



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUPERINTENDENT YBARRA INTRODUCES DEPARTMENT TO SUPPORT ENGLISH LEARNERS, MIGRANT STUDENTS

(BOISE) — Although it has been in development for several months—today, Superintendent Ybarra introduced the newly created Limited English Proficiency and Migrant Education Department at the Idaho State Department of Education. Since taking office, Superintendent Ybarra has been focused on meeting the needs of all students and recognized early in her administration that more dedicated support was needed in this area.

Dr. Christina Nava has been appointed as the director of this department and brings with her 16 years of teaching and leadership experience. “I taught in a small rural school in Eastern Oregon as well as a large suburban district in Idaho. My administrative experience was mainly in Nampa where I oversaw LEP, Federal Title III, and migrant programs,” Dr. Nava said. “I’ve been fortunate to be able to use my school and district level experience and knowledge here at the State to support students.”

Dr. Nava has several individuals that will work to meet the established goals in supporting Limited English Proficiency and Migrant Education students—her staff is as follows:

- Kelly Wheeler, Migrant Education Program Specialist

Kelly has worked for the State of Idaho for 30 years, 25 of which have been specifically with the department’s Migrant Education Program. Some of her duties include overseeing the Portable Assisted Study Sequence (PASS) program which is an opportunity for migrant students to earn high school credit, keeping students on track to graduation. Kelly also approves the Migrant Certificate of Eligibility (COE).

- Sarah Seamount, Migrant Education Programs Coordinator

Sarah has spent over 16 years working with migrant students and families in various capacities, including serving for 10 years as the summer school director and migrant coordinator for Idaho’s largest migrant population. Sarah is passionate about providing assistance to some of Idaho’s most vulnerable students, while empowering them and their families to become advocates for themselves.

- Alissa Metzler, Title III/LEP Program Coordinator

Alissa worked for 11 years as the ELL Teacher and District Program Coordinator for the Bismarck Public School District in North Dakota where she served on several committees for the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction advocating for ELL students and teachers across the state. In this work, Alissa frequently provided statewide support and professional development to teachers of English Learners.



For additional information about the Limited English Proficiency Program at the Idaho State Department of Education, please visit www.sde.idaho.gov/site/lep/. For additional information about the Migrant Education Program, please visit www.sde.idaho.gov/site/migrant_edu/. Additional guidance related to these programs may be directed to Dr. Christina Nava at (208) 332-6905, or by email at cnav@de.idaho.gov.

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Media Note: *The Limited English Proficiency and Migrant Education Department at the Idaho State Department of Education is associated with the Elementary & Secondary Education Act.*

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