

## Superintendent Luna Makes Case for Education Reform

On January 11, 2011, the day before State Superintendent Tom Luna presented his 2011 Legislative Agenda to the House and Senate Education Committees, he addressed IBCEE members on why such reform now is critical.

Luna noted that the **current education system in Idaho is not sustainable**. "The current system is a stumbling block to any future growth, and although we have done well, we still have a long way to go," he said.

Some \$200 million has been cut or shifted from the K-12 public schools budget over the past two years. Even with optimistic revenue growth, it will take 10 years to get back to the funding of just two years ago. Luna outlined **three options** for the future: 1) **continue to make cuts** to the current system; 2) **raise taxes** on Idahoans to

fund the current system; or 3) **change the system** to educate more students at a higher level with limited resources.

Luna emphasized that solving the challenges Idaho currently faces in education will **require a customer-driven education system in which students come first**. He referenced the comprehensive plan he would present the next day. He said the **plan is aligned with recommendations of the Education Alliance** of Idaho, and that changes in education this year will be driven by policy rather than budget.

Luna shared a few highlights of the plan: 1) **increased math and science requirements for all high school students**; 2) **the implementation of college and career-ready standards**; and 3) **pay-for-performance for teachers and administrators**.

## Education Alliance Marks Successful 2010, Looks Ahead

The Education Alliance made substantial progress this last year in beginning to work the ***Transformational Education Agenda for the State of Idaho***, which was adopted in 2009.

In meetings throughout the year, the Alliance heard presentations from all stakeholder members. Each described the strategy of their own organization and explained how they expected to help promote the Alliance and help it achieve its four transformational goals.

Alliance members also completed an overall communication plan, intended to be implemented over the next few years. Cont. ...

### IBCEE Organization Contacts

Chairman	Skip Oppenheimer
President	Vince Hannity
Executive Director	Christine Donnell
Assist. Executive Director	Lisa Fisher
Communication Coordinator	Marc Morris

## Education Alliance Marks Successful 2010, Looks Ahead Cont ...

Each member of the Alliance was assigned to be a liaison with one or more other Alliance members in order to ensure the free flow of communications among members. It will also help ensure accountability as members promote Alliance goals within their respective organizations.

In 2011, the Alliance will focus on increasing communication efforts regarding the transformational goals and seeking greater public recognition of the Alliance and its work. It will also work specifically on achieving the following **performance indicators** from the transformational goals:

- **Every Idaho secondary student will have access to advanced placement, dual enrollment, or equivalent courses by**

**2011.**

- **Idaho will implement a student longitudinal data system statewide by 2012.**
- **End-of-course exams in math and science will be in place statewide by 2012.**
- **Idaho will increase the availability of highly qualified teachers, with majors in their subject, by a percentage to be defined using Measuring Up data, by 2012.**

IBCEE member Bob Lokken serves as chair of the Alliance. IBCEE executive director Christine Donnell chairs the Alliance's steering committee. IBCEE president Vince Hannity serves on the Alliance board.

## IBCEE Members among First Signers of *Pledge to All of Our Children*

Through its Early Childhood Committee, co chaired by Jim Everett and Mike Mooney, IBCEE has added its support, along with that of a group convened by Voices for Children, to ***Idaho's Pledge to All of Our Children***.

Those committed to the education, health and welfare of our early learning population are being asked to sign this pledge. The purpose is to demonstrate a unified voice as we address policy issues surrounding the education of our young children. IBCEE chair Skip Oppenheimer and Mike Mooney were the first signers.

Here are the *Pledge's* introductory paragraphs:

***Beginning at birth, young children in Idaho will have a happy, healthy, safe and nurturing early***

***learning foundation to succeed in school and in life.***

*The following five components provide the framework for this pledge: 1) parent and family support, 2) social and emotional development, 3) early learning and care, 4) health and safety, and 5) coordination of systems. In recognition of the above, when planning for young children and their families, relationships matter, quality matters, resources matter and results matter.*

**IBCEE supports *Idaho's Pledge to All of Our Children*.**

## Leadership Committee Launches Caldwell Leadership Council

Leadership Committee co chairs Doug Oppenheimer and Craig Olson; IBCEE members Scott Gipson, Gary Multanen, and Pat McMurray; and Caldwell School Superintendent Roger Quarles have joined forces to form the **first local leadership council** in Caldwell.

Following highly successful leadership efforts a few years ago, the committee recently revised and refocused its efforts. It seeks to **establish effective two-way communications regarding current educational issues between business and education leaders in communities throughout the state** in the form of local leadership councils, as captured in the committee's mission statement:

*To promote the quality of education in Idaho by supporting school and community leadership development through sharing information, statewide communications and best practices between Education Leaders and Business Leaders in local communities statewide.*

**A second council in Coeur d'Alene** is expected to be established with help from IBCEE vice chair Judy Meyer. The committee hopes Caldwell and Coeur d'Alene will set the standard for future programs of this kind in other communities.

IBCEE member Tami Chafin will serve as informational liaison to the councils as they are established.

## i-STEM's Anne Seifert: Developing Excellence in STEM Education

At a recent IBCEE board meeting, Anne Seifert, i-STEM Coordinator, presented "i-STEM: Developing Excellence in STEM education for Idaho's Future."

STEM education is a new movement in American education. It is **designed to help teachers and students understand how Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)** impact their world and prepare them for the workforce of tomorrow. STEM is multidiscipline-based, integrating other disciplinary knowledge into a new whole. According to STEM, Technology helps us communicate; Math is the language; Science and Engineering are the processes for thinking; together, these lead to Innovation.

Seifert noted that currently only 30% of students are at or above proficient on NAEP math scores (2005 data) and 38% of students are at or above proficient on NAEP science scores (2006 data). Approximately 40% of the middle school science teachers are certified as highly qualified.

"The United States is facing a critical shortage of

trained professionals to maintain the STEM professional that will lead the path forward to hold the competitive edge in innovation for the future needs," Seifert said. "STEM education will be key to Idaho's workforce of the future."

Seifert highlighted that i-STEM is a coordinated effort led by Idaho National Laboratory involving the Idaho State Department of Education, Idaho State Board of Education, educators, businesses and industries to support K-12 STEM education in Idaho. Teachers influence an infinite number of students and fill them with the knowledge and skills needed to make informed decisions that will not only impact the way we live, but our nation's resources and security. By joining together in partnership, **i-STEM offers support to Idaho's educators and provides STEM professional development opportunities and resources for K-12 teachers.** These promote innovative thinking and powerful learning so students are motivated and competent in bringing forth the solutions to tomorrow's problems.

## Dr. Linda Clark: Preparing Today's Students for Tomorrow's Challenges in the Meridian School District

Dr. Linda Clark, Superintendent of Joint School District No. 2 (JSD No. 2), addressed the IBCEE board members at a recent meeting.

Dr. Clark reported that in Idaho the **demand for middle- and high-skilled workers is outpacing the state's supply of workers educated and experienced at that level.** She noted that in 1950, 60% of jobs were classified as unskilled, attainable by young people with high school diplomas or less. Today, less than 20% of jobs are considered to be unskilled. Currently, 79% of Idaho's jobs are middle- or high-skill (jobs that require some postsecondary education or training). Yet only 35% of Idaho adults have some postsecondary degree (associate's or higher).

In JSD No. 2, there are 9,914 high school students in nine high schools. Currently, 94% of students who begin high school in JSD No. 2 finish high school with a diploma. Despite this, Clark emphasized that students need more skills and must be further along in their post-secondary education when they leave high school.

The manner in which JSD No. 2 is addressing these needs is through three primary methods: **1) Concurrent Credit, 2) Advanced Placement, and 3) Professional Technical Education.** Through its programs, Joint School District No. 2 has provided the opportunity for more than 5,000 students to participate in these programs.