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**NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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**“SMART WOMEN, SMART MONEY” FINANCIAL CONFERENCE  
COMING FEBRUARY 13<sup>TH</sup> TO BOISE**

*Show business legend Patty Duke to Keynote*

**Boise, ID**—The Idaho Department of Finance is pleased to announce that the “Smart Women, Smart Money—Idaho Everywoman’s Financial Conference” will be held on **Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, at the Boise Centre (on the Grove). The conference will run from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with doors opening at 7 a.m.**

“We are pleased to again be sponsors of this valuable and popular conference offering Idaho’s women an excellent opportunity to increase their financial knowledge and skills,” Gavin Gee, Director of the Department of Finance said. “In our daily work at the department, we continually see an increased need for financial education, including financial fraud avoidance education,” Gee said.

The Smart Women, Smart Money Conference, organized and hosted by **Idaho State Treasurer Ron Crane**, has become an Idaho tradition for women seeking financial education. This year’s conference is **FREE** thanks to generous donations from the Idaho business community and other sponsors, including the Department of Finance. Last year, the Smart Women, Smart Money Conference in Boise attracted more than 1,500 people.

The conference will host top national and local financial experts providing interactive workshops, **free** financial education materials, motivational presentations, resources for continuing education credits for CPAs and teachers, and free breakfast and lunch for all participants. This year, **Patty Duke** is the keynote speaker for the Boise conference. Ms. Duke’s career has spanned six decades and she continues to thrive long after many of her contemporaries have retired. Ms. Duke has conquered Broadway, film and television. In 1959 she made her Broadway debut in **The Miracle Worker**, the powerful story of Helen Keller and her teacher Annie Sullivan (portrayed by Anne Bancroft). The show ran for nearly two years and a twelve-year-old Patty Duke won the Theatre World Award as “Most Promising Newcomer.” Ms. Duke won an Oscar for her performance in the motion picture version of **The Miracle Worker**. In addition to her success in acting, she became a Billboard top-ten singer with the recording of her hit song, “**Don’t Just Stand There.**” She also became the second woman ever to be elected president of The Screen Actors Guild, which is the fifth largest labor union in the United States. Ms. Duke is a New York Times best-selling author with the publication of her autobiography, **Call Me Anna**, and its follow up, **A Brilliant Madness**, both which detail her harrowing childhood, rise to fame, and diagnosis of Bipolar Disorder. Ms. Duke currently teaches drama at University of Idaho and she and her family reside in Northern Idaho.

The topic of “**How to Protect Your Nest Egg-Red Flags of Investment Fraud**” will be presented by **Kurt Merritt**, an Analyst with the department’s securities bureau. Also, the topic of “**Consumer Roadmap to Mortgage Lending and Servicing**” will be presented by **Anthony Polidori**, Supervising Examiner and Investigator in the department’s Consumer Finance Bureau. Employees of the department will also staff a booth in Boise offering **free** financial education materials. These materials include books, brochures and pamphlets with information about the basics of saving and investing, mortgages, credit cards, credit scoring, foreclosure avoidance resources, combating cyber fraud and identity theft, and avoiding investment and financial fraud. Department staff also will be available to answer questions or assist consumers.

Registration is required for this event. Registration can be done online and additional information can be viewed at [www.smartwomensmartmoney.com](http://www.smartwomensmartmoney.com).



Department of Finance Press Releases and other information can be found on the Internet at [finance.idaho.gov](http://finance.idaho.gov) and may be obtained by contacting the department at (208) 332-8004 or Idaho toll-free at 1-888-346-3378.