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**Superintendent Ybarra names Marilyn Whitney Deputy Superintendent,
Communications and Policy**

(BOISE) – Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra today appointed Marilyn Whitney as Deputy Superintendent, Communications and Policy.

“Beyond her proven executive and legislative achievements, Marilyn Whitney brings unparalleled competency and a passion for supporting schools and students to achieve to the State Department of Education,” said Superintendent Ybarra. “Marilyn’s keen insight and extensive relationships with legislators and education leaders will further energize my department’s efforts to keep Idaho students safe, attract and retain great teachers, and ensure schools have the resources they need.”

Whitney is currently Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Special Assistant for Education and Government Services for Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter, a position she has held since January 2015. In that role, Whitney worked to implement the Governor’s five-year plan for improving education recommended by his 2013 Task Force. This included successfully collaborating with stakeholders and the Legislature to write and win passage of numerous policy pieces including the career ladder bill to boost teacher pay, a plan to begin implementation of mastery-based education, funding innovative college and career advising, and passing a reading initiative for K-3 literacy. She was also responsible for overseeing startup of the STEM Action Center and gaining financial support for the Center’s grants, teacher professional development activities and computer science initiative.

“I share Superintendent Ybarra’s commitment to providing enhanced opportunities and improving outcomes for Idaho students,” Whitney said. “I’m committed to building on the momentum we have seen in recent years to support strategic investments and encourage innovation in our education system to help ensure student success.”

Whitney joins Superintendent Ybarra’s team January 2nd, and her annual salary will be \$124,800.

Prior to joining the Governor’s staff, Whitney was chief communications and legislative

affairs officer for the Idaho State Board of Education. Her work for the Board included coordinating the Governor's Task Force for Improving Education and successfully passing legislation to consolidate and improve the state's scholarship programs.

Whitney earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in education from Boise State University. After working as an educator early in her career, she spent more than 20 years in the technology industry both at Micron Technology, Inc., and Idaho National Laboratory in numerous positions including investor relations, employee relations, media relations, community relations and education outreach.

Whitney's professional positions have included participation in and appointment to numerous associations and working groups including:

- Education Commission of the States
- Governors' Computer Science Partnership
- National Governors' Association Work-based Learning Team
- Idaho State Capitol Commission
- Complete College America Alliance
- Idaho Science and Aerospace Scholars Steering Committee
- Idaho Science Mathematics and Technology Coalition
- Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce Education and Workforce Committee
- Meridian Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee
- Capital City Kiwanis
- Capital City Communicators

Whitney is an Idaho native. She and her husband have four grown children and six grandchildren all of whom reside in Idaho.

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