



# The Olene S. Walker Institute of Politics & Public Service

Fall 2016 Volume 3

## Continuing Governor Walker’s Passion for Politics and Education



Olene Walker & Carol McNamara at a Real Women Run Training Session, Fall 2014

In November 2015, the Walker Institute of Politics & Public Service lost its founder, Olene Walker. It was a sad and difficult day for us at the Walker Institute. Olene Walker’s energetic and thoughtful guidance is a great loss to us, but I like to think she would be happy with what we are up to at the Walker Institute now that we are four years in.

Former Gov. Olene S. Walker envisioned the Walker Institute at Weber State University as a place where students and community members could gather to learn about, discuss and debate ideas important to the future of Utah. Education was the issue closest to her heart, but policy in general — political, economic, even budgetary issues — inspired her too. Olene Walker was a policy wonk. She knew that the components of leadership were knowledge, creative vision and a lot of hard work.

Gov. Walker also knew that WSU needed a center where students could find life changing internship opportunities that would take them out into the world of politics and government, into local cities, down to the Utah State Capitol and to Washington DC and teach them about the importance of public service and leadership.

On the internship front, the Walker Institute is particularly thrilled with the creation of a new endowment to support Washington DC internship opportunities through a generous donation by America First Credit Union. This partnership will make it possible for ALL qualified Weber State University students to take internship opportunities in the nation’s capital.

And we have a full agenda of exciting events the for fall 2016 semester aimed at promoting voter education and active citizenship! For Constitution day, the Walker Institute team, partnered with WSU and community partners, hosted a free Rock the Vote Concert with the band, Bob Moses, at the Ogden Amphitheater to encourage WSU students and community members to register to vote!

The public can also join Weber State for the Utah First Congressional District Debate on Oct. 17 between Representative Rob Bishop (R) and Peter Clemens (D). Please plan to attend this ticketed event.

--Carol McNamara, Director  
carolmcnamara@weber.edu



Joshua Wineholt / The Signpost

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## Walker Institute Headline Events Fall 2016

Oct. 17 - Utah 1st

### Congressional District Debate

WSU, Val A. Browning Center, Austad Auditorium  
6–7:00 p.m. (Must be seated by 5:45 p.m.)

Contact Carla Price for free tickets at  
cprice@weber.edu or call 801-626-6252



Nov. 11 - Haven J. Barlow Civic Leadership Forum



Harvard professor Danielle Allen will discuss her book, *Our Declaration: A Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Defense of Equality*. 11:30 a.m., Wildcat Theater

# Lynne Ward — Looking out for Olene Walker’s Legacy

The Walker Institute Board of Directors guides the Walker Institute in fulfilling Governor Walker’s vision: to get people involved in political life and public policy. Lynne Ward serves as chair of the Board of Directors and continues to be an annual donor to the Walker Institute. Her ongoing support of the Walker Institute reflects her devotion to Gov. Walker.

“The top quality I remember about Olene was her intellect. And the intellect combined with a very personable style — she would just sock it to them because she was so smart.” Ward worked alongside Governor Walker, first as her Budget Director in the Lieutenant Governor’s office, and then, when she became governor, as her Deputy Chief of Staff. Ward is now the executive director of the Utah Educational Savings Plan, or UESP — managing educational investment accounts whose assets total over \$9 billion — tax-advantaged savings vehicles designed to encourage individuals to save for the future costs of higher education. Passion for education was only one of many things that Gov. Walker shared with her good friend Lynne Ward. Gov. Walker’s personal work ethic and personal pursuit of education left their mark on Ward.



Source: Lynne Ward

“She would take care of her family’s needs and when the kids were all asleep, that’s when she would work on her Ph.D. dissertation — in the middle of the night.”

Gov. Walker is so far the only Utah governor to have earned a doctoral degree.

Ward explained that the secret to Gov Walker’s success as a leader was in great part her willingness to listen to everyone. “When people were exiting her office after meeting with her when she was governor and lieutenant governor, you didn’t know if they had gotten what they wanted, because they were smiling. They all felt as though she’d heard them either way, no matter what the answer was that she gave them.” Ward believes the Walker Institute will continue to be an important focal point for the citizens and students of Weber and Davis counties, and will continue to engage students and community members in discussions about public policy issues.

“(Gov. Walker) felt an affinity for Weber State University; she felt the university would take good care of the program, which it has,” Ward reflected.

For more information about the Utah Educational Savings Plan, visit [uesp.org](http://uesp.org).

--Ezekiel Lee,  
Walker Institute  
Communications Intern

## From internship to employment

Viviana Felix is a Weber State University success story and a role model for Walker Institute interns. She became Ogden City’s first Chief Diversity Officer in January 2016. A few weeks ago, we sat down with Viviana to learn about her path to this important position. Viviana graduated from WSU spring 2015 with a degree in sociology and a minor in legal studies. At Weber, she studied leadership and served two internships through the Walker Institute of Politics & Public Service; one with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute in Washington DC, where she worked for New Mexico Sen. Tom Udall, and another with Utah State Sen. Luz Escamilla.

The internship skills and contacts Viviana acquired in Washington DC, along with the knowledge and love she gained for local and state government, prepared her for her current position in local government. In Washington DC, Viviana learned how our government works and the importance of diversity

within it, by attending legislative debriefings, working on Spanish translation projects and coordinating events promoting Latinos in government. She served her second internship during the 2015 Utah Legislative Session. Senator Escamilla expresses her admiration for Viviana, describing her as “her best intern ever!”

“The Utah internship gave me more insight into state government. Local government is what rules our world,” Viviana commented.

Viviana capitalizes on her past intern experiences and the connections she made at WSU to boost her success. Viviana’s advice to WSU students is that they should all serve internships. She strongly believes that, “Internships equal connections that help you on your path to future success”.

Viviana expresses her gratitude for the Walker Institute director, Carol McNamara, whom she describes as “Someone who will get you where you want to go with her energy, enthusiasm and determination”.

Carol once told Viviana “I only develop the raw material and the interns become great!” Viviana encourages all to take the opportunities offered and says that to see the proof of the Walker Institute’s success “just Google the past interns!”



Ezekiel Lee / Walker Institute

Viviana Felix is Ogden City’s Chief Diversity Officer.

--Colt Jarvis,  
Walker Institute  
Programming Intern

# Haven J. Barlow — The Standard of Politics and Public Service in Utah

Each year, the Haven J. Barlow Civic Leadership Forum attracts students, faculty and the community to listen to lectures and panels on topics related to the public policy debate in Utah — from education to the role of millennials in politics. The series is named after Haven J. Barlow, who served in the Utah Legislature for over 40 years (39 in the Senate) — a record which stands to this day. Barlow's service didn't begin at the Utah State Capitol; he served his country in the U.S. Navy as a supply and disbursement officer during World War II. The Walker Institute, along with Dan Bammes of the Utah Foundation, had the privilege of interviewing Barlow in his office on Aug. 2.

During his 42 years of dedication to the people of Utah in the Utah State Legislature, Barlow supported historic bills, which changed higher education in the Beehive State — including a bill transforming Weber State College into Weber State University.

Education is just one of Barlow's passions; he has also given to the community by leading legislation to create the Hill Aerospace Museum, visited by over 180,000 people annually.

Through generous support from the Haven J. Barlow family, the Walker Institute is honored to name the Haven J. Barlow Civic Leadership Forum after Utah's longest serving legislator.

To listen to the full interview, visit:  
[weber.edu/walkerinstitute/multimedia.html](http://weber.edu/walkerinstitute/multimedia.html)



Barlow fondly recalls his time with Governor Walker, "I'm just very fortunate to be able say that I knew her and she knew me too; that means a lot." Governor Walker and Barlow never disagreed on any legislation and remained friends until Gov. Walker's passing November 2015.

"She could always count on me; she knew I was her friend. I don't think I've ever disappointed her on anything."

--Ezekiel Lee,  
Walker Institute  
Communications Intern

## Where are they now?

Alexis Marquez BS '16 interned at the Utah Lt. Governor's office and for FHI 360 in Washington DC and will be serving in the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic in 2017.



### WALKER INSTITUTE INTERNS



Hailey Wright BS '16 interned at the Senate Finance Committee in Washington DC and is now an Operations Analyst for Goldman Sachs



Stuart Call BS '15 Completed 6 internships (Walker Institute record) and is now in his second year at The George Washington University Law School.



Stephanie Mitts BS '16 served an internship with the Scheduling Office of the Secretary of the Interior and is now a Program Support Specialist in the Utah Governor's Office of Energy Development.

Ciara Keller BS '14 interned for Congressman Bishop locally and Senator Hatch in Washington DC and is now a F-35 Depot Capability Planner at Hill Air Force Base.



# A New Home for the Walker Institute



LINDQUIST HALL - WALKER INSTITUTE  
AUG. 25, 2016 DEVELOPMENT DRAWING



Source: GSBS Architects

## Our Wish List

1. Prime location at east entrance of Lindquist Hall, the new Social Science Building.
2. Space to honor Governor Walker's legacy and years of service in government and public life.
3. Collaboration and meeting space for Walker Institute team.
4. Board room and event space.
5. Room to grow for an assistant director

HOW CAN YOU  
KEEP GOV.  
WALKER'S  
VISION  
ALIVE?  
DONATE TO:

## CIVIC EDUCATION

- POLITICAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
- CITIZENS ACADEMY
- CANDIDATE DEBATES



## POLICY DISCUSSIONS

- HAVEN J. BARLOW CIVIC LEADERSHIP FORUM
- CONSTITUTION DAY ADDRESS



## INTERNSHIPS

- HOUSING, FOOD
- AIRFARE, METRO TRAVEL
- TUITION



# How to Give

## Online

[weber.edu/walkerinstitute/donate](http://weber.edu/walkerinstitute/donate)

## By Check

1299 Edvalson St.,  
Ogden, UT 84408-1219  
Walker Institute of Politics  
& Public Service  
College of Social &  
Behavioral Sciences

## By Phone

Director  
Carol McNamara  
801-626-6206



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