

## SUMMARY – IACI 44th Annual Public Policy Conference

If you didn't attend the 2018 Annual Public Policy Conference in Sun Valley, you definitely missed out. This year, the conference was packed full of important information regarding some of Idaho's, and IACI's, most important policy initiatives. In addition, this year IACI hosted its largest contingent of Idaho legislators and state elected officials.

IACI was honored once again to host **Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter** and to thank him for his long-standing commitment to Idaho and its citizens. IACI's Chairman, Tom Harris of Western States Equipment Co., presented the Governor with the IACI's *Prosperity Star Award* to a Governor who led Idaho through one of the toughest economic recessions in history without raising taxes or shorting important government services. "Idaho now leads the nation in a variety of economic measures because of his stewardship," said Harris. The Governor spoke to the group at the Sunday evening reception, expressing his support for the mission of IACI and its members. His leadership will be missed at the end of his final term. IACI and its members are appreciative of all of the hard work and accomplishments with this Governor over the last 12 years.



Gov. C.L. 'Butch' Otter



Lt. Gov. Brad Little

The next day, attendees were also honored to hear from **Lt. Governor and Republican Gubernatorial nominee, Brad Little**. Little is a former IACI Chairman and Harwood Award recipient. Little spoke of his desire to build upon successes of the past and ensure that Idaho's economic future stays bright. He discussed the future work that is needed and how Idaho should not rest on its laurels of previous achievements.

On Monday morning, participants were introduced to the day with a survey conducted by **Dean Corey Cook, Dr. Justin Vaughn and Dr. Jeff Lyons** of **Boise State University**. They handed out iPads on which participants anonymously filled out answers to a policy issues questionnaire that helps IACI and its members hone in on important policy priorities. The very enlightening [survey results](#) were presented to the entire group to conclude the conference on Tuesday.

**Trent Clark** of Bayer Corporation (*formerly Monsanto*) and current Chair of the *Idaho Workforce Development Council* provided a [very informative presentation](#) regarding the new direction of the reformed Council. Lead by business leaders from around Idaho, including many IACI members, the new Council was formed as a result of a joint priority of the Governor, Legislature and IACI in 2017-2018. The Council is well underway with upgrading its portals of information for employers to find ways to fill their unmet needs for qualified and quality employees, and for students and prospective employees to learn more about education options as well as job and career opportunities available. Coordinating the various resources throughout the state has been a top priority for the new Council, and IACI is looking forward to their continuing work in the coming year.

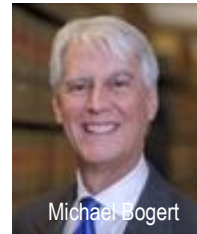


Trent Clark



Attendees also heard from **Director of the Idaho Department of Commerce Bobbi-Jo Meuleman**. She focused on the Department's efforts to work with both existing as well as new out-of-state companies in building their facilities to lead to greater opportunities for Idaho's citizens. She was particularly excited about the success the Department has experienced in working in more rural parts of Idaho where there are greater unmet needs for economic diversity. [Click here for her presentation.](#)

**Michael Bogert**, a partner with *Parsons Behle & Latimer* law firm, gave the group [an in-depth review](#) of new opportunities and risks regarding application of the *Endangered Species Act* (ESA) as it relates to industrial and commercial development. The new proposal is available for consideration, and comments are being drafted by engaged stakeholders. ESA consultations are one of the most difficult and time-consuming aspects of development approvals. In order to ensure compliance with the intent of the Act, as well as facilitate a better process, members need to engage in this rulemaking process.



**Idaho Hospital Association President/CEO Brian Whitlock** presented the myths and realities of *Medicaid expansion* and the importance of community hospitals throughout the state. He expressed the need to cover a mostly working population who are currently without private insurance or government assistance for their health care. The costs are being borne by taxpayers unnecessarily through increased private insurance costs and unnecessary state and local taxes. [Click here for this presentation.](#)

The conference also included the awarding of the 2018 *Environmental Excellence Award*, which was presented to **Micron Technology Inc.**, for a 33% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, elimination of 25,000 pounds of waste from its discharge water, recycling five million gallons of water annually for reuse onsite, and reduction of 15 million kilowatt hours of energy annually. The award was accepted by **Ann Dickey**, Micron's Environmental Compliance Manager.



**Trent Clark** was the surprised and humbled recipient of the 2018 *Pat K. Harwood Award*, for his more than 25 years of tireless public policy, community affairs, and government relations service on behalf of the business community through Monsanto and IACI.

This year's agenda was jam-packed with useful information, coupled with a golf tournament, sporting clays tournament, horse-drawn wagon ride and plenty of time for interaction between business and governmental leadership of Idaho. The 2018 conference was highly successful and, if you missed it, you really missed out. We again extend our sincere appreciation to all our great sponsors! Mark your calendar now for next year's conference in **Coeur d'Alene – June 9-11, 2019!**