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## **Idaho Earns NASCUS Re-accreditation**

**Arlington, VA** – The National Association of State Credit Union Supervisors (NASCUS) announced that the Idaho Department of Finance earned five-year re-accreditation by NASCUS. Mary Martha Fortney, NASCUS President and CEO made the announcement. This is the fourth consecutive certificate of accreditation awarded by NASCUS to the Idaho department, which was first accredited in 1990.

As of September 30, 2005, the Department supervised 42 credit unions with total assets of more than \$1.4 billion. Idaho is also the host state regulator for four credit unions operating from the states of Washington and California. The Department marked its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

“Re-accreditation by NASCUS is a very significant accomplishment for our Department,” said Gavin Gee, director of the Idaho Department of Finance. “It is an independent expert certification that our Departments’ staff, policies, practices, laws and regulations conform to the highest national standards for credit union regulatory agencies.”

NASCUS accreditation is valid for a five-year period subject to annual review. The annual review process enables the accredited agency and the NASCUS Performance Standards Committee (PSC) to measure progress and improvement. NASCUS accredited states supervise more than 80 percent of state-chartered credit union assets.

“NASCUS accreditation is a noteworthy designation and a tribute to the effectiveness of the state credit union regulatory system,” said Fortney. “Director Gavin Gee, Bureau Chief Mary Hughes and the Department of Finance staff consistently demonstrate the ability to meet NASCUS accreditation performance standards and effectively fulfill its statutory responsibility to charter, examine, supervise and regulate the credit unions chartered under the laws of the State of Idaho.”

To earn accreditation an agency’s qualifications are evaluated by an Accreditation Review Team (ART), who completes a thorough examination of the agency’s accreditation application and supporting documents, followed by three days of intense on-site scrutiny of agency programs and performance. The NASCUS PSC votes for re-accreditation based on the reports of the ART, a group of veteran regulators. In addition to an on-site review, the accreditation process includes an extensive self-evaluation

questionnaire on department operations in the areas of administration and finance, personnel, training, examination, supervision and legislative powers.

“The key to our Department achieving national re-accreditation is the strong support we receive from Governor Kempthorne and his staff, the legislature, the regulated industries and their associations, and our very dedicated and capable employees,” Gee said.

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*The NASCUS mission is to enhance state credit union supervision and advocate a safe and sound state credit union system. Founded in 1965, NASCUS represents all 48 state and territorial credit union supervisors and the NASCUS Credit Union Advisory Council, which is made up of nearly 500 of the nation’s more than 3,800 state-chartered credit unions.*