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Idaho Business for Education is Launching Effort to Get Computers and Internet Connections to Idaho Students

Idaho Business for Education (IBE) is announcing a statewide initiative called the Community Activation Project to help students continue their learning while the school buildings across Idaho are closed.

The two goals of this project are to get devices into the hands of thousands of students who do not have them and to provide connectivity to those students who cannot access the internet at home, so that all students can do on-line learning.

As a community project, IBE is looking for businesses and individuals throughout the state to donate their used laptops. The computers will then be scrubbed clean of data and sanitized by volunteers.

“This project is mission critical to the thousands of students in our state who cannot learn remotely without computers and other devices or internet connections at their homes,” said Rod Gramer, President and CEO of Idaho Business for Education. “IBE is partnering with educators, other community groups and state education leaders to close this digital divide among our students. We hope businesses and individuals can help us with donations of their unused computers and other resources to get connectivity to our students. If you can contribute to the cause, IBE is looking for donated devices and for volunteers to help us prepare computers for distribution to the students."

Board Chair Andy Scoggin, of Albertsons Companies, said “Idaho Business for Education, with our 242 member businesses across the state of Idaho, is focused on its private/public partnership with the State of Idaho to promote excellence in education at all levels of the education system. As private businesses engaged in all aspects of commerce throughout the state, we are uniquely positioned to provide leadership during an educational crisis, such as now exists, to assist in accessing resources for our
students and teachers to allow them to continue their critical task of completing the school year’s instruction under these unprecedented circumstances."

IBE has formed seven Teams across the state to help their local-area school districts and students:

- Panhandle Team #1 (Sandpoint): Chair, Brent Carr, bcarr@litehouseinc.com
- Panhandle Team #2 (CDA): Chair, Judy Meyer, sfmeyer@aol.com
- Northcentral Idaho Team (Lewiston): Chair, Lori McCann, lmccann@wvmccann.com
- Eastern Idaho Team #1 (Idaho Falls): Chair, Aaron Johnson, aaron.johnson@bateman-hall.com
- Eastern Idaho Team #2 (Pocatello): Chair, Roger Gibson, roger.gibson@bayer.com
- South Central Idaho Team (Twin Falls): Chair, Shawnee Kyle, shawnee@valleyinc.net
- Treasure Valley Team (Canyon and Ada County): Chair: Alishia Jonas, alishiajonas@kendallauto.com

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