



WOOD RIVER  
WOMEN'S  
FOUNDATION

**5th Annual**  
**STATE OF**  
**THE VALLEY**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**FORUM**

**February 6, 2024**  
**Wood River High School**  
**The DEN**



# WELCOME

## Welcome to the State of the Valley Community Forum presented by the Wood River Women's Foundation

We are once again honored to host our moderator and panelists for this year's forum.

*Educate Us -  
Discussing challenges for education  
in the Wood River Valley.*

**W**e are expecting to highlight issues the educational system needs to address through programming, tutoring, early education, and alternative programs. We will be looking at what is being provided currently and what additional support is needed.

We encourage you to ask questions to enliven the discussion and deepen the conversation in this forum.

Wood River Women's Foundation inspires and educates women to become leaders in philanthropy. We encourage and create significant positive change in our community through pooled grant-making.

***From 2005-2023 Total Pooled Grant Funds & Designated Fund Grants accumulated to \$4,043,042.***

We Are Proud To Support Continued Improvements In Blaine County.

# MEET THE MODERATOR



## WENDY JAQUET

Former Idaho State Representative

**W**endy Jaquet is a former member of the Idaho House of Representatives where she served several terms as Minority Leader, leading the Democratic caucus in the Idaho House (1994-2012). She served on the Joint Financial and Appropriations, Health and Welfare, the Energy, Environment and Technology Committees, among others.

Prior to serving in the Idaho Legislature, Jaquet was the Executive Director of the Sun Valley-Ketchum Chamber of Commerce during a period of membership and financial success. Jaquet serves as Vice Chair of the Idaho Board of Health and Welfare (2013-currently), Co-Chaired the Governor's State Complete Count Committee (census 2019-2020), and currently serves on the Andrus Policy Center Board. Wendy has organized several city to city tours including to McCall and Driggs/Victor, Idaho. She is a retired adjunct professor at Boise State University where she taught and took graduate classes as well as serving on the Faculty Senate. Wendy is a University of Washington Political Science major with a graduate degree in Public Administration. Married to Jim Jaquet, they have two sons and five grandchildren.

# MEET THE PANELISTS



**AARON BRONSON**

The Space

Executive Director

**A**aron Bronson is the new Executive Director at The Space Idaho, an education resource hub dedicated to helping middle and high school age students navigate their education with confidence.

Aaron brings a wealth of experience in education, program development, facilitation, and leadership. Aaron previously worked with Blaine County School District where she has served as the Director of Special Programs. She has also worked in the Wood River Valley as a Special Education Teacher, School Principal, and other district level administrative positions. In addition to working within the Blaine County School District, Aaron worked nine years in Oregon as a special education teacher and teacher leader in the Springfield School District. While in Oregon, Aaron joined a team of educators to found a new high school, Academy of Arts and Academics in Springfield, OR, a magnet school focused on enhancing 21st Century skills through art integration.

Aaron holds a B.S. from Utah State University in the area of Special Education, a M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from Lesley University, and Administrative Licensure from the University of Oregon.

As a native of the Valley where she lived until graduating from Wood River High School, Aaron appreciates that she can raise her family within the community she values and has close connections with. Aaron and her husband have four children who keep them busy when they are not working.

# MEET THE PANELISTS



**JIM FOUDY**

Blaine County Schools  
Superintendent

**J**im Foudy joins the Blaine County School District with 25 years of service to Idaho Schools. Most recently, Mr. Foudy served the McCall-Donnelly School District as superintendent from 2015-2021. Prior to that, he served as an elementary school principal and is a former elementary school teacher.

Mr. Foudy is a strong proponent of community and family engagement, with an emphasis on consensus-building and strategic initiatives. Mr. Foudy is a member of the American Association of School Administrators, the Idaho Association of School Administrators and the Idaho Superintendent Network. He is a Rotarian and recently served on the St. Luke's Community Board for St. Luke's McCall.

# MEET THE PANELISTS



## KATHRYN IVERS

Wood River Early Learning Collaborative  
Project Director

**K**athryn Ivers has a broad and unique background combining community psychology, human rights advocacy, nonprofit leadership, and a passion for improving the lives of children and their families. In her early career, Kathryn conducted a needs assessment for street youth in Portland, Oregon, worked for an NGO promoting human rights in Geneva, Switzerland, and persuaded various organizations to provide basic services for street children in Brazil. After law school, she served on a team to reform the child welfare system of NYC, provided social services to families in crisis at Brooklyn Legal Services, and helped start mediation programs for children at risk.

Since moving to the WRV full-time in 2006, she has been engaged in nonprofit work and promoting opportunities for children and families in various education-related settings. Kathryn holds a BA in psychology and international affairs from Lewis & Clark College and an MA in international affairs and JD from Columbia University.

# MEET THE PANELISTS



## LAURA ROSE LEWIS

Far + Wise

Executive Director

**L**aura Rose-Lewis is a nonprofit executive who brings extensive private and nonprofit sector experience to her work. After graduating from the University of Oregon, Laura moved to the Bay Area, where she worked in sales for private sector firms before transitioning to the nonprofit sector.

Impassioned by nonprofit sector work, she earned a master's degree in public administration from Lewis & Clark College, in Oregon, with program emphasis on nonprofit management. She subsequently founded a nonprofit consulting firm in Portland and worked with a range of nonprofit organizations on organizational development, strategic planning, and growth. Laura then received her Executive Coaching Certification from the Hudson Institute in Santa Barbara to focus on her work with executive leaders of nonprofits.

Laura has consulted for nonprofit organizations for over two decades, supporting leaders to build organizational capacity through strategic planning, development, communications, and public relations. Laura has demonstrated expertise in organizational capacity building through the development of strategic growth, partnership engagement, organizational strategy, management, and operations.

In addition to her leadership work as an Executive Coach, Consultant, and Executive Director, Laura has served on the boards of social service and educational nonprofit organizations, including Catlin Gabel School in Portland, Oregon, Cascade Aids Project, The Children's Cancer Association, Temple Beth Israel Social Action Committee, and The Advocates in Hailey, Idaho.

When not at work, Laura is passionate about spending time with her husband outdoors and spending time with their three adult children and their significant others in NY or Sun Valley and any other place they can find time together.

# THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT UNDERWRITERS!

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