



Office of the First Lady

December 21, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

I support the Service-Learning in Support of Boise Schools initiative and I am asking you to show your support for K-12 service learning in Idaho as well.

K-12 service learning has been fostered in Idaho through the support of a national Learn and Serve grant to the Idaho State Department of Education. This program has been an outstanding source of inspiration, education and financial support for more than seven years. The Service-Learning in Support of Boise Schools Initiative began two years ago with additional seed funding provided by Dottie Simpson.

However, with the current federal debt crisis, the grant funding provided to the Idaho State Department of Education will be completely withdrawn on January 1, 2012. Time is critical to ensuring this important initiative continues in Idaho.

Service-Learning in Support of Boise Schools is providing a unique way to engage students in learning. Emphasizing volunteer work enables students to take ownership of their education and to use the skills they are developing in school in a practical way. In the past two years, students in Boise worked with senior citizens, animal shelters, and with Boise citizens struggling with poverty.

Additionally, to empower Boise's teachers to facilitate these volunteer projects, Service-Learning in Support of Boise Schools conducts one-week training sessions each summer. The program also provides scholarships for teachers to attend.

Service-Learning in Support of Boise Schools also hopes to reach out to other school districts in Idaho so all students in our great state will have the opportunity to both learn and help their communities. To learn more about the successes of this great initiative, please visit this Web site: <http://slcollaboration.wordpress.com/>

I am asking you to support the Service-Learning in Support of Boise School initiative because it is imperative that we equip teachers with as many tools as possible to ensure they can meet the unique educational needs of each child in their classroom. Creative projects like this are one of the many reasons why Idaho has great teachers.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori Otter".

Lori Otter
First Lady of Idaho

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