Early Learning in Idaho: Finding Common Ground

8:00—9:00  Registration and BLOCK Fest Demonstration  
BLOCK Fest is an Idaho-developed, nationally recognized, play-based learning activity. Presented courtesy of the Twiga Foundation.

9:00 – 9:10  Opening remarks  
Governor Cecil D. Andrus, President of the Andrus Center for Public Policy, Boise State University  
Priscilla Salant, Director of the McClure Center for Public Policy Research, University of Idaho  
Lieutenant Governor Brad Little

9:10 – 10:00  The Science of Learning  
Dr. Noreen Womack, St. Luke’s Treasure Valley Pediatrics

10:00 – 10:30  Idaho’s Early Learning Landscape  
Priscilla Salant, Director of the McClure Center for Public Policy Research, University of Idaho

10:45 – 12:00  Early Learning Success Stories  
Diane Demarest, Chief Operating Officer of Family Advocates  
John McFarlane, Superintendent Idaho City Schools  
William Strength, Parent

12:00 – 12:30  Lunch

12:30 – 1:30  Learning Through Digital Media  
Debra Sanchez, Senior VP of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting

1:30 – 2:30  Learning from Utah and Mississippi  
Rachel Canter, Executive Director of Mississippi First  
Representative Greg Hughes, Speaker of the Utah House

2:45 – 4:00  Towards an Idaho Solution – A Discussion  
Janice Fletcher, Professor Emerita, University of Idaho Child Family and Consumer Studies  
Rod Gramer, President of Idaho Business for Education  
Beth Oppenheimer, Executive Director, Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children  
Representative Christy Perry, Chair of the Idaho House Ways & Means Committee  
Senator Steven Thayn, Vice Chair, Idaho Senate Education Committee

4:00  Closing Remarks  
Moderated by Aaron Kunz, Idaho Public Television