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Statewide conference connects Idaho educators with family, community needs

(BOISE) – More than 300 educators and community partners across Idaho have signed up for the State Department of Education’s Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Conference in Boise Oct. 16-17, and registration remains open through Wednesday, Oct. 11.

“Engaging parents and community members in our children’s education is an essential component of helping Idaho schools and students succeed,” Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra said. “Last year’s inaugural FACE conference was very successful. We’re pleased to offer a roster of exciting experts and topics for this year’s conference.”

The two-day conference at Boise State University’s Stueckle Sky Center will feature national experts on community engagement strategies for the diverse populations of Idaho schools and communities, including many families who live in poverty. And Idaho educators who participated in last year’s conference will share how they used the strategies they learned in their districts, and the results they’ve seen.

Go online to <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/events/face-conference/> to register for this year’s conference or get more information, including the full agenda and speaker biographies. Registration for the two-day conference costs \$50 and is payable online by credit card. Registration will not be accepted at the door.

Keynote speakers include Dr. Donna Beegle, who grew up in a migrant labor family, earned a doctorate in educational leadership and has developed proven strategies for breaking poverty barriers to family and student outreach.

Dr. Karen Mapp, faculty director of Harvard University’s Education Policy and Management Master’s Program, is a national expert on cultivating partnerships among families, community members and educators that support student achievement and school improvement.



Dr. Jody McVittie is a medical doctor who has shifted her focus to broader community issues that impact health outcomes, including parenting, education, trauma and intra-family violence. She is a lead trainer for the Positive Discipline Association.

Idaho State University Professor Lori Head focuses on brain strategies that use motion to engage parents. She owns Mind Your Body Wellness Studio in Pocatello.

Clay Olsen, a filmmaker, marketer and entrepreneur who grew up in northern Utah, focuses on the effects of pornography on communities and students. He co-founded Fight the New Drug and has appeared on numerous national television programs and at hundreds of schools across the nation.

Jonathan Edison is a “success strategist” who shares his personal experiences of growing up in poverty and family turmoil to deliver methods for moving people and organizations to their highest potential.

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Editors and reporters: If you would like to arrange an interview with any of the conference speakers, contact Kristin Rodine at krodine@sde.idaho.gov or 208-332-6807. Beegle, Olsen, Head and McVittie are speaking Monday; Mapp and Edison will be featured Tuesday.