

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 1, 2017**

### **IDAHO BUSINESS FOR EDUCATION HIRES NEW VICE PRESIDENT**

Idaho Business for Education is pleased to announce that Shawna Walz is joining its staff as Vice President.

Ms. Walz is an experienced and accomplished business leader, including 12 years as an executive with Oregon-based Nike in various leadership capacities. Ms. Walz is the founder of the Idaho Diaper Bank, a non-profit organization collaborating with community partners throughout Idaho to meet the basic needs of Idaho children and families.

“Idaho Business for Education is thrilled to have Shawna join our team,” said IBE President and CEO Rod Gramer. “She brings an impressive record of success in business and the non-profit world to our organization. She will make a great contribution to our mission of helping strengthen education in Idaho.”

“The work of Idaho Business for Education is of vital importance in cultivating an educated and skilled workforce,” Ms. Walz said. “I look forward to sharing my passion in improving Idaho education with community leaders and IBE.”

Ms. Walz is a fourth-generation Idahoan who grew up and attended public schools in Boise. She holds a B.S. in Psychology from Boise State University and a Master’s in Business Administration from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Competing for Boise State, Ms. Walz was a Big Sky Conference Women’s golf champion.

She is also a graduate of the Nike Executive Leadership Development Program (Xcelerate). She has a certificate from DePaul University and William Bridges Change and Transition Management in Chicago.

Ms. Walz was nominated for the Idaho Business Review’s Woman of the Year Award in 2015 and 2016 and earned a place in the IBR Circle of Excellence. This spring she was named one of four women nationally as a Mother of Achievement Honoree from American Mothers, Inc.

Ms. Walz, her husband, and their two sons enjoy spending time in the great Idaho outdoors.

**About Idaho Business for Education:** IBE is a non-profit business group working to help improve education in Idaho. It has more than 180 members across the state. Its goal is to create the educated and skilled workforce Idaho’s employers need for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and to help set our students up for success in school, work and life.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Rod Gramer at 208-287-0179 or Shawna Walz at 208-995-6711**