

Fall 2005

P4P News

Partners for Prosperity: New Beginnings for Eastern Idaho (P4P), is a non-profit organization serving 16 counties in Eastern Idaho and the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. Although not a direct-funding organization, P4P is dedicated to increasing personal and community prosperity by bringing community members together, providing technical resources and assistance and helping to incorporate solutions to the problem of poverty in our region.

<http://www.p4peid.org>

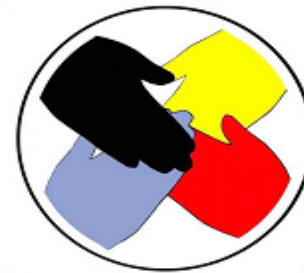
Telephone: 208-785-0059
Fax: 208-785-5866
Meeting and Event Hotline: 208-785-5865

Franklin	Bannock
Fremont	Bear Lake
Jefferson	Bingham
Lemhi	Bonneville
Madison	Butte
Oneida	Caribou
Power	Clark
Teton	Custer

Partners for Prosperity serves Idaho's Eastern Counties and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.



625 W. Pacific Street
Suite 1
Blackfoot, ID 83221



Partners for Prosperity
NEW BEGINNINGS FOR EASTERN IDAHO

Earned Income Tax Credit Promotion Program

Delverne Seaman

Starting January 2006, Partners for Prosperity will kick off the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Promotion Program. EITC is a special tax benefit for working people who earn low or moderate incomes. It has several important purposes: to reduce the tax burden on workers, to supplement wages, and to provide a work incentive. Single or married people who worked full-time or part-time at some point during the year may qualify for the EITC, depending on their income:

- Workers with one child and with family income of less than \$30,338 (\$31,338 for married workers) can get an EITC of up to \$2,604.
- Workers with more than one child and with a family income of less than \$34,458 (\$35,458 for married workers) can get an EITC of up to \$4,300.
- Workers between the ages of 25 and 64, with no children in their home, and with incomes below \$11,490 (\$12,490 for married workers) can get an EITC of up to \$390.

The goal is to use outreach and marketing to increase the number of individuals and families who know about and claim available tax credits in 16 counties of Eastern Idaho and the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. The program will work to make people aware of the maximum refund amount available to individuals and families. It will also help to educate them about the costs associated with filing,

specifically the rapid refund option. Financial knowledge will be increased by providing educational materials about using tax refunds in ways that will strengthen long-term financial security through building assets and decreasing debt. Another program, the Idaho Individual Development Account (IDA) program will be used as a positive example of how low or moderate income individuals and families can use their tax return to build assets and strengthen financial security over the long term. For more information about EITC Promotion and the Idaho IDA Program, contact Delverne Seaman at (208) 785-0059.

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Prosperity Preservation Working Group Sustains Leaders Terry Busch

This working group has the task of building a sustainable leadership for Eastern Idaho. We identify and empower members of communities to build and sustain leadership and mentoring programs. Working group members come from small businesses, civic and service groups, and the community. At this time, we have a wonderful opportunity to build leadership in Eastern Idaho....

When my houseplants have a funny white fuzz covering their leaves, I call my friend Donna. She'll tell me what it is and what to do about it. And when Donna's baby has a rash, she calls me. That is the way it is in communities – people are known for their special knowledge, and when they share that knowledge, then they are acknowledged leaders.

Communities have different knowledge bases. Perhaps in your community, you know exactly whom to call to find the right herbal antidote for an upset stomach. On the other hand, is there someone in your group who can tell you how to fight a traffic ticket, or how to get on the Internet at the library, or how to get your child credit toward graduation when he's been sick and missed too much school?

The need for this kind of knowledge to be shared with many different communities is the impetus for bringing a leadership program called Real Choices Leadership Development Forum to Eastern Idaho.

This program has been very successful for decades in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Here is where you can play a part – join the Prosperity Preservation Working Group to help in the grassroots building of this important project. Make a difference in your community – call Terry at 785-0059, or e-mail your interest to terryb@p4peid.org. Make a difference in Idaho.



Research Enhanced with New Software

Henry Evans

Last month I was chosen to take part in a "beta test" project as a software tester for QSR International. Along with others selected from a group of applicants world-wide, I will use, review and provide comments that will help develop cutting edge qualitative software. The software package, Nvivo 7 is used to analyze qualitative data (data that is text rather than numbers).

Being chosen to participate in this beta test is a distinct honor and has the potential to provide P4P another tool to better understand poverty as it is lived

and experienced in our regional community. It will allow me to more fully analyze the interviews we conducted during our planning phase. Those interviews provided a good deal of the foundation for all that we do. While we appreciate that numbers can be used to understand the nature of our region's poverty, as an organization, we are committed to qualitative research that engages our region through individual interviews about their lives, their struggles and their aspirations for themselves and their children. This signals that good things are ahead for research at P4P.

ELOA Grant Update

Tom Putnam

As a collaboration between Partners for Prosperity, United Way of Southeast Idaho, Success By 6, and Help, Inc., the Early Learning Opportunities Act (ELOA) grant has been underway for approximately one year. Awarded to the Partners for Prosperity Early Learning and Care Council and administered by United Way of Southeast Idaho, the ELOA grant has had many new and exciting projects unfold over the past months. These projects have been critical in increasing and enhancing early childhood services and ultimately building the skills of children across Eastern Idaho to be prepared to enter school ready to learn.

The On-Wheels learning mobile, a 30-foot mobile classroom, recently began operation in serving preschool aged children in Bonneville County and the City of Rexburg. The mobile classroom, operated by collaborating partner HELP, Inc., is expected to serve 360 children throughout the designated area.

Another exciting program across many communities in Eastern Idaho is Parents as Teachers (PAT). Through ELOA, a number of agencies administering the PAT program have received continued funding

and support to increase the number of children and families that will be served through home visits. By helping to expand the PAT program, it is expected that at least 35 new families and their children will be recipients of this critical program. In addition to the services that directly benefit children and families, the ELOA grant provides funding for assisting child care providers increase their training.

The Child Development Associate (CDA) program is critical in ensuring that childcare providers have the training and skills necessary in promoting children's healthy growth and development in a safe setting. Currently in its second semester, the CDA program has been very successful with 19 of the 20 participants still active and enrolled in the training course.

A cultural sensitivity course will be added in the Spring of 2006. Renewal credit can be received for those who have already received the training. A number of other projects associated with ELOA are also in the process of being implemented. For more information or updates on the progress of the ELOA grant, please contact Tom Putnam at (208) 785-0059.

Adult Education & Training Working Group

Judy McClanahan

The Adult Education & Training Working Group voted to fund a request from Eastern Idaho Technical College's (EITC) Job, Education and Training (JET) Program Coordinator, Jenny Muir, for \$500 to be used for General Education Diploma (GED) scholarships for students who are unable to pay the \$75 fee to take the test.

The JET Program is a compact, fast-paced program designed to help low-income parents be able to prepare for specific job training, be successful in entry level jobs or complete a GED. This money will be used to assist students who are prepared to take the GED pay for their tests.

The EITC Adult Basic Education Department provides testing and preparation so a student is prepared to successfully pass each of the five sections of the GED prior to taking the test. Once

they are ready, and they are a participant in the JET program, they will apply for a GED scholarship with the money received from the Partners for Prosperity Adult Education and Training Working Group.



From left to right—Oleva Blessinger, Marsha Harman, Sharon Morse, Jenny Muir, Judy McClanahan, and Tiffany Golay.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7 P4P Board of Directors Meeting 11 a.m.—2:30 p.m. P4P Blackfoot Office	8
9	10	11 Early Learning WG 9:30 —11:30 a.m. Blackfoot City Hall	12	13	14	15 Portneuf River Celebration, Pocatello Parks 7:30 a.m.—4 p.m.
16	17	18	19	20 E-Commerce Sub-committee Meeting 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. P4P Blackfoot Office	21 Idaho Nonprofit State Conference in Boise, 8 a.m.—5 p.m.	22
23	24	25	26 Math, Science, and Technology K-12 WG 3:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. P4P Blackfoot Office	27 Adult Education and Training WG 9: 00 a.m.—noon P4P Blackfoot Office Prosperity Preservation Working Group 12:30 p.m.—2:30 p.m. P4P Blackfoot Office	28	29
30	31 Halloween	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 OMNI Building Open House, 250 South 4th Avenue, 1-5 p.m. followed by Chamber After Hours from 5-7 p.m.	11 VETERAN'S DAY	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Regional Prosperity Task Force Mtg 10a.m.-noon: Board & Staff reports, upcoming Visioning process, Blackfoot City Hall	19
20	21	22	23	24 THANKSGIVING DAY	25	26
27	28	29	30			

From the Director

Jessica Sotelo

Sometimes it is difficult to measure success—especially when you think of such a big issue as poverty. The reality is that P4P will never eliminate poverty, but we can learn to manage it better and hopefully make a difference in the lives of Eastern Idahoans. Success may come in big packages, such as the empowerment of community members through capacity building and real-life learning experiences.

P4P has a number of initiatives related to empowerment and the creation of prosperity: leadership projects, small business training that is culturally specific, E-commerce training, Individual Development Accounts, Earned Income Tax Credit awareness, and education opportunities.


Maybe success means one person is assisted through a GED scholarship that the Adult Education and Training Working Group sponsored. Maybe success means one student takes an interest in a career in science and technology—one of the highest paying jobs of the future. Maybe success means that one child is served through the Early Learning initiative and participation in the Parents as Teachers Program. Ultimately it may be some time before the impact of P4P is felt at the local and regional level. In the meantime, many of our projects are beginning to

bear fruit and we are continually learning about the process.

We have seen numerous community people step forward and assume leadership roles in working groups and other community groups as a result of their involvement with P4P. We have also seen the enthusiasm and support of small business training as well as the need. Sometimes it is necessary to make a mid-course correction, such as the move to outsource our research to Paul Zelus at the ISU Center for Business Research and to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Planning Department. Ultimately this will help P4P get back to grassroots, community-based research. At other times we have learned that a seemingly small tool has big applications in community development—such as the use of working group websites and online calendars. Our web developer is very busy these days helping working groups utilize technology more effectively.

Finally, we have learned that P4P has to think about long-term sustainability and the need to continue grassroots community development. As one of our community members once said, “poverty is like the elephant that can only be eaten one bite at a time.”

Upcoming Events



OMNI Building and P4P Pocatello Office
Open House
November 10, 2005
250 South 4th Avenue, Pocatello
1—5 p.m. P4P Open House,
5—7 p.m. Chamber After Hours

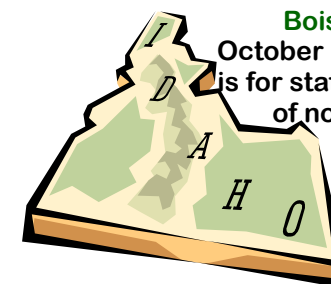


Regional Prosperity Task Force—RPTF
SAVE the DATE
November 18, 2005
Blackfoot City Hall
10 a.m.—noon

Save the Date!
March 21, 2006
Job Options Conference
Call 524-3000, ext. 3363
Your Ticket to the Future
at EITC



Save the Date!
March 7, 2006
Women & Work Conference at ISU
Call 282-6076 for information



The Idaho Nonprofit State Conference will be held in Boise from 8 a.m.—5 p.m. October 21, 2005. Conference is for staff and board members of nonprofit organizations. Call P4P at 785-0059 for more information.

Mercado Project—People Helping People

Sonia Martinez

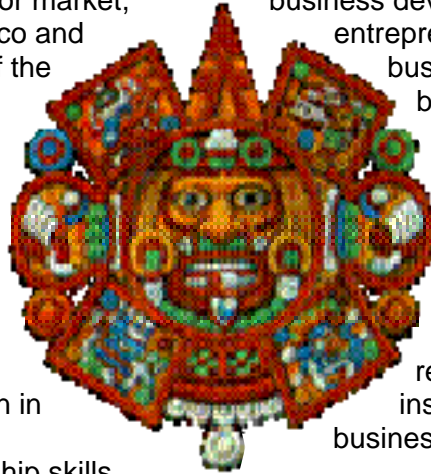
A grassroots group of Mexican-American community members have been meeting monthly with Partners for Prosperity (P4P) to create a plan for prosperity creation and empowerment in the Mexican-American community. The group eventually hopes to build a Mercado business incubator market, modeled after the mercados in Mexico and Latin America. The group calls itself the *Mercado Project Committee*. The group seeks to help each other become successful in the business community and to take a more active leadership role in the issues that are affecting their community.

The committee identified barriers to prosperity including language, education, and lack of representation in local government. *Mercado Project* members feel that access to leadership skills and business training are necessary to become successful in the business and political community. Several committee members own their own micro-business and have been successful in creating a sustainable lifestyle for their families as a result of their entrepreneurial spirit.

Through research and community assessments, the committee found that limited resources are available to Mexican-Americans in Southeast Idaho for small business development.

Although some Spanish pamphlets and brochures are available, small business training programs and technical assistance for Mexican-Americans are not offered in Spanish in Southeast Idaho. Without business plans or educational opportunities available in Spanish, Mexican-Americans are unable to obtain funding from local banking institutions. Lack of access to funding resources is one of the major challenges facing small business owners in the Mexican-American community. Without access to capital, Mexican-American business owners are limited to business growth and real estate acquirement.

To address the barriers facing potential and current Mexican-American entrepreneurs, the *Mercado Project Committee* decided to offer the NxLevel Entrepreneurial Training program to the Mexican-American community. NxLevel programs are business development courses designed to help entrepreneurs grow or advance their businesses. NxLevel offers the business training materials in Spanish. The courses are traditionally offered through local Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) in Idaho. The advantage of obtaining certification through NxLevel is the opportunity to develop a business plan recognized by local banking institutions that provide small businesses access to capital.



During Spring 2005, two bilingual Mexican-American members from the *Mercado Project Committee* traveled to Boise to obtain training and certification as NxLevel instructors. Upon successful completion of their training, the bilingual certified trainers met with Tom Maydew from the Pocatello SBDC to discuss a possible partnership. The SBDC agreed to partner with the Mexican-American community and support their program by providing technical assistance for the NxLevel training.



Since meeting with the SBDC, the *Mercado Project Committee* adopted a 16-week NxLevel course that is being offered in Spanish. The curriculum offered by the *Mercado Project* provides participants with necessary tools to become active and successful in the local economy and government. The curriculum is also culturally relevant to the Mexican-American community. The course began on September 29th and currently has 18 members enrolled in the class.

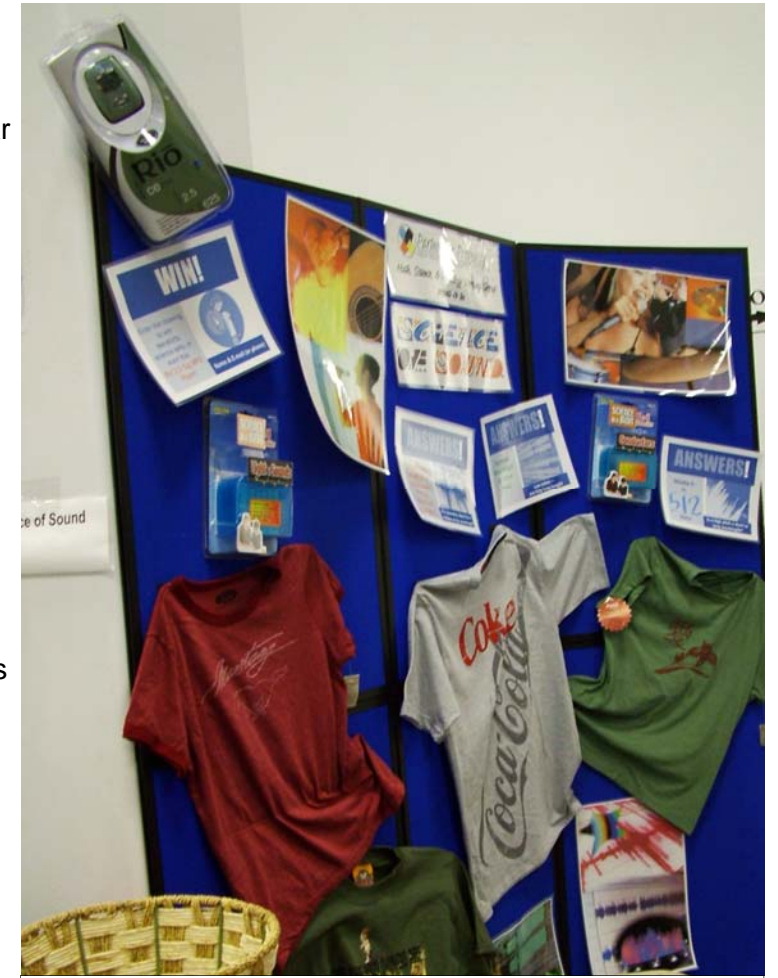
Math, Science, & Technology Working Group Support INL Science & Engineering Expo

Terry Busch

On September 22-24, the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Science & Engineering Expo took place at the Museum of Idaho. Approximately *four thousand* 12, 13 and 14 year olds from all over Eastern Idaho attended on Thursday and Friday, and over a thousand families attended on Saturday. ISU professors Dr. Steve Shropshire and Lawrence Beaty, members of the Math, Science, & Technology Working Group, helped design the P4P table: *The Science of Sound*. How do you make sound interesting to middle school kids? Send rock music through a speaker into a pipe full of propane and watch the standing wave of fire move to the music, of course. We also had a drawing for some awesome tee-shirts and a "sweet" MP3 player!

The goal was to inspire fascination in science, and to develop an e-mail database of those kids who are interested. The database will eventually be enlarged to include all school-aged children, plus their involved parents and teachers. Math and science activities and fairs, local scholarships for juniors and seniors, and staff development scholarships for teachers are some of the things we will share through that database when it is complete.

It was three days of fun and laughs, well, except for that moment at 11:00 a.m. on Friday when I had a mini-nervous breakdown...and no one caught fire, although Dr. Steve and son Erin both tried to. Special thanks to Kathy, Chris, Jay, Dave, and my daughter Erin for working the booth, and to Bonnie and Dawnette for cutting thousands of noisemakers and entry forms!



Door prizes for INL Tech Fair attendees



Attendees observing the "Science of Sound" booth, with P4P's Terry Busch in the background.