

**February 25, 2009**

**BOARD APPROVES STRATEGIC PLAN, HONORS THILO**

(Boise). Members of the Idaho State Board of Education unanimously approved its strategic plan for 2010-2014. The Board met as part of its regular meeting held at Boise State University on Thursday, February 26, 2009.

Board members also heard extensive presentations from each of the colleges and universities regarding their financial status. *"We know how difficult these times are for each of you,"* said Board president Milford Terrell. *"It's imperative that each of you (colleges/universities) be very judicious with the taxpayer and student monies that you spend. Higher education can and will help lead Idaho to recovery and long term economic sustainability,"* Terrell said.

The Board also honored outgoing member Sue Thilo of Coeur d'Alene. Thilo's 5 year term expires March 1, 2009 and has indicated she is not seeking reappointment. *"I have thoroughly enjoyed this work,"* said Thilo. *"Even with all the difficult decisions we've had to make over the years, and they are often very difficult ones- I am proud of the work we've done and proud to have served with this body."* Thilo's replacement has yet to be named.

The Board also approved the nomination of John Held of Payette to serve a Commissioner, representing the First Congressional District on the Idaho Board of Library Commissioners. Held will serve the balance of the term, held by Richard Rognas, ending June 20, 2012. Rognas, a long time volunteer and library advocate, recently passed away.

The next scheduled meeting for the Idaho State Board of Education is scheduled for April 6, 2009 in Boise. The Board will set fees/tuition for each of Idaho's four-year colleges and universities, along with Eastern Idaho Technical College for the 2009-2010 academic year during that meeting.