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**Present-tense history: SDE partners with Harvard for innovative pilot program**

(BOISE) – In September, 20 Idaho high school teachers will travel to the Harvard Business School for an all-expense-paid opportunity to help pilot a new way to teach teenagers about American democracy: the High School Case Method Project.

“Through the Case Method, high school students will learn history in the present tense, stepping into the shoes of historic decision-makers grappling with the quandaries of their time,” Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra said. “This partnership with Harvard Business School is a fantastic way for Idaho teachers to immerse themselves in an approach that emphasizes learning through experience and critical thinking.

“This is a great way for us to further our goal of helping Idaho teachers and students excel and succeed, and we are honored that Professor David Moss has extended this rare opportunity to Idaho educators,” Ybarra said.

In the Case Method, teachers and students learn through groundbreaking cases from U.S. history, spanning topics that range from the writing of the U.S. Constitution to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century secession of the South and the 20<sup>th</sup> Century struggle for voting rights.

Teachers of U.S. history and government from all parts of Idaho are invited to apply for the three-day professional development opportunity through the State Department of Education. The application deadline is May 23.

The SDE will cover expenses for the selected teachers to travel to Boston for the Sept. 23-25 workshop, and Harvard Business School will provide lodging, meals and materials while the teachers are there.

The 20 Idaho educators will be part of a 100-member cohort from across the nation. Previous workshops led by Professor Moss have been limited to teachers from the Eastern United States.

The acclaimed Harvard Business School professor traveled to Idaho earlier this year at the invitation of Idaho Speaker of the House Scott Bedke and met with education leaders including the House and Senate education committee chairs, SDE Director of Academics Scott Cook said.

Selected Idaho teachers must agree to teach at least four cases to their high school classes during the school year, collaborate with other team members and share what they've learned with other teachers through presentations and sharing of materials.

The goal is to spread the Case Method throughout the state, and the State Department of Education aims to send more teachers to Harvard Business School for the training in future years. The SDE plans to cover teachers' travel expenses this fall with existing funds but will include the project in future budget requests, Cook said.

A 2016 Harvard Business School alumni magazine story sums up the Case Method this way: "While the debate rages over what to teach students about American history, Harvard Business School Professor David Moss is considering a different issue: How should we be teaching that history—and why?"

Now teachers across Idaho have the opportunity to help pioneer that approach.

Teachers interested in applying should email Social Studies Coordinator Peter Kavouras at [pgkavouras@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:pgkavouras@sde.idaho.gov) to get more information and application forms. Completed applications must be received by May 23.

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