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Education Alliance of Idaho Submits Recommendations for Transformational Education Agenda to Governor Otter

On August 20, 2009, the Education Alliance of Idaho submitted to Governor Butch Otter its Recommendations for a Transformational Education Agenda for the State of Idaho.

The report consists of a **vision statement, mission statement, goals, performance indicators, and recommended next steps**. It provides a broad framework within which Idaho can continuously improve its education system.

The genesis of this effort dates back to IBCEE's early years. We have long advocated for the development of a long-range strategy for improving Idaho education. But such a strategy, in our view, can only be successful and ultimately implemented, if all of Idaho's education stakeholders, who have seldom worked together toward common goals in the past, are part of the process and support the result.

This notion of a need for a long-range strategy supported by all education stakeholders received a significant boost from Governor Otter at IBCEE's August 2007 annual meeting. There, the governor expressed a desire to **strategically place Idaho on a track to becoming a global leader in providing high-quality, cost effective education to its citizens**. He also expressed hope that IBCEE, with its statewide membership of business leaders, would convene and facilitate a group of education stakeholders. Collectively, they would develop a broad strategic framework for improving Idaho's education system.

IBCEE accepted that challenge and invited representatives from a broad array of governmental and non-governmental entities who could collectively view education from a variety of perspectives. Thus, the Education Alliance of Idaho (first known as IBCEE's Education Strategy Committee) was formed and began a series of working meetings that ultimately led to the recommendations forwarded to Governor Otter on August 20.

The Alliance is, of course, in the very early stages of developing the broad framework for improving Idaho education that Governor Otter has requested. Alliance members foresee significant future and ongoing strategy work. Concurrently, IBCEE is helping build marketing and communications plans to accompany the strategy as it's rolled out. We are also developing tools with which to create and ensure accountability and measure strategy implementation progress.

Organization Contacts

Chairman	Skip Oppenheimer
President	Vince Hannity
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Executive Director	Christine Donnell
Communication Coordinator	Marc Morris

For Additional information on IBCEE news,
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Alliance Process for Developing Recommendations

The Alliance proceeded in systematic fashion to develop a framework which (1) does not duplicate work already accomplished by other organizations, such as the State Board of Education and Department of Education; and (2) does not infringe on future decisions made more appropriately in other organizations. Thus, the Alliance developed goals broad enough to provide sufficient direction without creating a chilling effect on the strategic plans of others.

The following charges and actions reflect the Alliance's progression towards providing solid recommendations for a transformational education agenda.

Charge: Make Idaho's K–12 education system the best and most efficient in the nation.

Action: In order to determine where Idaho ranks nationally in education and what its strengths and weaknesses are, the group relied on a publication of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education entitled "Measuring Up 2006: The

National Report Card on Higher Education" (commonly referred to as "Measuring Up").

Charge: Identify and explore states doing the best job raising student achievement. What does the data tell us? What areas of focus would result in the greatest gains for Idaho students?

Action: The group used "Measuring Up" to identify Idaho's "sweet spots" for improving student preparation in the K–12 system and to identify model states in these areas.

Charge: Interview key education stakeholders and policy makers in the model states (South Dakota, Minnesota, Texas, North Carolina, and Utah) to learn about the best practices in the "sweet spot" areas.

Action: Interviewed 30 respondents about policies, strategies, barriers, missteps and efficiencies in the model state efforts.

Charge: Develop recommendations for Idaho based on model state results and Idaho's current goals and initiatives.

Action: The group identified a data system, dual enrollment, and upper level math and science course-taking as well as Advanced Placement and college entrance examination performance. It concluded that these areas must be supported by a "continuous improvement model" that is transparent, responsive and data-driven.

Charge: Create an outline of a transformational educational agenda with a unified vision, mission, and goals accompanied by performance indicators.

Action: Using research from the model states, current strategic plans, and input from various agencies and groups, the group developed vision and mission statements. It identified four overarching goals with recommended direct, measurable performance indicators assigned to each.

Education Alliance of Idaho Membership

Office of the Governor
 State Department of Education
 Office of State Board of Education
 Idaho Association of School Administrators
 Idaho Education Association
 Idaho State Boards Association
 Idaho Parent Teachers Association
 Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry
 Idaho Digital Learning Academy
 Idaho Professional/Technical Association
 J.A. & Kathryn Albertson Foundation
 Idahoans for Choice in Education
 IBCEE

Early Childhood Committee Co-sponsors Business Summit on Early Learning

With IBCEE as co-sponsor and active support from this committee, the **Business Summit on Early Learning: A Proven Approach for Effective Workforce Development** has been scheduled. It will be held at the BSU Stueckle Sky Center from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on November 19, 2009. Guest speakers include John Medina, University of

Washington Medical School; Karen Elzey, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; and Rob Grunewald, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

Members are encouraged to attend. To register, click [here](#).

IBCEE Welcomes New Members and Resource Partners

New Members

Doug Sayer, CEO, Premier Technology, Pocatello
Engineering design and fabrication company with 350 employees serving nuclear, chemical, mining, pharmaceutical, medical and defense communities.

Steve Berenter, Managing Partner, Hawley Troxel Ennis & Hawley, Boise

Scott Gipson, VP and Publisher, Caxton Printers, Caldwell

Caxton Printers is one of the oldest independent publishing houses west of the Mississippi, specializing in non-fiction publishing.

Gary Multanen, CEO, Best Bath Systems, Boise
Manufacturer of composite accessible showers and bathtubs.

Bill Whiteacre, CEO, Simplot Company

Affiliate Member

Bill Connors, President and CEO, Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce

Resource Partners

David Holmes, Executive Director, Lee Pesky Learning Center

Jim Cobble, Acting Superintendent of Schools, Camas County