

Alice E. Hennessey

Born and brought up in Massachusetts, Alice grew to love the west as a student at the University of Colorado, Boulder, where she graduated cum laude in history and general studies. After a year's graduate work at the Harvard-Radcliffe Program in Business Administration, she came—sight unseen—to Boise in 1958 to become secretary to the CEO of the fledgling Boise Cascade Corporation. She became an officer of the company in 1971 and retired in 1996 as senior vice president with responsibility for human resources and corporate relations.

After retiring, Hennessey spent eight years as president of the Idaho Community Foundation, a statewide non-profit she had helped found, which is dedicated to enriching life's quality throughout Idaho. She then served as a planned giving consultant to the St. Luke's Health Foundation.

She was a board member at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center for 25 years, and was one of the original board members when the St. Luke's Health System was formed, serving on that board for six years. Currently she is a member of the St. Luke's Treasure Valley Community Board.

She is a founding member of the Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation, serves on the Advisory Board of the Wassmuth Center for Human Rights, and has previously served on the boards of the Idaho Humanities Council, Boise Art Museum, Junior Achievement, the advisory board of Ballet Idaho, has served on the Idaho Judicial Council, and the Legislative Compensation Commission. She has been chairman of the Boise Area Chamber of Commerce and campaign chairman and chairman of the board for United Way of Ada County.

Although not a Vandal, Alice has taken special interest in the University of Idaho, serving on the advisory board of the university's College of Business and Economics, as a member of President Hoover's Special Advisory Council, the Treasure Valley Advisory Board, the University of Idaho Foundation and as advisor to the James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research. Alice and her husband Tom created the Hennessey Family Centennial Endowment to benefit Vandal athletics. They were awarded the University of Idaho President's Medallion in 2008.

Hennessey has received numerous awards and honors for her work including the Ralph J. Comstock Light of Philanthropy Award from the St. Luke's Health Foundation, the Idaho Hospital Association Trustee of the Year Award, and the Idaho Statesman Distinguished Citizen award.