



Idaho Association of
Commerce & Industry
The Voice of Business in Idaho®



2015 Annual Conference Summary!

Wednesday, June 17, 2015

The just-completed 41st Annual IACI Conference was a huge success, and we thank all of you who participated! If you didn't attend the 2015 IACI Conference at the Sun Valley Inn, here is what you missed:

Beautiful weather. The days were warm and sunny, and the evenings were perfect. Sun Valley really lived up to its name! Both the golfers and sporting clays participants enjoyed the excellent weather for two great outdoor tournaments.

The New Lodge. Sun Valley opened its newly remodeled Lodge the day after we arrived. A number of our attendees took advantage of the tours and experiences of the significantly upgraded Lodge! We will look forward to using the Lodge as well as the Inn the next time our conference is on the site.

The Governor of Idaho. Governor Otter spoke at the opening night reception to the largest IACI Conference crowd in history! He brought good news of the state budget revenues and congratulated the legislators and business leaders for their efforts that contributed to the successes of the past session. He spoke of his appreciation for the ongoing work of IACI members in the policy-making process.



A.B. Stoddard

News from DC. The Hill newspaper associate editor and columnist, A.B. Stoddard, provided the opening keynote. She brought great perspectives on the state of the US Congress, the widely diverse Presidential candidate field and how the rulings of the Supreme Court could shape the political landscape. She was candid, engaging and enjoyable, and she made note of the especially warm Idaho welcome she received.

The Legislative Crystal Ball. Two discussion panels moderated by Lt. Governor and former IACI Chairman Brad Little were highly informative and illustrated the divergent opinions on what can and should be the focus of the 2016 Idaho Legislature. Topics and related questions provided by IACI membership included

health care, education, taxes, water and transportation. Both panels were bi-partisan and were comprised of leaders of the House and Senate. We offer our appreciation to our legislative leadership for their participation on these valuable discussion panels.

Strategic Guidance. Joel Searby, Executive Vice President of Strategic Guidance Systems, delivered a [great presentation](#) regarding voting trends in Idaho, and shared his insights on what is on the horizon for the 2016 Presidential election. He offered sound advice for elected attendees as well as IACI members in continuing to work together to shape Idaho's future.

Awards Honorees. It was a special moment for the Midas Gold Corp. team as they were awarded the *IACI Environmental Excellence Award* for investing tremendous time, resources and expertise into restoring areas of pre-existing environmental disturbance, improving local water quality, and enhancing fish habitat in the Stibnite-Yellow Pine area of central Idaho.



Kyle Fend & Jeff Root
Midas Gold

It was also memorable to be a part of the standing ovation given to this year's *Pat K. Harwood Award* recipient, Jim Schmit of CenturyLink, as he was honored for his many important contributions to the business community in Idaho. His acceptance remarks were both humble, and gracious to many IACI colleagues over the years.



Mark Dunn, Jim Schmit
& Alex LaBeau

Overall, this was the most well-attended conference in IACI history by both members and legislators. We appreciate all those who were able to take the time to be a part of a very successful event, and extend a sincere thank-you to our [gift bag](#) and conference sponsors, without whom this event would not be possible!

We look forward to seeing you all in **Coeur d'Alene on June 5-7, 2016** for the next IACI Conference!

Many Thanks to our Generous Conference Sponsors!



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