



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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www.sde.idaho.gov

Media Contacts:

Jeff Church
Chief Communications Officer
(208) 332-6934
jchurch@sde.idaho.gov

SHERRI YBARRA
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Kelly Everitt
Communications Specialist
(208) 332-6818
keveritt@sde.idaho.gov

650 W. STATE STREET
P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

OFFICE: 208-332-6800
FAX: 208-334-2228
SPEECH/HEARING
IMPAIRED: 1-800-377-3529
WWW.SDE.IDAHO.GOV

**IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ANNOUNCES
IDAHO'S 2016 TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

(BOISE) – Superintendent Sherri Ybarra today announced Melyssa Ferro as Idaho's 2016 Teacher of the Year. Ms. Ferro has been a teacher for 16 years, 15 of which have been with the Caldwell School District as a science teacher of 6th through 10th grade students.

"I am excited to recognize the great work of Melyssa and how she strives to support students in the Caldwell School District," Superintendent Ybarra said. "Our great Idaho teachers deserve recognition and support for their hard work, so this award is one way that we can recognize hard work and teachers strategies that truly make a difference for students."

Ms. Ferro is involved not only in her classroom activities, but has also been recognized through staff development leadership activities such as organizer and presenter of the District Science Institute, and District Leadership Team at the Visible Learning Conference. Ms. Ferro has also been recognized for her leadership in STEM Education by being a table leader for this year's STEM Summit Conference as well as being a presenter at the STEM Innovations Conference hosted by the University of Idaho.

"Melyssa Ferro, the 2016 Teacher of the Year, not only serves as a role model for all kids in the STEM sciences but also with minorities and girls giving them successful experiences exploring STEM," Jodie Mills, Superintendent of the Caldwell School District said. "She also serves as an incredible example of what a highly qualified effective educator does in the classroom. Melyssa is a great representative of what is right with Caldwell and right with education."

The surprise announcement and presentation will be made by Superintendent Sherri Ybarra at Syringa Middle School, located at 1100 Willow St, Caldwell, ID 83605. The following is the anticipated timeline for events the morning of November 10th:

- 10:00 a.m. Student performance
- 10:05 a.m. Guest Recognition by Superintendent Jodie Mills
- 10:10 a.m. Ms. Mills speaks and introduces Superintendent Ybarra
- 10:15 a.m. Superintendent Ybarra speaks briefly
- 10:17 a.m. Superintendent announces Idaho Teacher of the Year (TOY)
- 10:20 a.m. TOY has opportunity to speak
- 10:25 a.m. Principal Swan wraps up and dismisses students
- 10:30 a.m. Media interviews and photos after the assembly

Ms. Ferro received her Bachelors of Science from Boise State University in Biology, and also a Master's of Science from Walden University in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She was also recognized earlier this year with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.



For additional information about the Idaho Teacher of the Year program and application process, please contact Jeff Church at (208) 332-6934 or by email at jchurch@sde.idaho.gov.

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Media Note: All media planning to attend is asking to meet at the back doors of the gymnasium located at 1100 Willow St, Caldwell, ID 83605 prior to the student performance. A map of Syringa Middle School is attached.

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