UI Raises More than $440,000 During Inaugural Vandal Giving Day

MOSCOW — University of Idaho alumni and donors gifted an impressive $441,313 to help student scholarships and programs during the university's inaugural Vandal Giving Day on Sept. 13-14.

The 36-hour online giving challenge garnered support from 1,344 gifts, including several matching gifts from alumni and corporate donors. The campaign was pushed over the top by a last-minute gift of $55,500 from an anonymous donor, boosting the giving total to well over $400,000.

A total of 15 colleges, programs and departments at UI participated in Vandal Giving Day. Donors were able to select from the participating programs and donate to scholarships or to support specific causes, such as the $20,300 raised to help the Vandal Marching Band repair and replace its sousaphones. Other funds included UI's general scholarship fund, Vandal Scholarship Fund for student-athletes and the UI Library.

"I can't tell you how much these gifts mean to student musicians of the Vandal Marching Band at the University of Idaho," said Spencer Martin, band director. "We want to give all of our alumni and donors our sincerest thanks for all of their support."

About 24 individual and corporate donors provided matching funds towards college and unit goals. The UI Foundation itself donated $50,000 in matching funds to the general scholarship fund. Other major donors that provided matching money included Wells Fargo, Avista, Vandal Scholarship Fund National Board and Past Presidents, Library Advisory Board, alumni Steve and Claudia Johnson and Vandal Solutions.

"We are so grateful for the generosity of our alumni, employees and donors," said Mary Kay McFadden, vice president for Advancement. "Everyone showed impressive support for our student scholarships and programs. It is truly a reflection of what it means to be a Vandal. "

UI employees also got in on the action, donating thousands of dollars and participating in Vandal Giving Day activities like an employee dunk tank. Dunk tank volunteers raised more than $500 in cash for UI scholarships.

Following the success of the inaugural Vandal Giving Day, the University of Idaho plans to make the online giving day an annual event.