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## Education Alliance Hears Progress Reports from State Education Agencies

The Education Alliance held its second quarter meeting on May 13. The meeting's purpose was to give state agencies with direct responsibility for Idaho's education system the opportunity to report on their progress and challenges in improving education in the state.

Roger Brown spoke on behalf of the Governor's Office. Dr. Michael Rush represented the State Board of Education, and Superintendent Tom Luna reported on progress of the State Department of Education.

***...Each speaker addressed progress toward achieving goals outlined in the Transformational Education Agenda...***

Specifically, each speaker addressed the progress their organization has made toward achieving goals outlined in the Transformational Education Agenda for the State of Idaho, which the Alliance had submitted to Governor Otter in fall 2009. They highlighted their progress and challenges as they addressed the performance indicators for each broad goal. And they shared with Alliance membership how the Alliance can be of assistance to them in the future.

At a follow-up steering committee meeting held on May 27, it was decided that ad hoc committees would be formed to work on three broad areas in which the Alliance can provide beneficial assistance to the State's education system. They include:

1. Assistance in getting consensus on the proper use of data and determining the key measurements flowing from that data that we should focus on;
2. Analysis and recommendations regarding alignment of curriculum between K-12 and higher education;
3. Creative thinking and efforts on the "culture" of Idaho regarding the value its citizens place on education.

Chairman Guy Hurlbutt extended an invitation to the Alliance membership to serve on an ad hoc committee that would address the third area initially. Several Alliance members have agreed to serve and a meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

***...Seeking creative thinking about the culture of Idaho and the value its citizens place on education...***

*Cont. ...*

### Organization Contacts

|                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Chairman                   | Skip Oppenheimer  |
| Senior Policy Advisor      | Guy Hurlbutt      |
| President                  | Vince Hannity     |
| Executive Director         | Christine Donnell |
| Communication Coordinator  | Marc Morris       |
| Administrative Coordinator | Randy Ford        |

For additional information on IBCEE news,  
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## Education Alliance Hears Progress Reports, Cont...

As progress toward the goal for broadband connectivity, Christine Donnell informed the members of a recent press release provided by Curtis Eaton that reported that the College of Southern Idaho will use a \$25,000 grant from the Qwest Foundation to expand access to college

courses for students in rural parts of the state via the Idaho Education Network. The grant will pay for 175 students to take a dual-credit course through CSI. It is hoped that the grant will serve as a challenge to other businesses to fund this type of opportunity.

## Early Childhood Committee Works on Idaho's *Pledge to All of Our Children*

The Early Childhood Committee recently met with a group convened by Voices for Children to discuss a document that would be distributed to early learning stakeholders and other interested parties. It is called "Idaho's Pledge to All of Our Children". Those committed to the education, health and welfare of our early learning population would be asked to sign this pledge. The purpose is to be able to demonstrate a unified voice as we address policy issues surrounding the education of our young children. Christine is representing the IBCEE as a member of an Early Learning Group, which consists of representatives of Voices, IAEYC, Head Start, BSU, YMCA and Health and Welfare. The paragraph

below is the introduction of the draft Pledge.

*"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 supports, 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. "*

## Leadership Committee Develops Revised Mission Statement and Purpose

The Leadership Committee has met on several occasions to develop a revised mission and purpose for the Leadership Program. Led by Co-chairs Doug Oppenheimer and Craig Olson and joined by Pat McMurray, chair of the Membership Committee, work is underway to develop a communication plan that would involve school district administrators in local communities meeting with identified IBCEE members. The draft begins with the following 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.*

The committee also met with Marybeth Flachbart, Division Chief for Student Achievement and School Improvement for the State Department of Education. She facilitates a statewide superintendent network and has suggested IBCEE might be involved through the Leadership Committee. Christine Donnell has agreed to attend their next meeting and will report back to the committee as to how this organization might fit into our revised program.

## Seven New Members Bring IBCEE Total to 81

New IBCEE members include:

- Quentin Knipe – Stoel Rives LLP, Boise
- Glen Michael – Highway 12 Ventures, Boise
- Harold Blackman – Idaho National Laboratory, Idaho Falls
- Alan Homer – First Federal Savings, Twin Falls
- Dana Reddington – Wells Fargo Bank, Boise
- Bill Russell – Trinity Consulting Inc., Caldwell
- Jim Kissler – Norco, Inc., – Boise