"Dollars for Scholars" Campaign Aids Scholarships

The Caller Who Contacted Me Was a Delight. He Was a Great Ambassador for the University and I Wish I Could Have Given More.

— Vera Fink

Alumni and friends of Boise State can expect to receive a call between now and the end of April asking for their support. Every year the university conducts telephone campaigns during the spring and fall semesters; the spring "Dollars for Scholars" phone campaign will raise much needed scholarship money for Boise State students.

There has never been a greater need for student scholarships at Boise State. Too many highly qualified and deserving students are choosing to forego or delay a college education simply because they can't afford it. While the demand for public higher education is at an all-time high, the resources to meet that demand are shrinking - fast. State funding for the university continues to fall during the most intractable economic downturn since the Great Depression, making donor support more important every year.

If you receive a call, please visit with the caller and help a Boise State student by making a gift to the Boise State Scholarship Fund. Gifts also may be made online at giving.universityadvancement.org.

ENDOWED FACULTY AN INVESTMENT IN TEACHING

By Kathleen Tuck

For more than 15 years, Greg Kaltenecker has studied bird migration patterns along the Boise Ridge, a significant stopover for a variety of raptors and songbirds. Grants and other "soft" money kept the program running but didn't allow for major growth.

So when Winston Moore recently invested in the Idaho Bird Observatory by creating an endowed chair, Kaltenecker was ecstatic.

"I was really honored that he saw fit to do that and that he really believed in me personally and in the good the program is doing," says Kaltenecker, the chair's inaugural recipient.

Moore's gift, combined with Boise State's continued investment in the program, has allowed the Idaho Bird Observatory to attract even more attention to Kaltenecker's activities and both the university and the program.

Creating an endowed faculty position is perhaps the single most important step a donor can take to assist Boise State in its goal of becoming a metropolitan research university of distinction. Not only do faculty endowments honor prominent faculty members by providing much-needed resources, they also support their work and make the academic department, and the university as a whole, stronger.

Marsha and Kirk Smith endowed a professorship in the College of Business and Economics (COBE) because they felt it would foster academic excellence among the faculty.

"Whether given to an existing distinguished faculty member or used as a recruiting tool, endowed positions ensure that COBE has the most talented teachers and scholars and continues to establish itself as one of the premiere business schools in our region," Kirk says.

Jeri Bigbee, the Jody DeMeyer Endowed Chair in the Department of Nursing, said the prestige of her position, as well as its emphasis on public health, was definitely an attraction. In fact, she turned down other offers in favor of accepting the first endowed chair in nursing in the state of Idaho.

"It's incredibly important that Boise State continue to create endowed chairs and professorships, because it really does attract people nationally and internationally who can strengthen and build the institution," she says. "And it brings prestige to the university as a whole."

Thus far, the Destination Distinction campaign has helped create 16 new endowed faculty positions, including chairs, professorships and lectureships. By helping to build the university's reputation and attracting additional resources and talented individuals to its faculty and student body, these positions are extending the impact of Boise State's endowed professors across campus and beyond.

For more information about how you can establish an endowed faculty position, call University Advancement at (208) 426-3276.