



IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION NAMES FREEMAN NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

(Boise). The Idaho State Board of Education today announced the selection of Matt Freeman as its new Executive Director. Freeman, the Board's Deputy Director and Chief Fiscal Officer since 2009, will start in his new role beginning June 29, 2015.

"The Board is very pleased that Matt has accepted this position," said Emma Atchley, President of the Board. "Matt provides a seamless leadership transition for the Board office as the Board continues to focus on implementing the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force for Improving Education and increasing postsecondary opportunities for students."

In 2013, the Board was asked by Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter to shepherd the work of Governor's Task Force for Improving Education. The Board's early adoption of the Idaho Core Standards and accompanying testing is the foundation of the Task Force's work. Since then, a top priority for the Board has been advocating for and implementing the Task Force's 20 recommendations, including the recently passed career ladder and a mastery-based education pilot program.

"The Board is strongly committed to full implementation of the Task Force's recommendations and will confidently look to Matt to work with the Board to achieve its overall goal of Idaho students being college and career ready," Atchley continued. "Matt is well-known and respected in Idaho government and will work with all stakeholders to achieve the Board's goals."

The Board is also focusing on encouraging high school graduates to "go-on" to postsecondary education through its goal of 60% of Idahoans age 25 to 34 earning a postsecondary certificate or degree by the year 2020. Recent Board initiatives to increase opportunities for high school students to earn college credit and to increase college scholarship opportunities are part of this effort.

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“I am very grateful for the Board's confidence in me to assume this leadership position,” said Freeman. “I look forward to working with the Board, policymakers, public schools, and colleges and universities to provide high quality educational opportunities for Idaho's students.”

Prior to becoming the Board's Deputy Director and Chief Fiscal Officer, Freeman spent nine years with the Idaho Legislative Services Office, advancing to the position of Principal Budget and Policy Analyst, where he provided the Idaho Legislature with fiscal and policy analysis of state agencies, including the state's colleges and universities, professional-technical education, agricultural research extension service, and health education programs. He holds a juris doctor degree from the University of Idaho and a Bachelor of Arts from Whitworth University. Freeman, born and raised in Idaho, is married with two children.

The Board conducted a search for a new Executive Director upon the resignation of current executive director Dr. Mike Rush who has accepted a position with the South Dakota Board of Regents.

The State Board of Education is charged with the general supervision, governance and control of the public educational institutions and the public school system of the State of Idaho. To learn more about the Idaho State Board of Education, please visit www.boardofed.idaho.gov.

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