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## Executive Memorandum

**To:** Jessica Sotelo, Executive Director, Partners for Prosperity  
**From:** Judy McClanahan, Community Development Specialist, Partners for Prosperity  
**Date:** February 12, 2006  
**Re:** Two Events Sponsored by P4P

Partners for Prosperity supported two events in 2005 for women in Southeast Idaho who hoped to further - or even create - their careers. The annual *Job Options Conference* at Eastern Idaho Technical Center in Idaho Falls is sponsored by the Center for New Directions. Women of all ages and economic standing attended a series of workshops and listened to keynote speakers who lectured on everything from money management to handling conflict in the workplace. Women who had roots in poverty discovered they have skills they never knew they had, something that is vital to achieving any goal. They learned how women just like themselves had struggled with the effects of poverty and were now stronger, more resilient, and had a greater sense of community. They attended workshops to help them realize greater self-confidence and self-esteem, foundations that need to be formed before beginning to embark on a career path or enter college. This conference offered several sessions in Spanish and more women attended than ever before.

The fourth annual *Women and Work Conference*, “*Exploring the Possibilities*,” was held in March 2005 and was sponsored by the Center for New Directions at ISU. The conference featured a career information fair, roundtable discussions and workshops. Women in nontraditional occupations discussed their careers, and high school students had the opportunity to participate in career exploration with instructors, professionals, and current College of Technology students. Workshops were on health-related issues, both related to work and potential health careers; work fashion; presenting a professional image; overcoming poverty and discrimination, women in information technology; legal issues for women; hot jobs of the future; and ISU programs for nontraditional careers.

Partners for Prosperity is committed to the belief that education is essential for creating systemic change in the educational process for vulnerable populations by providing them the opportunities to overcome the obstacles of poverty, discrimination and illiteracy. It is through sponsoring programs like these that women can gain the confidences they need to overcome the many barriers to self-reliance, increase their educational possibilities and improve their lives. It is our hope that women who face so many challenges might be empowered to reach out to greater possibilities.