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**Superintendent Ybarra names Karlynn Laraway director of communications for SDE**

(BOISE) – Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra today appointed Karlynn Laraway as her director of communications. In her new position, Laraway will oversee all external communications for the State Department of Education including media relations, online content and information requests.

“Karlynn has been a valued member of my team for more than five years, and has contributed significantly to my mission to support schools and students to achieve,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “As director of assessment and accountability for the past four years, Karlynn led our efforts to develop Idaho’s accountability system, which includes the state’s identification of low performing schools under ESSA, and led efforts to create Idaho’s new online school report card.”

Laraway has overseen Idaho’s assessment program since 2016, including statewide assessments in English language arts, math and science; a new early literacy assessment for grades K-3; the English Language Proficiency Assessment; and alternate assessments. Before becoming director of assessment and accountability, she served as the SDE’s state coordinator for the National Assessment for Education Progress and as special education assessment coordinator.

“I am humbled by the opportunity to serve the Superintendent in this new role, and I look forward to highlighting the important work my colleagues in the department are doing every day to support schools and students in Idaho,” Laraway said.

In her new position, Laraway’s annual salary will be \$86,840. She will transition to her new role in the coming weeks while the department looks to fill the Assessment and Accountability position.

Laraway was born and raised in Boise and shares her passion for education with her mother and sister, who are both teachers. She has worked in education in a variety of roles since 2003, including as a school district test coordinator and information system manager for 10 years. In that role, she worked to transition her district to the Smarter Balanced Assessment System and integrated various

information systems to implement new state reporting requirements for the State Department of Education's data system (ISEE).

She earned a bachelor's degree in Communications from Boise State University and is completing a master's degree in Adult Organizational Learning and Leadership at the University of Idaho.

In addition to developing and implementing Idaho's new accountability system, Laraway was instrumental in designing and implementing a new science assessment and new alternate assessments in ELA, math and science. She also led the effort to design and launch the state's new online district and school report cards, which have been nationally recognized by the Data Quality Campaign.

Her work has included developing tools to improve access to data by educators and policymakers, and she chairs the Smarter Balanced Executive Committee, guiding the priorities of the consortium and representing Idaho's interests in the consortium's activities.

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**Attached:** Photo of Karlynn Laraway