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SDE names new director of Assessment and Accountability

(BOISE) – Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra announced Wednesday that Kevin Whitman, currently state coordinator for accountability, will become director of Assessment and Accountability.

“Kevin has done a great job in his past four and a half years with the State Department of Education, and I have confidence in his ability to make this transition,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “Student assessment and school accountability are vitally important to our department, our schools and families throughout our state.”

Whitman joined the State Department of Education in February 2016 as coordinator for the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) and assumed new responsibilities as accountability coordinator when Idaho implemented its new accountability system under ESSA. He has worked with data from various statewide assessments to inform school improvements and the state’s new [statewide report card](#), which gives parents and others easy online access to a wide range of information about their child’s school and district.

Before coming to the SDE, Whitman worked for the Social Security Administration as director of the Office of Policy Research in the Office of Retirement Policy and as a senior research officer for Pew Charitable Trusts. He earned a bachelor’s degree in government from the University of Virginia and a master’s degree in public policy from George Mason University.

He will start his new position July 26. Karlynn Laraway, the previous director of Assessment and Accountability, was appointed communications director for the SDE in June.

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Attached: Photo of Kevin Whitman