

# THE VANDAL PROMISE

## COVID-19 Relief for Students and Families

The Vandal Promise provides supplementary scholarship funds for academically qualified undergraduate students with unmet financial need. The program is designed to retain current students and bring in new students who face financial hardship resulting from the coronavirus outbreak.

### NAVIGATING AND SUCCEEDING IN THE NEW REALITY

The coronavirus outbreak is more than a global health crisis. It set off a series of actions that, while necessary to save lives, is having significant financial consequences around the world. The impact on the University of Idaho and our students is very real, but so is our resilience and ability to weather any storm together with our many partners. At the heart of our resilience is a 130-year-old commitment to students that never waivers, and never will.

### RESPONDING TO EXPANDED NEED FOR SUPPORT

The Vandal Promise Scholarship Program was created to make college more affordable for incoming freshmen and to arm them with skills to succeed in the classroom and beyond. In the first year of the program, more than twenty new students joined the Vandal Family in the fall and returned for the spring semester — a 100% retention rate and evidence that robust financial aid awards increase enrollment.

Now, many students' future is uncertain. Every day, students reach out to their university community asking for funds just to get by. We're able to provide small grants, but do not have enough resources to help pay next semester's tuition. It's no surprise these students are at greater risk of dropping out.

Based on the success of Vandal Promise in year one, we believe students will get back to learning this fall if offered adequate scholarship support. That's why we set an ambitious goal to raise \$1 million to provide relief to students and families suffering the financial fallout of the pandemic. \$1 million in current-use scholarships will support 200 or more returning and new students at U of I.

### SHAPING A STRONGER UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITIES

Investments in the Vandal Promise have long-term benefits by creating a virtuous cycle. New and returning students, confident they have the means to attend U of I, increase our enrollment and retention rates. Increased enrollment numbers fortify the university's financial foundation. A strong foundation means we can continue graduating workforce-ready citizens who strengthen their employers and communities. And so it goes.

### MAXIMIZING PHILANTHROPIC INVESTMENT

All gifts to the Vandal Promise Scholarship Program are counted toward the university's next multi-year fundraising campaign. Further, a major gift to the program will inspire other generous philanthropists to support students and families during this unprecedented time — effectively growing the impact of the donor's investment in Idaho's students and Idaho's future.

Thank you for considering a gift to the Vandal Promise Scholarship Program.

**“The Vandal Promise is the university's top fundraising priority, and a powerful lever for attracting and retaining students. The COVID-19 crisis puts an enormous financial strain on many families who need more help for their children to start, continue and complete their education at U of I.”**

- President C. Scott Green '84

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