

NEWS RELEASE

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Apprenticeships Benefit Individuals, Businesses, Communities

Increasing apprenticeship programs in Idaho is especially important to Idaho Power because of the benefits apprenticeships offer to businesses, individuals and the community.

"Apprenticeships strengthen the community by decreasing unemployment, increasing productivity and improving the transition from school to career," said Caroline McNeely, manager of development and performance improvement with Idaho Power.

Approximately 950 Idahoans are currently involved in apprenticeship programs, acquiring job skills in industries such as advanced manufacturing, construction, energy and health care. Annually, more than 350 new apprenticeships are registered in Idaho each year.

Idaho's apprenticeship programs offer workers an opportunity to receive paid, on-the-job training while pursuing their education. Graduates of apprenticeship programs make significant contributions to the economy of Idaho and apprenticeships result in an Industry Recognized National Credential.

The United States currently has approximately 375,000 apprentices working with more than 150,000 employers. Last year, President Obama established a goal of doubling the number of apprenticeships within five years. National Apprenticeship Week is one of several initiatives helping to achieve that goal.

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter has issued a proclamation designating Nov. 2-6 as Apprenticeship Week in Idaho and local businesses, organizations and government offices are taking time to highlight the importance of apprenticeships to their area economy.

"Idaho's apprenticeship system is a unique partnership between industry, education and government which enhances the career opportunities for thousands of Idahoans," Otter said.

Idaho Power, who to date has successfully graduated 611 apprentices through its eight accredited apprenticeship programs, will host a breakfast and briefing event Nov. 4 in Boise. The event will feature presentations by local employers with strong apprenticeship programs and the Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship.

Attendees will include local businesses, K-12 educators, diversity organizations and Department of Labor personnel. Idaho Department of Labor Director Ken Edmunds will open the event with a keynote speech on the importance of apprenticeships. U.S. Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship State Director Bill Kober will discuss guidelines for setting up apprenticeships.

ABOUT NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

National Apprenticeship Week is an opportunity for the apprenticeship community to tell the story of apprenticeships and is an invitation to business and industry, education, career seekers, community based organizations, students, and workers to learn about the real world advantages of developing careers through

adoption of the apprenticeship model. Apprenticeship is for those who aspire to be great, lead in innovation and creativity, strive to innovate in business and industry, and recognize the value of combining paid on the job learning coupled with a substantial educational component to build generational greatness in careers and commerce.

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