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STATEWIDE CONFERENCE ON SCHOOL SAFETY AND AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS PLANNED FOR APRIL 9 & 10, 2015

(BOISE) – Hundreds of educators and community stakeholders from across Idaho will be in Sun Valley on Thursday and Friday, April 9 & 10, to discuss school safety, crisis response, afterschool programs and other issues related to student safety and support.

It's all part of the State Department of Education's annual Idaho Prevention and Support Conference. This year, the conference will focus on research, collective problem-solving, best practices and motivation to most effectively address youth risk behaviors, foster optimal learning environments to realize academic success for Idaho students.

"This conference is a great opportunity to build skills and learn new strategies to focus on the whole child, which is critical to academic success". Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra said.

The legislature appropriated \$2.165 million for safe and drug free schools, which was distributed this year. A central focus of the conference is to equip attendees with the latest information, research and strategies to make the best use of resources.

The conference will include a keynote address on Thursday morning focused on creating and sustaining emotionally safe schools from Dr. James Garbarino, an author, psychologist and expert on violence and children. Dr. Garbarino will be available for media interviews from 8 a.m. to 8:25 a.m. on Thursday at the Sun Valley Convention Center. The closing keynote will take place Friday afternoon and features Manny Scott, an original Freedom Writer, author and specialist on developing authentic relationships with hard to reach youth. Mr. Scott will be available for media interviews from 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday at the Sun Valley Convention Center. The conference also features workshops covering topics related to school safety planning, emergency operations, law enforcement/school partnerships, drug and alcohol prevention, violence prevention, out of school programming and community engagement in schools.

Here are the details of the conference:

Date: April 9-10, 2015
Location: Sun Valley Convention Center, Sun Valley, Idaho
What: Approximately 500 school counselors, teachers, school administrators, school resource officers and community stakeholders will attend the statewide conference focusing on school safety and creative supportive learning environments for students.

To learn more about the Idaho Prevention and Support Conference or to download an agenda, visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/idahoStatePreventionConf/>, or contact Matt McCarter at mamccarter@sde.idaho.gov or (208)867-4686.

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