



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

October 1, 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:

- **Opportunities available to increase technology in your classroom**
- **Stabilization Fund will buffer public schools from cuts**
- **Department offers grants for professional development**
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- **What's Happening in Our Schools?**
- **Reminders**
- **Upcoming Deadlines**

OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO INCREASE TECHNOLOGY IN YOUR CLASSROOM (GO TO TOP)

The Idaho State Department of Education and the Qwest Foundation for Education are offering two different grant opportunities to help Idaho teachers fund more technology in the classroom. Studies show that an engaging and interactive teaching environment can lead to greater student achievement. In such an environment, learners acquire knowledge more quickly, develop a deeper knowledge of the content, and retain information for longer periods of time.

Here is more information about these upcoming grant opportunities:

- **Project BRAIN:** The State Department of Education is offering 52 sets of student response system technology to Idaho classroom teachers. More commonly referred to as "clicker" technology, the student response systems help raise student achievement in the classroom by keeping students engaged and collecting immediate, accurate data on student learning. Applications are due **October 9, 2009**. To apply to receive a clicker set for your classroom, please visit the Department's web site at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/tech_services/grants_contracts.htm and download the 2009 Project BRAIN Grant Application.
- **Qwest Foundation for Education Grant:** The Qwest Foundation has donated \$75,000 to the State Department of Education to grant funding for K-12 public school teachers across Idaho to spend on technology in the classroom. The purposes of the Qwest Foundation for Education grant is to recognize Idaho K-12 public school teachers who are using technology in innovative ways to improve student performance and increase the use of technology in the classroom. Grant proposals may be written for up to \$10,000 each. Applications must be postmarked by **November 20, 2009**. To learn more or to download an application, visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/tech_services/grants_contracts.htm.



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If you have questions about the Project BRAIN or Qwest Foundation for Education grants, please contact Jimmy Takata at jtakata@sde.idaho.gov or (208) 332-6937.

STABILIZATION FUND WILL BUFFER PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM CUTS (GO TO TOP)

Superintendent Tom Luna joined Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter at a news conference last week, where the Governor announced statewide holdbacks due to declining revenue.

The Governor announced a \$49,255,500 or 4 percent holdback to public schools. Thanks to the Public Education Stabilization Fund, Idaho's public schools will not be subject to a mid-year cut.

"I'm pleased public schools are being held harmless," said Superintendent Luna. "This validates the decisions that we made in the last legislative session. There were many who wanted to completely drain the State Stabilization Fund to avoid any cuts in education. If we would have done that, schools would be facing severe mid-year cuts, something we all want to avoid. It's clear we made the right decision, thus avoiding devastating cuts to public schools mid-year."

The State Department of Education, which Superintendent Luna manages, will be subject to a 2.5 percent cut equal to \$179,400. The Department received a 6 percent holdback last fiscal year as well as a 5 percent cut this fiscal year.

DEPARTMENT OFFERS GRANTS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (GO TO TOP)

The State Department of Education is providing a School Improvement grant opportunity for professional development. School districts that receive Title I-A funding may apply for additional financial support in order to fund the basic costs of educators who participate in Idaho Online Professional Development (I-OPD) workshops.

I-OPD workshops are offered by the Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA) in partnership with the Department and are based upon best practices that are supported by the research literature. The workshops are accessible by educators across Idaho and geared toward helping improve academic outcomes for all learners. Workshop topics and dates are outlined at www.idahopd.org.

Grant awards will be provided based on a set of preferential criteria and will vary depending upon district population. Funding will cover all of the basic costs of educators who are eligible and who participate in the workshops. Eligibility, priority preferences, and other application requirements are outlined in the Idaho Online Professional Development (I-OPD) Grant Funding Application Package. Please visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/title_one/ and look under "Grant Opportunities" to download the Application Package.

The deadline for applications is **December 1, 2009**. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Underwood at sunderwood@sde.idaho.gov or (208) 332-6922.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

Office Location
650 West State Street

Telephone
208-332-6800

Speech/Hearing Impaired
1-800-377-3529

Fax
208-334-2228



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- Superintendent Luna will speak at the State Indian Education Committee and the Partnerships in Education conference at 9 a.m. on Thursday, October 1 in Lewiston.
- Superintendent Luna will speak at the Idaho Music Educators' Association fall board meeting at noon on Monday, October 5 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will visit Melba High School at 2 p.m. on Monday, October 5 in Melba.

WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **CORRECTED DATE: Register now for Curricular Materials Caravan** -- The Curricular Materials Caravan will travel across Idaho throughout October. Here is the schedule:
 - **Oct. 14:** University Inn, Best Western Conference Center, Moscow
 - **Oct. 27:** Holiday Inn, Boise Airport Conference Center, Boise
 - **Oct. 28:** Best Western Burley Inn Convention Center, Burley
 - **Oct. 29:** Shilo Inn, Convention Center, Idaho FallsAll meetings will be held from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The deadline to register for Moscow is October 2, 2009. The deadline to register for all other meetings is October 16, 2009. Visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/curricular_materials/cm_docs/2009TextbookCaravanFlier.pdf for more information or contact Val Fenske at vafenske@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Care and Share grants available** -- The Classroom Care and Share grants provide up to \$500 in funding for K-12 public school teachers and students to assist in the implementation of community service projects in the classroom. Care and Share projects must: develop an understanding and appreciation of humanity and community service; cultivate an ethic of giving; provide youth with charitable learning experiences that enable them to realize their own power to make a difference in the community through the simple act of giving. The deadline to apply is **November 1, 2009**. For more information, please visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/learn_serve/. If you have questions, contact Tina Naillon at (208) 332-6904 or tmnaillon@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Update on Governor's Innovative Grant** -- The Governor's office sent a letter to all schools in July, informing them that the Governor's Innovative Grant will not be funded for the 2009-2010 school year due to serious budget challenges. The Governor said that encouraging teachers to introduce creative and innovative projects and learning tools into the classroom remains a priority and hopes grant will be funded in the future.
- **Register now for Idaho School Boards Conference** -- The Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA) will host its annual convention November 11-13, 2009 at the Coeur d'Alene Resort in Coeur d'Alene. For more information or to register, please visit <http://www.idsba.org> or contact Misty Jones at misty@idsba.org.
- **Celebrate School Bus Safety Week** -- Join the State Department of Education in celebrating School Bus Safety Week on October 19-23 to recognize the important contributions the transportation community makes to education in Idaho. Safe bus rides to and from school are a necessary part of our education system and help make our communities wonderful places to live.



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- **Opportunity for high school science teachers** -- NanoTeach is recruiting 30 high school teachers for a year-long, nationwide pilot program starting in the summer of 2010. Utilizing the *Designing Effective Science Instruction (DESI)* framework, teachers will learn to integrate nanoscience and technology content (NS&T) into their *existing* curricula. Through lessons and experiences that model the *DESI* instructional framework, participants will investigate dynamic NS&T content while delving into strategies that support effective science teaching. For more information or to apply, please visit <http://www.mcrel.org/NanoTeach/Recruiting>.
- **Earth Science Week toolkits** -- The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Idaho Geological Survey are teaming up to distribute Earth Science Week toolkits to Idaho teachers on October 1. Representatives from the two agencies will distribute the toolkits at the annual conference of the Idaho Science Teachers Association in Boise. Earth Science Week is an outreach effort of the American Geological Institute. USGS is a sponsor of the annual event. This year's Earth Science Week runs October 11-17 with the theme "Understanding Climate." Earth Science Week toolkits include educational materials teachers can use to enhance their curriculum during Earth Science Week and throughout the year. The materials come from the USGS, NASA, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other agencies and associations. To learn more about Earth Science Week 2009, visit <http://www.earthsciweek.org/>.
- **Special Education exiting data collection due** -- The Special Education Exiting Data Collection is due **October 9, 2009**. Districts and public charter local education agencies (LEAs) report information on those students who were at least 14 years last December 1 and who exited special education for any reason between December 2, 2009 and June 30, 2009. The Special Education Student Enrollment System (Child Count) for all LEAs can be downloaded from the Secure Remote File Manager online at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/special_edu/child_count.htm.
- **IDEA Part B and Preschool application is due** -- The IDEA Part B and Preschool Application for federal special education funding is due **October 15, 2009**. This year's application includes budget forms for additional IDEA Part and Preschool funding received under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The application is available online at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/special_edu/. It is especially important, due to increased federal reporting requirements, that all eligible school districts and local education agencies (LEAs) submit the application by the due date or earlier. If you have questions or need help with a password, please contact Sherry McKnight at SRMcKnight@sde.idaho.gov or (208) 332-6910.
- **Upcoming hydrogen workshop for teachers** -- The U.S. Department of Energy's Hydrogen Program, Idaho National Laboratory (INL), Idaho State Department of Education, Northwest Nazarene University, and the NEED Project are pleased to announce an upcoming Idaho H₂ Education Workshop, which gives classroom teachers (grades 6-12) a unique opportunity to learn about hydrogen and participate in hands-on activities to teach students about hydrogen. The workshop will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on November 7, 2009 at Northwest Nazarene University (NNU) in Nampa. The workshop is free. INL is sponsoring one free credit from NNU for each participant. Each educator receives an H₂ Educate Kit with more than \$500 of equipment and student books. Space is limited. To register, visit www.regonline.com/idahohydrogen. The deadline to register is **October 31, 2009**. If you have questions or need further information, contact Wendi Moss at wmoss@need.org or 800-875-5029. For more information about NEED, visit www.need.org.
- **Guidance on serving meals if school is closed** -- The Child Nutrition Programs at the State Department of Education has sent a reminder to all districts about the requirements for feeding children in the event of a pandemic



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influenza outbreak. Each district must decide if it will feed children in the event of a school closure. To help your school decide, please review the documents available at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp/stateGuidance/#SFSP_FY09. The USDA has clarified that schools are only able to serve students enrolled at the closed school and other children in the household of an enrolled student. Schools must have a way to document the distribution of meals. New USDA Q&A's are listed in the APB section of the Child Nutrition web site at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp/>. Remember, the district will need to have a Summer Food Program or Seamless Summer Option Waiver in place before the school closes for an influenza outbreak, and a plan must be in place and approved before the school can start serving meals. If you have any questions about this program, please do not hesitate to contact the state Child Nutrition office at (208) 332-6820.

- **Alternate Authorization deadline is November 3** -- The Professional Standards Commission Authorization Committee will meet to review Alternative Authorization – Teacher to New Certificate requests on **November 3, 2009**. Please submit complete application packets to Cina Lackey, Alternative Authorization Coordinator, prior to that date. Only complete packets will be reviewed. Incomplete packets will be returned. Please be sure to sign the application and include board minutes. If you have questions, please contact Cina Lackey at (208) 332-6936 or CLackey@sde.idaho.gov. You can mail applications to:
State Department of Education
ATTN: Cina Lackey
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0027
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- **Poetry Out Loud competition** -- The Idaho Commission on the Arts invites high school teachers of English, speech or dram to enter students in the statewide Poetry Out Loud competition. By encouraging high school students to memorize and perform great poems, Poetry Out Loud brings the dynamics of the spoken word and theater into the classroom, helping students master public speaking skills and learn about their literacy heritage. The Commission will accept entries from the first 25 schools that fax their commitments to (208) 334-2488. Cash prizes will be awarded for winners of the state and national competitions. For more information, please contact Cort Conley at cconley@arts.idaho.gov or visit poetryoutloud.org.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS? (GO TO TOP)

The highlight this week is ... Salmon School District and Rural Idaho Outreach Partnership

Military and firefighting helicopters hovered over the Lemhi County Fairgrounds on September 23 as more than 600 middle and high students took part in the second annual Salmon Career Expo. The expo was sponsored by the Rural Idaho Outreach Partnership, and the Lemhi County Economic Development Association worked closely with Idaho Department of Labor and the Salmon School District to organize the event. Other major contributors included Premier Technology and the Idaho National Laboratory.

Forty-four exhibitors, including seven colleges, participated in the expo that included a competition among high school teams to see which could build a catapult, known as a trebuchet in medieval times, which would hurl a



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water balloon the farthest. The Salmon High School team won the \$5,000 prize offered by Premier Technology. The money will go to the school's agricultural education program.

The students from Salmon, Dubois, Challis, Mackay and Leadore joined the crew from the Salmon River Builders Association to build a cement sidewalk for the fairgrounds during the expo and the heavy equipment operators from Lemhi County and Stoddard Construction, who regraded the parking lot.

In addition to the colleges, military, Forest Service and heavy equipment and construction sectors, others participating included plasma cutting and fabrication, mining, heating and cooling, finance, wildlife management, the electrical and plumbing trades, health care, jewelry making, art, nuclear energy, law enforcement, emergency services, agriculture, technology, veterinary medicine, physical fitness, small business ownership, counseling and mental health, engineering and energy.

"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 with "What's Happening in Our Schools" in the subject line.

REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **Comment on draft Common Core Standards** -- The National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) released the first official public draft of the college- and career-readiness standards in English-language arts and mathematics as part of the Common Core State Standards Initiative, a process being led by governors and chief state school officers in 51 states and territories. Idaho Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna and Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter signed on to participate in this process. These standards define the knowledge and skills students should have to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing, academic college courses and in workforce training programs. Please review the draft standards and provide your feedback, which must be supported by research and evidence, by **October 21, 2009** at www.corestandards.org.
- **Hispanic Youth Summit** -- The Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs is hosting the fourth annual Hispanic Youth Summit on October 30, 2009 at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa. To register, please visit www2.state.id.us/icha or contact Juan Saldaña at juan.saldana@icha.idaho.gov or (208) 334-3776.
- **Child Nutrition workshops** -- The Child Nutrition Programs at the State Department of Education is hosting a series of workshops throughout September and October, including the following: CACFP New Center, Cooking with Whole Grains, Healthy Edge, Menu Planning for New Nutrition Standards, Personal Management, and Serving It Safe. For more information, please visit <http://www.databasesdoneright.com/nutrition/>.
- **IEA Cold Hard Cash Awards** -- The Idaho Education Association is offering Cold Hard Cash awards for Idaho classrooms. The IEA will draw eight winners each month from September through May. Each winner will receive \$50 to be used to upgrade his/her classroom. The entry form is available at idahoea.org/explore-iea/awards/cold-hard-cash. Just click on the "Cold Hard Cash" icon and submit your completed form. If your name is drawn, you will receive a check from IEA to use in your classroom. If you don't win, your name will be placed in the drawing



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for the next month. Please note: Only "New Teachers" (those in their first through fifth year of teaching) are eligible to win.

- **EarthTracks newsletter fall issue** -- *EarthTracks*, Idaho's environmental education newsletter, is now available at www.idahoforests.org/news.htm. Check it out for professional development opportunities and teaching resources.
- **Project Learning Tree professional development** -- Project Learning Tree now offers online registration and payment for its professional development workshops. Visit www.idahoforests.org/plt1.htm for the class schedule and more information.
- **Family Math Night kits available** -- The State Department of Education has partnered with Micron Technology Foundation as part of the Idaho Math Initiative to offer Family Math Night kits to local schools and districts so they can further engage parents in their child's math education. With this kit, your local school can host a Family Math Night and invite parents and students for a night of fun with games and activities that build critical math skills. To get a free Family Math Night kit for your local school district, please download a request form online at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/math/math_initiative.htm. For more information, contact Katie Walker at (208) 332-6933 or kwalker@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Program to support children with parents in National Guard and Reserve** -- The Idaho National Guard Family Programs Office will sponsor a *Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserve Institute* in February 2010. The Institute is a two-day professional development program designed for school counselors, administrators, other school personnel, and family support personnel of the National Guard and Reserves. The purpose of the training institute is to prepare school personnel to recognize and address issues that children face when a parent is deployed by the National Guard or Reserves. Those interested in attending are encouraged to contact Michael Judah, Joint Family Support Assistance Program (JFSAP) MOS Consultant, at (208) 570-3746 or michael.g.judah@militaryonesource.com, or contact Annie Henna Estvold, State Youth Coordinator, at (208) 272-4387 or annie.henna@id.ngb.army.mil.
- **Online teacher evaluation training now available** -- The State Department of Education is offering all Idaho educators free online training for the new statewide standards for teacher performance evaluations based on the Charlotte Danielson Teaching Framework. The online program is jointly produced by Charlotte Danielson and Educational Impact Inc. to allow teachers and evaluators to see what the Danielson Framework components look like in real classrooms. For more information on the statewide framework or the Teacher Performance Evaluation Task Force, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacherEval/>. To obtain IDs and passwords to the Educational Impact training:
 - 1) Designate one person from your school district to act as the point of contact.
 - 2) Be prepared to provide the exact number of teachers and administrators in your school district.
 - 3) Contact Educational Impact's fulfillment director, Lu Mack at: 215-672-2093 ext 254 or at lmack@educationalimpact.com
 - 4) Educational Impact will email you the appropriate number of IDs and passwords. Lu Mack will also include a one page "Getting Started" sheet that we recommend you distribute with the User IDs and passwords.If you have any questions, please contact Nick Smith at (208) 332-6959 or NWSmith@sde.idaho.gov.



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- **Title II-A webinar series** -- The State Department of Education is hosting a series of IdahoLive webinars focused on Title II-A funds through January. Joe Burris, Title II-A Coordinator, will host each webinar. For more information, visit www.idahodigitallearning.org, click on the "IdahoLive" tab and then click the "Future Webinars" link. If you miss a webinar, the entire series will be archived online at: http://www.idahopd.org/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab_tab_group_id=204_1.
- **H1N1 information for schools** -- The State Department of Education is working with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to update the H1N1 information webpage online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/flu/>. Please check this page regularly for the most up-to-date information to help you prepare for potential Pandemic H1N1 2009 influenza cases in schools. If you have any questions, please contact the local health district in your area. For a full list of contacts, please visit <http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Health/HealthDistricts/tabid/97/default.aspx>.
- **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 or Colleen Owen at (208) 334-1450 ext.214 or 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.
- **Upcoming grant writing workshop** -- The Idaho POST Academy and Grant Writing USA will present a two-day grant writing workshop in Meridian on October 26-27, 2009. Beginning and experienced grant writers from city, county and state agencies as well as nonprofits, K-12, colleges and universities are encouraged to attend. Multi-enrollment discounts are available. Tuition is \$425 and includes class workbook and accompanying resource CD. Seating is limited, online reservations are necessary. For more information, please visit <http://www.grantwritingusa.com/events/write/boid1009.html>.
- **Educator Training for alternative school staff** -- *Making Proud Choices!* is a curriculum that integrates teen pregnancy prevention along with HIV/STD prevention. *Making Proud Choices A Safer Sex Approach to STDs Teen Pregnancy and HIV/Prevention Curriculum* is a curriculum that provides young adolescents with the knowledge, confidence and skills necessary to reduce their risk of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), HIV and pregnancy. A training session will be held October 7-8, 2009. To learn more or to register, please visit www.sde.idaho.gov/site/csh/. If you have questions, contact Lisa Kramer, HIV/Health Education Coordinator, at (208) 332-6947 or lkramer@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Conference for Hispanic students and parents** -- The Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs is hosting the "Emerging Hispanic Students and Parents in Education" conference from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on October 20-21, 2009 at the Best Western Caldwell Inn & Suites. The conference will focus on academic transitions, cultural awareness, cultural sensitivity, cultural competency and parental involvement. The conference is open to counselors, administrators, paraprofessionals, superintendents and anyone working directly with Hispanic students who would benefit from this training. For more information, contact Juan Saldana at (208) 334-2147 or juan.saldana@icah.idaho.gov.



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UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **Oct. 2, 2009** -- The deadline to register for the RTI District Leadership Summit in Nampa, which will be held on October 23, 2009. For more information, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/rti/>.
- **Oct. 9, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for one of 52 sets of student response system technology that the State Department of Education is donating to Idaho schools. More commonly referred to as "clicker" technology, the student response systems help raise student achievement in the classroom by keeping students engaged and collecting immediate, accurate data. Visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/tech_services/grants_contracts.htm to download the 2009 Project BRAIN Grant Application and apply. If you have questions, please contact Jimmy Takata at jtakata@sde.idaho.gov or (208) 332-6937.
- **Oct. 15, 2009** -- The deadline to submit the Required Title I-A Annual Comparability Assurance Form(s), which can be found under Title I-A Annual Reports at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/title_one/. All LEAs receiving Title I-A funds must submit the Assurance either to show exemption or comparability with regard to state and local spending. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Hansen at (208) 332-6900 or SCHansen@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Oct. 15, 2009** -- The deadline for all secondary public schools serving grades 9-12 and elementary schools wishing to seek accreditation to submit the NAAS Annual Report. The annual reports can be accessed online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/accreditation/annualReports.htm> and submitted electronically to NAAS@sde.idaho.gov. If you have questions, please contact Vikki Reynolds, IDSAC Executive Secretary, at (208) 830-1777 or execsec@NorthwestAccreditation.org.
- **Oct. 15, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program, which provides opportunities for K-12 teachers to participate in direct one-to-one exchanges of positions with colleagues from other countries for a semester or academic year. To learn more, visit www.fulbrightteacherexchange.org for application forms. For questions, please contact fulbrightcte@aed.org.
- **Oct. 30, 2009** -- The deadline to submit your application for the 2010 United States Senate Youth Program funded by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. Principals in every high school were mailed a packet of information in August explaining the scholarship process, timelines for completion, and student eligibility requirements. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Salazar at (208) 332-6974.
- **Oct. 30, 2009** -- The deadline for students to postmark submissions for the Idaho Forest Products Commission's 15th annual Essay Contest in observance of National Forest Products Week, October 18-24. The contest is open to all K-12 students in Idaho. Visit www.idahoforests.org/essay_contest.htm for contest guidelines, writing prompts, scoring criteria and prize information. All who write an essay receive a Certificate of Participation. Contact IFPC at plt@idahoforests.org with any questions.
- **Oct. 30, 2009** -- The deadline to register for the RTI District Leadership Summit in Idaho Falls, which will be held on November 19, 2009. For more information, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/rti/>.



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- **Oct. 30, 2009** -- The deadline for submissions for the Idaho National Laboratory's 60th Celebration Student Video Contest, which includes several \$500 cash prizes for winning middle- and high-school classrooms. Idaho middle and high school students are encouraged to prepare a two- to five-minute video or podcast on the topic: What 60 Years of INL's Energy Innovation Means to a New Generation of Energy Consumers. The purpose of this contest is to enhance students' research and fact-finding skills and to educate them on the types of energy we use today and INL's contributions to the evolution of our national energy landscape. More information is available at https://inlportal.inl.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_291_45875_0_0_18/60th%20Anniversary%20Contest.final.pdf.
- **Oct. 31, 2009** – The deadline for school districts and charter schools to submit their 2008-2009 IFARMS Annual Financial Report as required by Idaho Code 33-701(7). The IFARMS Annual Financial Report forms and supporting documents can be found at www.sde.idaho.gov/site/finance_tech/ifarms_forms.htm. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Oberle at (208) 332-6840 or JOberle@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Oct. 31, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for awards up to \$500 for Teacher Scholarships and Classroom Mini-Grants from Northwest Professional Educators. All educators are eligible for the awards. Each teacher must submit a short application describing the continuing education opportunity or class project, an itemized budget, and the academic benefit for students. Teachers may obtain applications by filling out a contact form on the NWPE website at www.nwpe.org. All awards are competitive.
- **Nov. 2, 2009** -- The deadline for Idaho schools and districts to post a link on their websites to the state online School Report Cards, as required under No Child Left Behind. The Report Card provides an in-depth look at student achievement at the state, local and school levels with the click of a button. These reports are a great way for Idaho parents and citizens to see how Idaho schools are performing. The School Report Cards are available at www.sde.idaho.gov/reportcard.
- **Nov. 10, 2009** – The deadline for school districts and charter schools to submit their 2008-2009 Independent Audit Report. Idaho Code 33-701(6), which requires submission of the independent audit report, was modified during the 2008 Legislative Session. Not only was the due date changed from October 15 to November 10, but penalties for late submission were also added. If the SDE has not received your report on or before November 10, your November 15 foundation payment may be withheld until the audit report is received. Please work with your auditor and school board to ensure submission prior to November 10. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Oberle at (208) 332-6840 or JOberle@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Nov. 20, 2009** -- The deadline to postmark an application for the 2009 Qwest Foundation for Education Grant, which is awarded to Idaho K-12 public school classroom educators who demonstrate innovative uses of technology in the classroom. Visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/tech_services/grants_contracts.htm to download the application form. If you have questions, please contact Jimmy Takata at (208) 332-6937 or JTakata@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Dec. 31, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for \$250 New Classroom Start-Up Grants from Northwest Professional Educators. Teachers new to their district or grade level are eligible for the awards. Each teacher submits a short application describing their needs for setting up their classroom. Teachers may obtain applications by filling out a contact form on the NWPE website at www.nwpe.org. All awards are competitive.



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

- **January 15, 2010** -- The deadline to apply for the Fulbright Distinguished Awards Program, which offers fellowships to highly accomplished U.S. and international teachers to conduct research, take courses for professional development, lead master-level seminars, and engage in other activities such as in-service training for local teachers. During the program Distinguished Teachers will work towards the completion of a capstone project of their own design. To learn more, visit www.fulbrightteacherexchange.org for application forms. For questions, please contact fulbrightdat@aed.org.