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Superintendent Ybarra’s Prevention and Support conference comes to Boise

(BOISE) – The 28th annual Idaho Prevention and Support conference, “Peace, Hope, and Healing During Challenging Times,” is set for April 11- 13, featuring a full schedule of speakers, sessions and pre-conference workshops designed to offer Idaho’s schools and educators the support and resources they need to ensure student health and well-being in a rapidly changing world.

[Registration is open now.](#) Participants can attend the entire conference in-person for \$175 or virtually for \$50. There is also an option to attend in-person on Tuesday, April 12 for \$100. The conference will feature a range of topics and speakers with input from thought-leaders and front-line educators.

“I’m inspired by the unwavering commitment to student health and welfare shown by Idaho’s educators, even in the face of enormous challenges and uncertainty,” said Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra. “This conference gives us a chance to come together to celebrate our efforts while focusing and refining our approach to ensuring healthy students, healthy educators, and ultimately, healthy schools.”

The opening keynote speaker is Kristen Geeze, author and founder of [Advising Generation Z](#). Geez’s in-person and virtual mentoring program serves at-risk youth with personal, academic and professional opportunities that are designed to fit their needs. The program has provided thousands of children with free counseling, after-school activities, mentoring and recreational programs.

The closing keynote speaker is Roberto Rivera, founder of Good Life Alliance and current member of the [7 Mindsteps](#) leadership team. Rivera is a predoctoral fellow with the Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Research Group at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and specializes in the

relationship between youth voice and social and emotional learning. His talk will focus on “post-traumatic growth,” exploring the idea that young people can be empowered by negative experiences.

Other presentations include Idaho Director of Special Education Joy Jansen’s “Understanding Attachment and the Relevance to Student Learning,” and childhood welfare expert Keith Orchard’s “Top Strategies for Being a Resilient Caregiver.”

Pre-conference sessions for the School Resource Officers Association have been supported with stipends available from the Office of Drug Policy. POST credits will be available to all attending SROs. Other pre-conference sessions include Youth Mental First Aid, Understanding Trauma in the Classroom, Title IX training, Title ID training, Healthy Minds Partnership and Community School Strategy.

Although last year’s conference was held virtually, it still attracted more than 700 attendees. The State Department of Education will hold this year’s conference in Boise at the Boise Center West Building, hosted by [Optum Idaho](#) and the [Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation](#).

Please see attached event poster for additional information.

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