

# MAX BAUCUS INSTITUTE



*Max Baucus and Mel Hanes with several of our 2023 cohort of Baucus Leaders, Baucus Climate Scholars, & Baucus Leaders MT*

## DEAR FRIENDS,

Thank you for your continued interest in and support for the Max Baucus Institute. Without you, none of the incredible student-focused programs highlighted in this newsletter would be possible. The animating and motivating core of the Baucus Institute is our shared passion for the profound and positive impact on our world from motivated students engaging in public service. Through this work, Montana, the country, and our planet become more equitable, just, and democratic places. I am thrilled to share with you some of the incredible work that is being done by our outstanding Baucus Institute scholars and leaders in Montana, across the country, and, yes, even in Paris, France!

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and invite your questions and feedback. Please reach out anytime.

*Sam*

Sam Panarella  
Executive Director, Max S. Baucus Institute

# Expanding Our Programs to All of Montana

After several successful years of programming at the University of Montana, the Baucus Institute is expanding our mission to serve the entire state of Montana. This decision is rooted in Max's decades of service as a U.S. Senator representing the whole state of Montana.

For Summer of 2023, the Baucus Institute opened our Baucus Leaders DC and Baucus Climate Scholars programs to students attending any college or university in Montana.

We also expanded our Stockman Bank Speakers Series, hosting Ambassador Rahm Emanuel at the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman in addition to our Missoula events with Jeff Immelt and author Mark T. Johnson.

As we continue to expand our capacity, we look forward to serving more students and audiences throughout our home state.



## Baucus Climate Scholars Program Continues to Grow

Now in its third year, our Baucus Climate Scholars program continues expand in exciting ways. We've grown from four opportunities in our first year to eleven this summer. This year also marks our first international partnership, with a placement at the International Energy Agency in Paris, France.

The Climate Scholars program is rooted in Senator Max Baucus' long and distinguished bipartisan legislative record in environmental and natural resources matters, including his sponsorship of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments and his leadership in protecting wild lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

Baucus Climate Scholars gain experience with organizations working at the forefront of environmental issues. Since the program's founding in 2021, our Scholars have performed research, crafted reports and presentations, played key roles in projects, and helped develop curriculum and public engagement materials.

Here are our Baucus Climate Scholars and host organizations for Summer 2023:



**Baylin Craythorn**  
The Nature Conservancy  
University of Montana



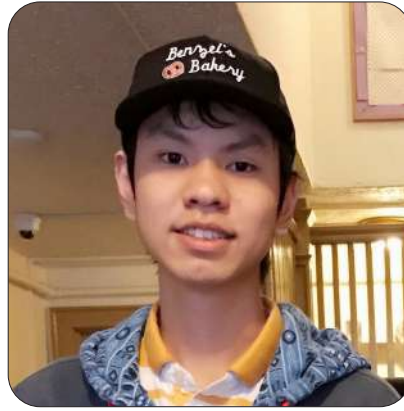
**Cecelia Eddie**  
LanzaTech  
Montana State University



**Noah Gipson**  
International Energy Agency  
University of Montana



**Tyler Halligan**  
**Ernst & Young**  
University of Montana



**Xiaosi Lai**  
**U.S. Forest Service**  
Montana State University



**Mesa McKee**  
**The Climate Initiative**  
Montana State University



**Maiya Roelen**  
**Climate Reality Project**  
University of Montana



**Marika Schultz**  
**Wanxiang**  
Montana State University



**Abby Sherwood**  
**The Nature Conservancy**  
University of Montana



**Caitlyn Wade**  
**Paulson Institute**  
University of Montana



**Luca Welle**  
**Wanxiang**  
University of Montana

# Our Sixth Year of Baucus Leaders DC

Our sixth cohort of Baucus Leaders is heading to Washington, D.C. for the experience of a lifetime working in U.S. Senators' offices. The Summer 2023 students and host organizations are:



**Landen Blades**  
**Senator Crapo**  
Montana State University



**Norris Blossom**  
**Senator Schumer**  
Montana State University



**Madelyn Bouchard**  
**Senator Tester**  
University of Montana



**Adrian Cook**  
**Senator Klobuchar**  
University of Montana



**Liam Edwards**  
**Senator Grassley**  
University of Montana



**Jackson Eve**  
**Senator Daines**  
University of Montana



**Sarah Kiser**  
**Senator Brown**  
University of Montana



**Hannah Merrick**  
**Senator Gillibrand**  
University of Montana



**Noah Vanderkar**  
**Senator King**  
University of Montana

# Baucus Leaders Montana: Serving Locally

Modeled after our successful D.C. program, Baucus Leaders Montana gain public service experience closer to home. This program is in its fourth year and is also growing! The Summer 2023 students and hosts are:



**Breanna Belgarde**  
MT Budget & Policy Center  
University of Montana



**Rai Combs**  
City of Missoula  
University of Montana



**Laura Crist**  
MT League of Cities & Towns  
University of Montana



**Ashlynn Everett**  
Friends of the Children  
University of Montana



**MacKenzie Forbis**  
Missoula County  
University of Montana



**Kate Johnson**  
MT Budget & Policy Center  
University of Montana



**Audrey Miller-Greene**  
MT Nonprofit Association  
University of Montana



**Seanna Pieper-Jordan**  
MT World Affairs Council  
University of Montana



**Lindsay Story**  
Friends of the Children  
University of Montana

# Investing in Native American Students' Success



The Baucus Institute works to break down barriers to student success, especially students from our under-recognized communities. A key aspect is supporting Native American students' success in our programs and at the University of Montana's Alexander Blewett III School of Law, where the Institute was founded.

This spring, we sponsored the first Indian Law Preview Day and the first "Night With NALSA" (Native American Indian Law Student Association). Both of these events were part of the annual Indian Law Week. For the Indian

Law Preview Day, 27 Indigenous students (many pictured above) from all over Montana traveled to UM to learn about becoming a practicing attorney, connecting with the resources, opportunities, and networks to succeed in this journey. The Night With NALSA (pictured below) was an awards banquet recognizing current graduating NALSA students and community members. Professor Kekek Stark received the Ray Cross Award, given to an attorney for their active commitment to protecting tribal sovereignty. Judge Rodney Souza received the Judge Boldt Award, presented to a judge who exemplifies a commitment to treaty rights. Professor Michelle Bryan received the NALSA Teaching Award. The evening also included remarks from Denise Juneau and Maylinn Smith, as well as a silent auction benefitting NALSA.

Both of these events were excellent, and the Baucus Institute was proud to sponsor them. Big kudos to NALSA students for all their work, especially the graduating President, Holly Old Crow.

We're excited to see what NALSA accomplishes next, including hosting the National NALSA Moot Court Competition in 2024!



## Mark Johnson at Missoula Art Museum

Our Stockman Bank Speakers Series event this spring featured Mark T. Johnson, author of *The Middle Kingdom Under the Big Sky*, at the Missoula Art Museum in April. Mark spoke of how a cryptic epitaph in Butte, Montana led to his transnational, intergenerational project of translating a cache of historic documents written in traditional Chinese characters. With plenty of photos to illustrate and his engaging storytelling, Mark brought the history of these immigrants in Montana to life, often in their own words.



# Public Service is Personal

Every spring, Max Baucus and Melodee Hanes have lunch with the new cohort of Baucus Leaders and Climate Scholars preparing for their summer internships. Students get to ask Max and Mel questions about living and working in Washington D.C. and China, Max's career as a U.S. Senator and Ambassador, and getting to know other students.



In spring of 2022, as University of Montana students introduced themselves, one surprised us: “Senator Baucus, I don’t know if you’ll remember me,” said Laura Crist, “but we met when I was a child. You helped out my family.”

Laura went on to explain that when she was seven, her little brother had a tumor appear on his cheek. Insurance only covered a part of the medical procedures that would treat her brother’s cancer and save his life. Her father, a small-business owner in Bozeman, was crushed by the resulting medical bills.

Even as a child, Laura recognized the financial strain on her father. He began making phone calls, starting with the mayor, then county officials, and even the Montana attorney general. As a lifelong Republican, her father finally called U.S. Senator Max Baucus—a Democrat.

“After he called Max, the medical bills disappeared,” said Laura. “It was truly life-changing. I’ll never forget it. My dad was impressed by Max’s attention to detail and how he treated our family as if it was the only thing he had going on.” Laura still recalls Max’s continued contact with her family, including visits and holiday cards. “It’s really a big part of who Max is—always reaching out to people.”

Decades later, Laura is pursuing a career in public service, inspired by Max’s service to her family. She enrolled at UM’s Department of Public Administration and Policy, which is affiliated with the Baucus Institute, to obtain her Masters in Public Administration. In addition to her studies, Laura is a 2023 Baucus Leader MT, placed with the Montana League of Cities & Towns.

Sitting in that room, it was clear that even though Max has retired from public office, his legacy of service continues to inspire. We are thrilled to be creating opportunities for our students to put that inspiration into action. After these lunches together, dozens of students go out into the world to get hands-on public service experiences as Baucus Leaders and Climate Scholars.

“I’ve always wanted to help people,” said Laura, who has added a Masters in Public Health to her studies, serves on UM’s student politics action committee, and volunteers with non-partisan Kids Education Yes in Great Falls. “It feels empowering. I don’t feel afraid with the division in the news. I want to roll up my sleeves and get things done with more of an open mind.”

Max could not have said it better himself.



*The generosity of our donors helps us break down barriers for the next generation of public servants.*

*Will you join us?*

We welcome your contribution and offer many ways to make your tax-deductible donation:

- Online at [www.baucusinstitute.org](http://www.baucusinstitute.org)
- Mail your check to: Max Baucus Institute | 32 Campus Drive | Missoula, MT 59812
- Through a donation of stock, gift annuities, or an estate gift



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Spring 2023 Newsletter



*Public service is the most noble human endeavor.*

*Max*