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**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT’S STATEMENT
ON THE GOVERNOR’S STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS**

“Idaho Governor Brad Little continues to demonstrate his commitment to public education in Idaho,” State Board President Debbie Critchfield said. “Despite a lean budget year, Governor Little today outlined his plan to add \$30 million to improve teacher pay. He called on lawmakers to continue funding for early childhood literacy programs and the Idaho Opportunity Scholarship. Governor Little also recommends additional training and resources to better equip teachers to identify and serve students with behavioral health issues to improve conditions for learning. These were all recommendations put forward last year by the Governor’s “Our Kids, Idaho’s Future” task force. I applaud the Governor’s proposed investment in a collaborative cyber security program at our three universities, which reflects the Board’s emphasis on operating as a system. His proposal to fund Career Technical Education facilities at Lewis-Clark State College and the College of Eastern Idaho will help students and industry. As Board President, I commend Governor Little for his efforts on behalf of our students and teachers and I look forward to working with him and with lawmakers this session on these and other education-related initiatives.”

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