

BAUCUS

I N S T I T U T E

U N I V E R S I T Y O F M O N T A N A



Dear Friends,

When I started this Institute at the Blewett School of Law at the University of Montana three years ago, I knew we were doing something special. I've often stated that public service is the most noble human endeavor. Here at the Baucus Institute, with our programs reaching from Montana to DC to China, we are inspiring public service around the world every day.

It's been a busy spring and summer, beginning with the ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 19 celebrating the new Department of Public Administration & Policy (DPAP). UM now has the only law school in the country that houses an accredited Masters of Public Administration program. This places the Baucus Institute on the cutting edge for training the next generation of students interested in law, policy, and public service.

The second cohort of Baucus Leaders went to Washington DC, with eleven students participating this year thanks to the Washington Foundation's endowed gift of \$1 million and the support of other generous donors. These students served in senate and departmental offices, and they came back on fire for public service.

Our Summer Study Abroad program took 23 students to China for four weeks, where they were immersed in classes with Chinese law students and also visited local cultural and historic sites. For many, it was their first time outside of the US. This experience prepared them for the critical role China will play in our bilateral relationship for the foreseeable future.

We also sold out the first Public Service Academy, with 100 Montanans from around the state advancing their skills through training from experts in public policy, administration, and law. Their work will ripple across the state.

I'm so proud of all the work we're doing and hope you'll stay in touch,

Max



Four Life-Changing Weeks Studying Abroad in China

Our summer Study Abroad program in China was a great success, with 23 law students spending four weeks with Chinese students in comparative law courses. Seventeen students from the University of Montana participated, and six from the University of South Dakota. They spent the first two weeks in Chongqing at the Southwest University of Political Science and Law (SWUPL), whose law school is ranked the third most prestigious in China. In addition to taking classes, they toured the Dazu Rock Carvings, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and ate the famously spicy Chongqing hot pot. On the final day of classes, American and Chinese students participated in a “naming ceremony” where everyone received a new name created by students from the other country. These ranged from funny to serious, but all were thoughtful and left the recipients smiling.

Students flew to Beijing for the next two weeks, where they continued their classes and visited the city’s vast array of cultural and historic offerings. Afternoon excursions included visits to The Imperial Palace and the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, Tiananmen Square, and the 798 Art Zone. Many also traveled to various points along the Great Wall during the weekend or took cooking classes at The Hutong.



“A month in China has me feeling more awestruck than ever by this amazing world we live in,” said UM law student Afton Jessop. “I’m so grateful to have learned about the culture and history, but mostly feel overwhelmed by the perspective and friendships I’ve gained. How lucky am I?”

Thanks to a recent gift, the Institute will be able to provide scholarships to fifteen students studying in China for the next five years. We’re thrilled to continue in the footsteps of Senator Baucus’ international diplomacy.



Eleven Baucus Leaders Intern in Washington DC



After a rigorous selection process, eleven University of Montana students were selected as the 2019 cohort of Baucus Leaders. These students spent this summer interning for various legislative, committee, and agency offices in Washington DC.

This year's Baucus Leaders included undergraduate students from a variety of majors, as well as graduate students. In addition to their internships, students met with a variety of professionals and leaders in DC who have connections to the Institute, including Jeff Forbes, Stephanie Shriock, Michael Evans, Marty Gold, and Liz Fowler. They

also visited iconic monuments, museums, and attended a Nationals baseball game.

In an introductory meeting with Senator Baucus, one student said he'd never been east of Sidney, Montana. "But now I get to work on criminal justice reform with a senator in Washington!" It's clear that the Baucus Leaders were all exposed to a new world of politics, policy-making, and public service.

Here are the details for all eleven Baucus Leaders:

- Ethan Holmes from Helena, Montana, is an undergraduate studying Russian and political science. He interned for Sen. Steve Daines.
- Daniel Parsons from Florence, Montana, is a junior studying economics and political science. He interned with Sen. Jon Tester.
- Garrett Musso from Powell, Wyoming, is a junior studying parks, recreation and tourism management and resource conservation. He interned with Rep. Greg Gianforte.
- Lee Adler from Missoula, Montana, is a sophomore studying political science. He interned with Sen. Steve Daines.
- Forrest Graves from Gypsum, Colorado, is a first-year law student. He interned with the Senate Finance Committee.
- Becca Warwick from Salinas, California, is a political science and history major. She interned for Sen. Kristen Gillibrand.
- Kayla Irish from Lewistown, Montana, is a junior studying history and Chinese. She interned for Sen. Charles Schumer.
- Michelle Scotti from Jackson Hole, Wyoming, is a student in the MPA program. She interned with the Dept. of Transportation.
- Erika Byrne from Billings, Montana, is a sophomore majoring in political science. She interned for Sen. Chuck Grassley.
- Augustine Menke from Elk River, Minnesota, is a second-year law student. She interned for the Dept. of Transportation.
- Rebecca Power of Bonner, Montana, is a student in the MPA program. She interned with the Dept. of Transportation.

"During these times of increased partisanship, it is even more important for our youth to become interested in public service," said Senator Baucus. "They are our future."

One student's parents wrote in to let us and our supporters know that each week their daughter "communicates inspiring stories to us about our nation's capital, the tasks that she has been assigned, and the relationships that she has forged. We want to thank you again for providing this amazing experience and the opportunity for young adults to do meaningful work to benefit society."





Institute's Department Receives Prestigious National Accreditation

The Baucus Institute now houses the country's only nationally accredited master's degree in public administration that resides within a law school. The MPA program is also the only accredited one in the state of Montana.

This new accreditation is from the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) which is the global standard in public service education. Dr. Sara Rinfret, chair of DPAP and MPA director, led the lengthy and rigorous process to become accredited, including extensive reporting and a three-day site visit by leading experts in the field of public administration. The program's application was so well-written that NASPAA is using it as an example for other universities.

"We are fortunate to have dedicated faculty and staff to continue to find new approaches to advance the quality and rigor of our MPA program through the accreditation process," said Rinfret.

Established in 1976, UM's MPA program offers students the ability to complete their degree online or in person, providing flexibility for public and nonprofit professionals to advance their careers. The curriculum allows students to customize their degree by specializing in nonprofit administration or seek a joint degree in law or public health. Many students elect to add a certificate in public policy, nonprofit administration, or natural resource conflict resolution.

"We are thrilled to be the only law school in America with a nationally accredited MPA program," said Paul Kirgis, dean of UM's School of Law. "The MPA complements our strong emphasis on public service in our law school, while creating new opportunities for collaborations among faculty and joint programming for students."

The University's MPA program has enjoyed enrollment growth since 2017, with more than 100 students. It is one of the fastest-growing programs on campus.

"Our enrollment increase is because of our department's dedication to student success, flexibility in course delivery and cutting-edge curriculum for public service professionals," Rinfret said.



The Inaugural Public Service Training Academy was a Great Success

The Baucus Institute's first-ever Public Service Training Academy was sold out with a 30+ person waiting list a month before it even began. Taking place on August 15 and 16, the Academy's theme this year was "Advance Your Career: Providing Solutions for Public Sector Problems." Judging by the 100 working professionals in the public service and nonprofit sectors of Montana who came, there is a hunger for professional development and networking. The Institute's Academy provided plenty of both.

"The couple days here are going to be wonderful," said Senator Baucus in his introduction. "We'll be figuring out new solutions to make sure that the people in our state know they're getting the best service possible from all of us who care about public service."

The participants took sessions covering topics such as "Nonprofits as a Catalyst for a More Civil Society in Uncivil Times," "Fundamentals of Public Sector Negotiations," and "Diversity in the Public Sector: Where Do We Go From Here?"

Leaders of these sessions included Liz Moore, Executive Director of the Nonprofit Association, Dayna Swanson, former State Director for Senator Jon Tester, and Dr. Beverly Edmond, former Interim Provost for the University of Montana and public policy expert. Tara Rice, Director of the Montana Department of Commerce, gave the keynote address.

There is already a priority list for next year's event, and the Baucus Institute will continue leading the way for public service education in Montana and beyond.



Partnerships with generous donors enable our programs to grow and inspire more students to public service.

Will you join us?

We welcome your contribution and offer many ways to make your tax-deductible donation through the University of Montana Foundation:

- Online at www.baucusinstitute.org
- Mail your check to: UM Foundation, PO Box 7159, Missoula, MT 59807
- Through a donation of stock, gift annuities, or an estate gift

For more information on giving, contact Erin Keenan, Blewett School of Law Development Director, at 406.243.4319 or erin.keenan@supportum.org.

To learn more or share ideas about our programs, contact Sam Panarella, Director of the Baucus Institute, at 406.243.6623 or samuel.panarella@umontana.edu.



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*Of all the things I've done since leaving
public service, there's nothing that
compares with this.*

Max

Save the Date
Baucus Lecture
October 10, 2019
7:30 p.m.
Dennison Theatre
Missoula, MT