

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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EDUCATION FOUNDATION HIRES NEW DIRECTOR, WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND AWARDS OVER \$5,000 IN GRANTS TO TEACHERS.

BLAINE COUNTY, IDAHO – The Blaine County Education Foundation (BCEF) has selected Kathleen McCabe as their new Executive Director. The BCEF is a non-profit organization that raises funds to benefit children in the Blaine County Schools, promoting academic excellence, equitable education and sustainable student environment. Ms. McCabe replaces Mike Burchmore who served as the Executive Director from July 2011 through October 2013. Mr. Burchmore will continue to serve on the BCEF Advisory Council.

“I am pleased that we were able to hire Kathleen as the new Executive Director,” said Mark Ratliff, Co-Chair of the BCEF Board of Directors. “Kathleen has been an active member of the BCEF Board for the last two and a half years and she has what it takes to further the mission of the BCEF. The Board would also like to thank Mike Burchmore for his leadership and commitment to the BCEF and the students of Blaine County.”

Ms. McCabe has served on the BCEF Board of Directors since August 2011 and has brought insight and enthusiasm to her board role. She has a deep passion for the importance of public education and communities playing an active role in offering support. Prior to being selected as the Executive Director of the BCEF, Ms. McCabe spent ten years in various communications, operations and management roles in the nonprofit and public sectors and holds a Master’s in Public Administration from Seattle University.

BCEF is also pleased to welcome two new board members. Sharma Thornton and Stevie Guthrie have both joined the Board of Directors and bring a wealth of experience serving school communities. Mr. Guthrie served as a BCSD Trustee from 2009 to 2013 and was Board Chair from 2011-2013. Ms. Thornton is a counselor at both WRHS and Silver Creek High School.

Both the director and board members stepped into their new roles as the BCEF selected recipients of their biannual teacher mini-grant awards. Grants totaling over \$5,000 were awarded as part of a competitive application process to teachers that applied from Wood River High School, Woodside Elementary, Bellevue Elementary, Hailey Elementary and Carey Public School. Grants from BCEF benefit every area of academic life from teacher professional development to classroom material enhancements.

The Fall 2013 grant cycle was funded by generous donations from community members, educators through payroll deductions and members of the BCEF board of directors. This grant cycle focused on project-based learning activities. The projects will impact over 1,200 students in the Blaine County school district at every grade level.

“We want to thank all of our donors, from parents and alumni to businesses and educators, who support the Blaine County School District” said Co-Chair Jen Haemmerle. “This support provides funds which increase the student’s knowledge in project-based learning activities, skills vital for competing in the 21st century, and allows teachers some extra support in order to implement their creative ideas in the classroom.”

About The Blaine County Education Foundation: The Blaine County Education Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to focus community resources and raise funds for the Blaine County Schools in order to promote academic excellence, equitable education and a healthy student environment. For more information on the Blaine County Education Foundation, please contact Kathleen McCabe, Executive Director, at (208) 578-5449 or visit our website at www.supportbcef.org.



Kathleen McCabe, Executive Director of the BCEF



Blaine County Education Foundation Board of Directors