



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**February 27, 2009**

**TO:** Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers, Charter School Administrators, Title I Directors, Special Education Directors, Testing Coordinators, Technology Coordinators and Public Information Officers

**FROM:** Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**RE:** Weekly E-Newsletter

### **IN THIS REPORT:**

- **Superintendent Luna provides update on stimulus package**
- **Application process for Learn and Serve grants opens March 1**
- **School Improvement Update**
- **Superintendent's Schedule**
- **What's New**
- **News from the State Board of Education**
- **Reminders**
- **Upcoming Deadlines**

### **SUPERINTENDENT LUNA PROVIDES UPDATE ON STIMULUS PACKAGE (GO TO TOP)**

Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna traveled to Washington, D.C. this week to meet with Vice President Joe Biden, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and other key White House officials on the federal stimulus package. Superintendent Luna was one of about 35 chief state school officers to join the Vice President and Secretary at the White House on Wednesday afternoon.

After returning to Idaho late Wednesday night, Superintendent Luna held a series of conference calls with superintendents, school board trustees and other key educational stakeholder groups throughout Thursday and Friday to report new information on the federal stimulus package. Here is what Superintendent Luna learned:

- **Idaho public schools will still have to reduce budgets:** Superintendent Luna provided educational stakeholders with an overview of the federal stimulus funding for public education in Idaho. While the state will receive about \$350 million in stimulus funding for education, only a portion will go toward stabilizing the public schools budget in FY2009, FY2010 and FY2011.

Here is how the funding breaks down for K-12 education in Idaho:

- Budget stabilization: \$200 million, including \$166.1 million for K-12 budgets and \$35.5 million for institutions of higher education
- Government services: \$44 million is set aside for the Governor to use at his discretion for "public safety and other government services." This funding can be used on any government services; it is not specific to education.
- Title I-A: \$34.9 million for educational programs and services in low-income schools
- IDEA: \$55.5 million for special education programs and services



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

- McKinney-Vento: \$191,000 for assistance to homeless students
- Title II-D: \$3.2 million for competitive educational technology grants to school districts
- School lunch equipment: \$469,000 in competitive grants to local school districts to purchase new equipment for food service programs

With the state facing an \$85 million budget shortfall for K-12 in the current year and an estimated shortfall of between \$109 million and \$130 million shortfall for K-12 in FY2010, it is clear the federal stimulus funding will not be able to keep the public schools budgets whole across all three fiscal years. Superintendent Luna will work with the Governor and Idaho Legislature on a plan for how the state should use the federal stimulus funding to offset budget cuts in the current year as well as FY2010 and FY2011.

- **Stimulus funding should be used for innovation:** Vice President Joe Biden and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan made it clear that the stimulus funding should not be used to supplement current programs. Instead, the funding should be used to implement one-time, innovative programs that will help boost student achievement over the next two years.
- **Schools will have more flexibility with special education funding:** U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said this week that states will have a considerable amount of flexibility for supplanting when it comes to the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA) funds, which are used for special education. Secretary Duncan made it clear that local school districts have been spending local and state dollars for years to fill the hole that the federal government has not stepped up to fill by not fully funding IDEA at the 40 percent level required by the legislation. With the information we have today, it does not appear that the same flexibility will be granted for the Title I-A funding.

**Audio recording is available:** An audio recording of the initial conference call on Thursday morning is available online along with copies of the documents Superintendent Luna referenced during the call. To listen to the call and view the documents, please visit [www.sde.idaho.gov](http://www.sde.idaho.gov) and click on the "Public Schools Budget" page. The link the conference call audio is available on the left side of the page.

### APPLICATION PROCESS FOR LEARN AND SERVE GRANTS OPENS MARCH 1 (GO TO TOP)

The Idaho State Department of Education will begin accepting requests for proposals for Learn and Serve grant funding on March 1. All K-12 public schools are eligible to apply for funding.

"Service-learning helps improve student achievement by applying the lessons Idaho students learn in the classroom to a valuable community service project," Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna said.

Every year, the State Department of Education awards grants to local school districts and public charter schools to operate service-learning programs in schools and communities after a competitive grant application process. The grants range from one to three years in length and are awarded at up to \$5,000 a year. Schools are required to provide matching funds. The Department awarded 14 schools with Learn and Serve grants last year.



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

With the grant funding, local schools can create new service-learning programs, replicate existing models, and train staff, faculty, adult volunteers and students in service learning. In the past, school service-learning projects in Idaho have helped communities in a variety of ways, from comprehensive recycling projects to collecting gifts for low-income families during the holiday season.

The request for proposals window opens on March 1, 2009. At that time, the Department will release further information on its web site at [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/learn\\_serve](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/learn_serve). The deadline to submit a request for proposal is on or before **5 p.m. on April 15, 2009**.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Tina Naillon, Learn and Serve Coordinator, at (208) 332-6904 or [TMNaillon@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:TMNaillon@sde.idaho.gov).

### SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE (GO TO TOP)

The following is an update of the monthly School Improvement Webinars on the Nine Characteristics of High-Performing Schools:

#### **March 4, 2009: Frequent Monitoring of Learning & Teaching, Elementary Webinar**

The Nine Characteristics of High Performing Schools Webinar previously scheduled for February 24, 2008 has been rescheduled for **March 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 MST**. Deputy Superintendent Marybeth Flachbart, an expert in the field of meeting the needs of all learners, will be delivering a webinar developed for elementary educators on the topic of frequent monitoring of teaching and learning.

#### **March 19, 2009: Frequent Monitoring of Learning & Teaching, Secondary Webinar**

Dr. Evelyn Johnson, a nationally recognized author and expert in Response to Intervention, will be presenting a webinar session developed for secondary educators working towards improving a three-tiered instructional model in middle, junior high, and high schools focused on frequent progress monitoring on **March 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 MST**.

#### **April 28, 2009: Action Planning Webinar**

Steve Underwood, Idaho State Department of Education Title I Coordinator, will be presenting a webinar session designed to help school and district leaders with structure and strategies to support the action planning for school improvement process. The same presentation will be presented on **April 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 and 3:00 MST**, and is appropriate for elementary and secondary educators.

#### **May 14, 2009: Parental Involvement Webinar**

Joan MacMillan, Idaho State Department of Education Parent Involvement Coordinator, will be presenting a webinar session designed to help schools and districts develop and boost meaningful parental involvement. This presentation will be offered on **May 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 and 3:00 MST**.

### Registration

---

Office Location  
650 West State Street

Telephone  
208-332-6800

Speech/Hearing Impaired  
1-800-377-3529

Fax  
208-334-2228

---



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

The estimated time frame for all webinar sessions is 1 hour. You can register at <http://idla.blackboard.com>. Select the Idaho Live tab, and then click on "Webinar Registration." Please contact Lisa Kinnaman or Katherine Weatherspoon at (208) 426-4852 with any questions.

### **Credit information**

Credit is now available from Boise State University for participation in the School Improvement Webinar series. Those applying for credit will be expected to spend at least two hours after each webinar working on implementing and completing an assignment worksheet. One credit is offered for every five webinars attended. To receive more information or an application for credit, e-mail your name and contact information to [katherineweatherspoon@boisestate.edu](mailto:katherineweatherspoon@boisestate.edu).

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (GO TO TOP)**

- **Deadline to submit stimulus proposals** -- The deadline to submit proposals for federal stimulus funding to the Governor's Stimulus Executive Committee is March 4, 2009. All state agencies, including the State Department of Education, must submit proposals on this day.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)**

- Superintendent Luna will appear on KID-AM's "Idaho Up Close" radio show in Idaho Falls/Pocatello from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 3. To listen live, visit [590KID.com](http://590KID.com).
- Superintendent Luna will speak at the 5th Annual Charter School Summit at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 3 in Boise.

### **WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)**

- **Title I Conference update** -- The Idaho State Department of Education is excited about the upcoming Title I Conference "Education & Service: Gifts without Boundaries" to be held April 15-17, 2009 at the Boise Centre in Boise. We are teaming with the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism to present many nationally known speakers who will be coming to Idaho to provide exciting and helpful information for our Idaho Educators. Keynote speakers will provide both inspirational and informative presentations to participants. In addition, we have scheduled 30 breakout sessions covering topics related to math, science, reading, parent involvement and NCLB topics concerning accountability, School Improvement, Homeless Students, LEP, Paraprofessionals, and Response to Intervention. We will also showcase nine schools who have demonstrated successful programs dealing with all subject areas and student populations. All information, including session descriptions and speaker biographies, are posted online at [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/title\\_one/conference09/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/title_one/conference09/). **REGISTRATION WILL BE OPEN ONLINE ON TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2009.**



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

- **Attendance and Enrollment reports due** -- The second period attendance and enrollment reports are due **March 13, 2009**. If you have questions or need help submitting the attendance and enrollment reports, please contact Greg Berg, Public School Finance, at [GDBerg@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:GDBerg@sde.idaho.gov).
- **News Parents Can Use** -- The next "Education News Parents Can Use" broadcast from the U.S. Department of Education will focus on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The broadcast is scheduled for 8 a.m. ET on March 17, 2009. For more information, please visit <http://www.ed.gov/edtv/>.
- **Nominations for 2009 Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize** -- Nominations are being accepted for the 2009 Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education. This year's award will recognize three individuals who address the connection of education and innovation in one of three broad categories: PK-12-focused school and community programs, teacher training and professional development, and policy at all levels of government. The deadline for nominations (which can be completed online) is **March 20, 2009**. Recipients will be honored at a dinner in New York City this fall and will each receive \$25,000. For more information, please visit <http://www.mcgraw-hill.com/prize/>.

### FROM THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (GO TO TOP)

The State Board of Education met Thursday, February 26 at Boise State University in Boise. At this meeting, the State Board of Education made the following decisions:

- **Fall ISAT testing waived again** -- The State Board of Education waived Fall ISAT testing for the second year in a row. Local school districts and charter schools will not be required to administer the Fall ISAT in the 2009-2010 school year.
- **Changes to LEP Accountability Plan** -- Districts that serve LEP students are required to meet specific targets for their students making progress and meeting proficiency on the Idaho English Language Assessment (IELA). The State Board of Education approved an Idaho educator committee's recommended changes to the Accountability Plan's Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAO). The new AMAOs will apply to this year's IELA testing (IELA 2009). The changes incorporate new targets for "progress" and "proficiency". It also includes changes to LEP student exit criteria and accountability for districts with fewer than 34 students. A summary report and the full revised Title III/LEP Program Accountability Plan can be found on the State Board of Education's LEP web page at <http://www.boardofed.idaho.gov/IELA/scoreRpts.asp>. If you have any questions, please contact Wendy St. Michell, IELA Manager, at (208) 332-1586 or [Wendy.St.Michell@obse.idaho.gov](mailto:Wendy.St.Michell@obse.idaho.gov).

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS?

**Idaho Distance Education Academy and Homedale Middle School** are the highlights this week:

Two public Idaho schools took home honors at the regional Future City Engineers Competition in Boise in January. Of the 28 Idaho and Utah schools competing, Idaho Distance Education Academy (IDEA) in Deary won the competition, and the students at Homedale Middle School in Homedale took second place. Congratulations to both teams!



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

The IDEA team traveled to Washington, D.C. to compete at the national competition, where it won the Best Indoor Environment Award. At the regional competition, IDEA students won for Best SIM City Design, Best Model and Best Creative Transportation Design to Reduce Emissions.

The students from Homedale Middle School came in a close second at the regional competition, just nine points behind IDEA. At the regional level, Homedale Middle won the Best Essay Award and the Best of Exotica Materials Award at the regional competition. Homedale students used SIM City software to create their future city with computer design first, and then write an essay and build a model city with a minimum of one moving part. This is the first time that Homedale Middle School has competed in a competition like this.

Congratulations again to the students at IDEA and Homedale Middle School for all your hard work and your great representation of Idaho! We are proud of you.

*"What's Happening in Our Schools?" is a feature that appears occasionally in the Weekly E-Newsletter. It is an opportunity for us to share the great things that are happening in Idaho's public schools on a statewide level. If you have something great happening in your school, please e-mail it to Melissa McGrath at [MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov) with "What's Happening in Our Schools" in the subject line.*

### REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **Apply for Idaho Reads! VISTA Grants** -- The Idaho State Department of Education is now accepting applications for *Idaho Reads!* VISTA grants, which help to improve literacy and volunteerism in communities across Idaho. Through the *Idaho Reads!* VISTA project, the 30 schools awarded select a person who will coordinate a variety of activities to promote family literacy and improve children's reading skills. The deadline to apply is **March 15, 2009**. Applications must be postmarked by this date. For more information or to download an application, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/vista/>. If you have any questions, please contact Tina Naillon, Idaho VISTA Coordinator, at (208) 332-6904 or [TMNaillon@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:TMNaillon@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Governor announces Innovative Grant recipients** -- The Governor announced the recipients of the 2008-09 Innovative Grants. The full list is online at <http://www.gov.idaho.gov/InnovativeGrantRecipients.pdf>. Congratulations to all the recipients!
- **Free Parenting Seminar** -- Celebrated parenting columnist and lecturer Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel is offering her outstanding 90 parenting seminar, "Stop Feeding Your Dragon," a lively presentation focused on how to discipline today's child. With 48 years of research/experience/teaching, she brings practical solutions to the every-day problems that plague today's parents. Sandy plans to move to the Boise area to live close to her Meridian-based grandchildren, so this highly sought after educator is offering this no-cost seminar on a first-booked-first- have basis during the weeks of February 23-27, and April 27-May 1. Contact her at [sandy@sandymcdaniel.com](mailto:sandy@sandymcdaniel.com) or (949) 642-3605. Check out Sandy's credentials/testimonials/philosophy/credibility at [sandymcdaniel.com](http://sandymcdaniel.com).
- **Sample Senior Projects now available** -- As part of the new high school graduation requirements, students in the Class of 2013 will be required to complete a senior project by the end of their senior year. To assist local school districts in this implementation, the State Department of Education is posting samples of quality senior project



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

models that several school districts around the state have already implemented. The samples are posted online at [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/hs\\_grad\\_requirements/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/hs_grad_requirements/).

- **Forestry Professional Development Opportunities** -- Idaho Project Learning Tree's spring/summer workshop schedule is at [www.idahoforests.org/plt1.htm](http://www.idahoforests.org/plt1.htm). A variety of professional development classes are offered throughout the state, each worth one graduate credit. Contact 208-334-4061 or [plt@idahoforests.org](mailto:plt@idahoforests.org) for more information.
- **Forest Products Commission Newsletters available** -- The popular *EarthTracks* newsletter, full of environmental education news and opportunities, including spring and summer workshop schedules from Project's Learning Tree, WILD and WET and the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission is now available at [www.idahoforests.org/news.htm](http://www.idahoforests.org/news.htm). Also at this location is "The Log," the forest education update from Idaho Forest Products Commission.
- **Forest History Supplement** -- *The Idaho Forest: From Lumberjacks to Lasersaws* is available to Idaho teachers, free of charge. Preview the student reader and teacher guide at [www.idahoforests.org/lumberjacks.htm](http://www.idahoforests.org/lumberjacks.htm). Contact the Idaho Forest Products Commission at [plt@idahoforests.org](mailto:plt@idahoforests.org) or **800-ID-WOODS** to request a classroom set (30 unless you specify otherwise) of Student Readers and a Teacher Guide.
- **Apply now for Sustainable Forestry Tour for teachers and counselors** -- This trip of a lifetime explores north-central Idaho forests and the full circle of making products from trees while sustaining forest ecosystems—All while providing you with the VIP treatment you deserve as an educator. All expenses paid. Learn more and apply online at [www.idahoforests.org/tour.htm](http://www.idahoforests.org/tour.htm).
- **Environmental Education conference** -- The Idaho Environmental Education Association is hosting its annual conference in Pocatello March 6-7, 2009. There will be a field trip to Pocatello Charter School, including a tour of the school's solar installation. Idaho Power will be there to answer questions about the Solar 4R Schools program. To sign up for the conference, please visit [www.idahoe.org](http://www.idahoe.org).
- **Financial Literacy Education program** -- The Office of State Treasurer Ron Crane is offering the "ABC's of Credit Card Finance", a free program designed to educate high school seniors about the do's, don'ts, and pitfalls of credit card ownership. Given the difficult economic times, this next generation needs to be armed with as many financial tools as possible. The presentation is about one hour in length and includes information such as essential credit card facts, choosing and using a credit card, understanding a credit report and score, consequences of irresponsible credit card use, and identity theft. If your school is interested in scheduling a presentation, please visit [www.sto.idaho.gov/Programs/CreditCardFinance.aspx](http://www.sto.idaho.gov/Programs/CreditCardFinance.aspx) or contact Jennifer Hobbs in the State Treasurer's Office at (208) 332-2963 or email [Jennifer.Hobbs@sto.idaho.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Hobbs@sto.idaho.gov).
- **IEA Teacher Awards** -- Every month, September through June, the Idaho Education Association offers eight (8) \$50 awards to teacher members who are new to the profession (5 years or less). Applying is easy. Just e-mail your name and a statement of how you plan to use your Cold Hard Cash for your Classroom to [ecurrie@idahoea.org](mailto:ecurrie@idahoea.org). If your name is not selected this month, your entry is rolled over to the next month. Visit [www.idahoea.org](http://www.idahoea.org) for more information.



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

- **ASVAB** -- The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) program is one way to help students identify a future career path. The ASVAB program is a comprehensive career exploration and planning program that includes a multiple-aptitude test battery, interest inventory and various career planning tools designed to help the student explore the world of work. The program is free of charge. Please consider using ASVAB in your school or school district. For more information, you can contact: David Hodson, at (208) 334-1450 ext. 213 or [david.a.hodson@mepcom.army.mil](mailto:david.a.hodson@mepcom.army.mil) or Colleen Owen at (208) 334-1450 ext.214 or [colleen.owen@mepcom.army.mil](mailto:colleen.owen@mepcom.army.mil). Schools in Northern Idaho, north of New Meadows should call Fred Bernize at (509) 353 3105 ext. 242 or [fred.bernize@mepcom.army.mil](mailto:fred.bernize@mepcom.army.mil).

### UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **March 1, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for Idaho Power's Solar 4R Schools program. Schools must be Idaho Power customers. Successful applicants will receive, at no cost, a 1.1 KW solar array, data monitoring and a curriculum package. Please visit <http://www.idahopower.com/greenpower/solar4Rschools/default> for more information.
- **March 1, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for a summer internship or freshman scholarship in the Idaho State University Physics department. Interns will spend four weeks in laboratories of the ISU Physics Department or the Idaho Accelerator Center, where they have the opportunity to work with premier particle accelerator facilities. Interns will be provided room and board on campus and earn \$8.50 an hour. For more information, please visit [www.physics.isu.edu](http://www.physics.isu.edu).
- **March 2, 2009** -- The deadline to nominate a teacher for the \$10,000 Freida J. Riley Teacher Award, which honors an American teacher who works with a physical disability, teaches in an especially challenging educational environment or has performed a heroic act by making an exceptional, personal or physical sacrifice on behalf of students. To learn more, please visit [www.columbusfdn.org/freidajriley/RileyNomination2009.pdf](http://www.columbusfdn.org/freidajriley/RileyNomination2009.pdf).
- **March 4, 2009** -- The deadline for schools and districts to review preliminary results of the Idaho 2008-2009 Direct Math and Direct Writing Assessments. Please access the results on the Department's secure website at <https://seciis.sde.state.id.us/dmwa/default.asp> using your district testing password. You have until **March 4, 2009** to notify the State Department of Education via fax or e-mail. For the DWA, contact Liz Smith at [EMSmith@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:EMSmith@sde.idaho.gov). For the DMA, contact Cindy Johnstone at [CMJohnstone@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:CMJohnstone@sde.idaho.gov).
- **March 12, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for the Horace Mann Scholarship Program for Educators, which offers scholarships for educators in public and private schools to take college courses. Please visit <http://www.horacemann.com/resources/scholarships/default.aspx> for more information.
- **March 13, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for the new Idaho LEP Program of Excellence award, which recognizes outstanding schools or districts in this area, or the LEP Educator of the Year award, which recognizes outstanding educators who work with LEP students and families. Applications are due by 5 p.m. on this date. Please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/lep/> to learn more.



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

- **March 13, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for mini-grants from the Idaho National Laboratory (INL). A teacher can apply for up to \$2,000 in grants, and schools can apply for up to \$10,000. For more information, please visit [https://inlportal.inl.gov/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=2247&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=11&mode=2&in\\_hi\\_userid=200&cached=true](https://inlportal.inl.gov/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=2247&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=11&mode=2&in_hi_userid=200&cached=true).
- **March 15, 2009** -- The deadline for students to enter the Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge. Middle school student teams from across the country will be challenged to create sustainable, reproducible environmental improvements in their local communities. Visit <http://www.wecanchange.com> to learn more.
- **March 31, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for Northwest Professional Educators' awards for continuing education scholarships and classroom support for materials, technology, projects, etc. Additionally, teachers new to the profession, their grade level, or their school district may apply for \$250 New Classroom Start-Up Grants to assist with classroom expenses. To apply for any of these awards, visit [www.nwpe.org](http://www.nwpe.org) for applications.
- **April 1, 2009** -- The deadline for creating Unique Student IDs using the statewide Unique Student ID System for enrolled students. After this date, the Unique Student IDs need to be kept up to date for ISAT tests and other reporting purposes. For more information about the Unique Student ID creation process, refer to the Unique Student ID web site at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/usid/index.htm>. If you have questions, please contact Rene Hughes at [rhughes@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:rhughes@sde.idaho.gov).
- **April 10, 2009** -- The deadline to postmark nomination packages for the sixth annual *Preserve America* Idaho History Teacher of the Year Award, sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and Idaho Council for History Education. The Idaho Council honors each state winner with an award of \$1,000. All elementary (K-6) teachers who have responsibility for teaching American history are eligible this year. Please visit [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/social\\_studies/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/social_studies/) for more information.