



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SHERRI YBARRA
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SUPERINTENDENT YBARRA KICKS OFF CONFERENCE FOR NEARLY 800 IDAHO EDUCATORS

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(BOISE) – Superintendent Sherri Ybarra will kick off the 2017 Federal Programs Conference on Wednesday, April 5 welcoming nearly 800 educators from across Idaho.

The Superintendent will open the conference with an update on changes in federal education law and policy. The address comes on the heels of a national meeting between state and federal education officials reviewing plans for accountability and funding.

“This is a time of tremendous change in the federal government’s approach to education,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “I am cautiously optimistic that we will see a return to more flexibility and local control of schools, while still assuring the public and parents that all students are learning and our tax dollars are well spent.”

Conference attendees manage federal education programs for disadvantaged, English learners, and students with disabilities in local school districts and charter schools.

The three-day conference, at the Boise Centre on the Grove, offers more than 100 breakout sessions for educators. Some sessions showcase promising local programs and others offer information on best practices and new research on improving instruction.

The conference also will feature several nationally recognized keynote speakers including:

- Wednesday morning - Dr. Luis Cruz, a former high school teacher, principal and administrator who now presents methods focused on transforming school culture.
- Wednesday noon -- MK Asante, a best-selling author, award-winning filmmaker, recording artist and currently a Distinguished Professor-in-Residence at the MICA School of Ideas in India and a tenured professor of creative writing and film at Morgan State University.
- Thursday morning -- Dr. Diane Staehr Fenner, president of SupportED, LLC, a woman owned small business that provides educators of English learners (ELs) the skills and resources they need to champion ELs’ success within and beyond students’ classrooms.
- Thursday noon -- Charlotte Danielson, a former economist, and internationally recognized expert in the area of teacher effectiveness, specializing in the design of teacher evaluation systems that, while ensuring teacher quality, also promote professional learning.

A complete conference schedule is posted online at: <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/events/federal-conference/index.html>.

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Editors and Reporters: If you would like to set up an interview with one of the keynote speakers, please contact Jeff Church by calling (208) 332-6934 or emailing jchurch@sde.idaho.gov.