF welcomed its first cohort of two fellows. To date, **the program has supported 9 fellows**. The fellowship length has expanded from one to two years and **placement opportunities have expanded to executive and legislative branches**.

**"Fellows bring valuable insight, expertise, and creative thinking which impact the work we do for Idahoans."  
--Idaho Department of Fish and Game**

ISTP fellows have been hosted by:

- [Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources](#)
- [Governor's Office of Species Conservation](#)
- [Idaho Department of Environmental Quality](#)
- [Idaho Department of Fish and Game](#)
- [Idaho Department of Labor](#)
- [Idaho STEM Action Center](#)
- [Idaho Workforce Development Council](#)
- [Legislative Services Office](#)

Since 2020, the **ISTPF has provided free science policy trainings** to over 150 graduate and professional students, postdoctoral fellows, staff, faculty and administrators at Idaho's three research universities, Idaho National Laboratory (INL) staff, Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES) affiliates and those interested from governments and businesses.

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## Welcome the 5th Cohort of ISTP Fellows

In August, two new fellows begin their fellowship year, joining Kimberly Gardner, Ph.D. in the largest fellowship cohort to date. The ISTPF is pleased to welcome Cailin Casey, Ph.D. and Ellen Upton, Ph.D.



**Cailin Casey,  
Ph.D.**

Cailin Casey is an interdisciplinary researcher who specializes in bio-inspired mechanical engineering. She is excited to address the complex issues facing Idahoans as a fellow in the Legislative Services

Office. Casey earned her doctorate in mechanical engineering at Montana State University, where she was a U.S. National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow, and holds bachelor's degrees in biology and Spanish from Gettysburg College.



**Ellen Upton,  
Ph.D.**

Ellen Upton specializes in immunology within the field of biomedical science research. She is spending her fellowship year in the Legislative Services Office. Upton earned a doctorate in immunology

from the University of Iowa and a bachelor's in biochemistry and molecular biology from Grove City College in Pennsylvania.

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## Meet the 4th Cohort of ISTP Fellows

The fourth cohort is finishing their fellowship year and excited to share summaries of their experiences in state agencies.



**Sarah Maher, Ph.D.**

Sarah Maher is an interdisciplinary researcher with expertise in magnetic studies and data analysis. Maher holds a doctorate in Earth sciences from Scripps Institution of Oceanography, a master's in geology

and geophysics from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and a bachelor's in physics and astronomy from the University of Victoria.

*"As an Idaho Science and Technology Policy Fellow, I work with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game on tough policy topics like greater sage-grouse and fisheries management. My background is in geophysics and the earth sciences, and I use my skills in data analysis and critical thinking to address highly technical ecological and policy questions. I enjoy collaborating with the Bureau of Land Management and Idaho state departments to develop policy and strengthen working relationships.*

*I grew up in Boise, and it's great to give something back to Idaho by improving wildlife conservation and habitat management across the state. Throughout this fellowship I've learned how meaningful it is for scientists and researchers to provide their expertise in state and federal government and the importance of incorporating both analytical data and public feedback into actionable policy. I hope to continue this work in Idaho as my fellowship nears its completion."*



**Kimberly Gardner, Ph.D.**

Kimberly Gardner specializes in the field of science and technology studies, exploring questions related to ethical use of data and emerging technologies. Gardner earned a doctorate in public policy and administration from

Boise State University, a master's in public policy and administration from Baylor University and a bachelor's in political science from Boise State University.

*"I grew up here in Idaho and, after attaining my master's at Baylor University in Texas, I returned home to earn my Ph.D. in public policy and administration from Boise State University, focusing on the many uses of data for positive social impacts. Now, as an Idaho Science and Technology Policy Fellow with dual roles at the Workforce Development Council and Idaho Department of Labor, I'm excited to expand my knowledge and experience, exploring how higher education degrees and programs help*

*individuals in Idaho fully participate in Idaho's economy.*

*My work includes enhancing Idaho's LAUNCH program by helping to ensure the right data is collected, analyzed, and presented in ways relevant to different audiences impacted by the program. With my background in ethics of data and emerging technologies, I am also active in exploring the ethical implications of AI in the workforce and its potential impacts on higher education. Beyond work, I cherish spending quality time in the mountains with my family."*

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## Thanks to Generous Financial Support

The ISTPF has been supported financially by grants, contracts and public and private contributions. Nearly \$1.7M has been raised to date. **A big thank you to:**

- California Council on Science and Technology (CCST)
- Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES)
- Chan Zuckerberg Initiative
- Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
- Idaho National Laboratory on behalf of Battelle Energy Alliance
- Idaho STEM Action Center
- Idaho's public research universities: Boise State University, Idaho State University and University of Idaho
- Micron Foundation
- POWER Engineers, Inc.
- Simons Foundation
- Individual contributions

### Stay Engaged

Follow the ISTPF on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/ISTPF>

Learn more on the website and meet the alumni fellows: [www.uidaho.edu/istpf](http://www.uidaho.edu/istpf)

Warmest wishes,



*Katherine Himes, Ph.D.*

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



For more information on ways to give to the McClure Center click [here](#) or scan the QR code.

Based in Boise, the [University of Idaho's James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research](#) conducts evidence-based research, informs public dialogue and policy, facilitates collaborations and engages students in learning about public policy making. 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.