



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**March 5, 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 submits proposal on stimulus to Governor**
- **Department hires new Educational Technology Coordinator**
- **Register now for Title I Conference**
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- **Reminders**
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### **SUPERINTENDENT LUNA SUBMITS PROPOSAL ON STIMULUS TO GOVERNOR (GO TO TOP)**

The Governor established a Stimulus Executive Committee to review each state agency's proposal for spending federal stimulus dollars. Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna submitted the proposal for the Public Schools Budget on Wednesday, March 4. The proposal outlines Superintendent Luna's proposal for how the state should spend federal stimulus dollars effectively and efficiently on public education over the next three fiscal years.

Superintendent Luna's full report to the Stimulus Executive Committee is available on the State Department of Education's web site at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/schoolsbudget/>.

### **DEPARTMENT HIRES NEW EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR (GO TO TOP)**

The Idaho State Department of Education has hired Jimmy Takata as the new state Educational Technology Coordinator. In this position, Takata will work with Idaho schools and districts to improve technological opportunities in the classroom and act as a liaison with district technology coordinators.

"This is a great opportunity to help close the 'digital divide' while simultaneously empowering young minds with the vital skills that are necessary to succeed in today's global economy," Takata said.

Before joining the Department, Takata worked at Micron Technology as a Workforce Development Specialist, where he supported all global manufacturing sites with a focus on manufacturing software. Before working at Micron, Takata spent nearly a decade working with school districts in Oregon and Idaho on educational technology issues. Takata has a master's in educational technology from Boise State University. He lives with his wife and two sons in Kuna.



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You can contact Jimmy Takata directly at (208) 332-6937 or [JTakata@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:JTakata@sde.idaho.gov).

### REGISTER NOW FOR TITLE I CONFERENCE (GO TO TOP)

Online registration is now open for the Title I Conference, "Education & Service: Gifts without Boundaries."

The Idaho State Department of Education is excited about the upcoming Title I Conference, which will be held April 15-17, 2009 at the Boise Centre on the Grove in Boise. The conference is held every two years. This year, the Department is partnering with the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism and Serve Idaho to present many nationally known speakers who will provide exciting and helpful professional development opportunities for Idaho educators. In addition to keynote speakers, participants can take part in 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. The Department will also showcase nine Idaho schools that have demonstrated successful programs dealing with all subject areas and student populations.

For more information or to register, please visit [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/title\\_one/conference09/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/title_one/conference09/).

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (GO TO TOP)

- **Governor unveils list of proposals for stimulus money** -- In compliance with the Idaho Public Records Act and Governor Otter's desire to make the process as transparent as possible, a list of all proposals submitted via the state Division of Financial Management (DFM) to be considered for stimulus funding under the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act now is available on the DFM Web site, <http://dfm.idaho.gov>, as "Idaho 2009 Stimulus Request" under "What's New," or you can link directly at [http://dfm.idaho.gov/fed\\_stimulus.html](http://dfm.idaho.gov/fed_stimulus.html). Governor Otter encourages all applicants to review the list to ensure their submission is included and accurately represented. Applicants with any questions may contact DFM at (208) 334-3900 during regular business hours. Media inquiries should be directed to Jon Hanian at (208) 334-2100.

A separate state Web site will be established in the near future on which citizens will be able to track the allocation and use of all stimulus funding throughout the life of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. That Web address will be disseminated as soon as it is available.

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

- Superintendent Luna will appear on 670 KBOI AM from 8:30 to 9 a.m. on Wednesday, March 11 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will visit Homedale Middle School at 8:45 a.m. on Thursday, March 12 in Homedale.

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

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650 West State Street

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208-332-6800

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1-800-377-3529

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- **School Improvement Webinars** -- Here is the schedule for upcoming School Improvement Webinars:
  - March 19, 2009: Frequent Monitoring of Learning & Teaching, Secondary Webinar
  - April 28, 2009: Action Planning Webinar
  - May 14, 2009: Parental Involvement WebinarThe 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.
- **Apply now for Learn and Serve Grants** -- Idaho school districts and public charter schools can now submit requests for proposals for Learn and Serve grant funding. All K-12 public schools are eligible to apply for funding. The grants range from one to three years in length and are awarded at up to \$5,000 a year. With grant funding, local schools can create new service-learning programs, replicate existing models, and train staff, faculty, adult volunteers and students in service learning. Please review the information posted online [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/learn\\_serve](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/learn_serve) before applying. 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).
- **Mathematics of Personal Finance Professional Development** -- Mathematics teachers wishing to use the new Mathematics of Personal Finance content standards can attend a free professional development opportunity in Boise on April 21, 2009 sponsored by the Idaho Financial Literacy Coalition in partnership with the State Department of Education. These math content standards can be used as the basis for a district developed math course that will satisfy the new high school graduation requirement in mathematics for ninth graders entering school in the fall of 2009. There are five major strands to the content standards: Money Management; Savings and Investment; Education, Employment and Income; Taxation; and Data Analysis and Statistics. Free materials will be provided. For more information and online registration, please visit <http://www.sde.state.id.us/site/math/> or contact Amanda Salazar at [adsalazar@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:adsalazar@sde.idaho.gov) or (208) 332-6974.
- **ERI Application now available** -- The application form for the Early Retirement Incentive Program is now available online at [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/finance\\_tech/early\\_retirement.htm](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/finance_tech/early_retirement.htm). *Please bear in mind:* Submission of the application does not guarantee that the early incentive program will be funded. Actions by the 2009 Legislature could affect this section of Idaho Code. Interested parties are encouraged to watch the daily activities of the Idaho Legislature for any changes that might affect this law, including but not limited to the Department web site at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/schoolsbudget/>. Applications must be returned to SDE/Public School Finance no later than **April 1, 2009**.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS?

The highlighted school this week is .... **Blackfoot High School**

Congratulations to Blackfoot High School! Students from Blackfoot High School won first place at the Idaho competition on February 26, 2009 and now will go on to nationals. On April 24, 2009, the students will travel to Washington, D.C., where they will represent Idaho in the national finals of *We the People: The Citizen and the*



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*Constitution*, the highly prestigious academic competition on the United States Constitution. The Blackfoot students have been studying for months to prepare for their role as experts testifying on constitutional issues in a simulated congressional hearing.

*We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* is an extensive education program in civics and government. The Blackfoot students have been working with their teacher, Mrs. Holly Kartchner, to develop a fundamental understanding of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and administered by the Idaho State Department of Education. Nationwide, the program is implemented at the upper elementary, middle, and high school levels and has reached more than 28 million students since 1987.

"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)

- **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/>.
- **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).
- **Financial Literacy Education program** -- The State Treasurer's Office 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

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ownership. Given the difficult economic times, this next generation needs to be armed with as many financial tools as possible. 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.
- **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 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 submit the second period attendance and enrollment reports. 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).
- **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.
- **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.



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- **March 15, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for *Idaho Reads!* VISTA grants, which help to improve literacy and volunteerism in communities across Idaho. 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).
- **March 20, 2009** -- The deadline to nominate an individual 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. Recipients will receive \$25,000. For more information, please visit <http://www.mcgraw-hill.com/prize/>.
- **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 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.