



**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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[www.sde.idaho.gov](http://www.sde.idaho.gov)

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**FACE conference brings Elizabeth Smart to Boise, aligns with Safety Symposium**

(BOISE) – Author and activist Elizabeth Smart, who gained unwanted fame as a 14-year-old abduction survivor then went on to become an inspirational advocate for legislation and organizations to safeguard children, heads a varied slate of national and regional speakers at the State Department of Education’s Family and Community Engagement (FACE) conference Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 7-8.

Smart’s speech is also a highlight of the SDE’s School Safety Symposium, Building the Foundation for Safer Schools. The first-ever symposium brings together school officials, first responders, policy makers and local leaders Tuesday to advance student safety through prevention and social emotional learning.

Both events are full and registration is closed, but print, broadcast and online media are welcome to attend.

About 10 a.m. Tuesday, after Smart’s talk, media members will be able to ask questions of Smart, Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra and Dr. Jamie Rife, founder of Purposity, an innovative and widely used app that communities use to connect donors with individual students in need of items. This is expected to be Smart’s only exchange with Idaho media, but reporters can arrange additional conversations with Rife and Superintendent Ybarra.

Both events will be held at the Galaxy Event Center in Meridian, 1385 S. Blue Marlin Lane.

Please note: Media who want to attend Smart’s 8:30 a.m. speech are asked to set up by 8 a.m., when doors will close until the mid-morning break.

## **FACE Conference**

About 400 educators and community partners from all regions of Idaho have signed up for the SDE's fourth annual FACE conference, which runs from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday and from 8 until 4 p.m. Tuesday. Speakers include educators, innovators and researchers from across the nation, all focused on improving student success through practical, effective and sustainable strategies for community involvement. The full agenda is [available online](#). Please find [biographical information on the many speakers here](#).

## **School Safety Symposium**

Superintendent Ybarra's School Safety Symposium, Building the Foundation for Safer Schools, encourages a collaborative discussion among leaders, advancing student safety through prevention and social emotional learning. About 100 school officials, first responders, policy makers and local leaders will convene in small groups led by trained facilitators, exploring answers to a series of questions posed by a panel of national content experts and school, agency and community leaders.

The first half of Tuesday morning's symposium schedule will meld with the FACE conference, including talks by Smart and Superintendent Ybarra. Then the symposium will break out into a panel discussion and facilitated small group discussions.

The goal is collaboration that identifies the gaps in training and resources that our schools need to instill resiliency and self-management in students, preparing them to maintain positive relationships in their lives and make responsible decisions.

For the agenda and other information about the School Safety Symposium, [link here](#).

I hope you'll be able to attend. Any questions? Call me at 208-332-6807.

--- Kristin Rodine, State Department of Education PIO

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