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Media Contact:
Kristin Rodine
Public Information Officer
208-332-6807
krodine@sde.idaho.gov

Superintendent Ybarra’s FACE conference set for Oct. 25-26

(BOISE) –More than 400 educators and community partners across Idaho are expected to attend the sixth annual Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Conference Oct. 25 and 26, hearing from a wide range of speakers including the Notre Dame alumnus who inspired the movie “Rudy.”

“This outstanding annual conference offers a great blend of inspiration and practical strategies to increase participation and communication between families, schools and communities throughout our state,” Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra said. “Engaging parents and community members in our children’s education is essential to our central goal of helping every Idaho student succeed in school and in life.”

The FACE conference will be held at the Boise Centre, with in-person speakers and options for attending in person or virtually. The cost is \$125, including online registration fee. [To register or to read about this year’s speakers, click here.](#)

Rudy Ruettiger, now a motivational speaker, author and producer, gained acclaim in the 1970s – and in a 1993 movie – for overcoming a host of obstacles to realize his underdog dream of playing football for the Fighting Irish, then sacking the opposing quarterback in the game’s final play and getting carried off the field by his teammates. He will be the opening keynote speaker for the conference, which also features national and state experts on community engagement strategies for the diverse populations in Idaho.

Other FACE speakers include: Rick Rigsby, a former professor and journalist who hosts the podcast “How Ya Livin’”; Gregory A. Hudnall, founder of Hope4 Utah, a community-based nonprofit dedicated to suicide prevention and intervention; and Rodney Smith Jr., founder of Raising Men & Women Lawn Care Service. Several popular speakers from last year’s all-virtual conference will return, including Jason Bishop, a magician with a compelling personal story of trauma and resilience; and Belinda George, a Texas elementary school principal who drew international acclaim for reading to students via Facebook Live.

Idaho speakers will include Superintendent Ybarra, Gov. Brad Little, Marsing School District Superintendent Norm Stewart, American Falls School District Superintendent Randy Jensen, Nampa School District Family Community Resource & Engagement Coordinator Mari Ramos and American Falls district Family Development and Engagement Specialist Angie Harker.

Launched by Superintendent Ybarra in 2016, the FACE conference draws legislators, local and tribal government leaders and a broad variety of community organizations along with teachers, administrators, counselors and social workers from schools in all regions of the state. Last year's conference attendance included representatives of 86 Idaho school districts, 27 charter schools, 18 community organizations and one Oregon school district.

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