



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SHERRI YBARRA**  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
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## HUNDREDS OF EDUCATORS MEET TO LEARN AND SHARE WHAT WORKS TO HELP KIDS GO-ON

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(BOISE) – Hundreds of educators charged with helping secondary students reach their goals for higher education will meet during the next two weeks across Idaho in six Student Readiness Symposiums.

The symposiums, sponsored by the Idaho State Department of Education in partnership with Idaho Digital Learning Academy, Idaho Department of Labor and Idaho Career Technical Education, will bring high college and career advisors, high school counselors, and school administrators together to share strategies and best practices in supporting students. Events in Coeur d' Alene, Lewiston and Twin Falls include an evening activity for parents in the area.

The symposiums support the legislature's \$7 million investment in Advanced Opportunities and \$7 million investment in expanding college and career advising in the state's high schools.

Superintendent Ybarra will kick off the first event on May 22 at North Idaho College, with the other five events taking place on the following dates:

- Tuesday, May 23 – Lewis Clark State College
- Thursday, May 25 – Boise State University
- Tuesday, May 30 – College of Southern Idaho
- Wednesday, May 31 – Idaho State University
- Thursday, June 1 – Eastern Idaho Technical College

“We are excited to pull people together from secondary schools and higher education from across the state to talk about successes, best practices, and how they are supporting students as they strive toward their hopes and dreams after high school,” said Superintendent Ybarra. “I also am thrilled that we are offering a parent outreach at three of the sites.”

The daylong event will offer participants hands-on activities focused on how to help students with different needs navigate the path to graduation and higher education.

“We’ve ramped up resources for students to access opportunities and this year we’ve expanded the counseling and advising services for students,” said Matt McCarter, Director of Student Engagement and Career/Technical Readiness. “It’s a great time for everyone to come together and talk about taking this to the next level by connecting with students and building relationships.”

Nearly 18,000 students in grades 7-12 used the program. Now called Fast Forward, the program provides every student attending an Idaho public school an allocation of \$4,125.00 to use towards Advanced Opportunities in grades 7-12.

To learn more about the Student Readiness Symposiums visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/student-engagement/advanced-ops/training/Symposium.pdf>. To register for one of the six symposiums, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/d/id/student-readiness-symposium/?mode=search>.



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**Editors and Reporters:** If you would like to set up interviews with Matt McCarter, local college and career advisors or high school counselors, please contact Jeff Church at [jchurch@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:jchurch@sde.idaho.gov) or (208) 332-6934

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