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SHERRI YBARRA
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ANNOUNCES
IDAHO'S 2017 TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

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(BOISE) – Superintendent Sherri Ybarra today announced Mary Lynn Spiker as Idaho’s 2017 Teacher of the Year. Ms. Spiker has been a teacher for nearly three decades, and currently teaches in the Pocatello-Chubbuck School District at Claude A. Wilcox Elementary.

“It is always exciting to recognize the great work and dedication of an Idaho teacher, and I am happy to recognize Ms. Spiker as our Idaho Teacher of the Year,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “This award is just one way that we can recognize the hard work of our amazing Idaho teachers, and continue to change the culture and climate throughout the state by giving recognition where it is due.”

Ms. Spiker is not only a dedicated public school teacher, but is also involved as a liaison with the Idaho Council of the International Reading Association, and currently serves in a mentoring and support role as the elementary school’s Building Level Math Coach. Ms. Spiker believes that teaching is the greatest profession because it provides a platform to make a profound difference in the lives of children every single day.

Ms. Spiker received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Eastern Montana College, and has attended Northwest Nazarene University, Boise State University, and Idaho State University to gain additional educational credits. Most recently, she was also recognized as a P.I.E.S. (Positive Influence for Educational Success) Award Recipient.

For additional information about the Idaho Teacher of the Year program and application process, please contact Jeff Church at (208) 332-6934 or by email at jchurch@sde.idaho.gov. To learn more please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/topics/teacher-year/index.html>.

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