



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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“SMART WOMEN, SMART MONEY CONFERENCE”

Idaho Department of Finance to Sponsor and Participate in Free Women’s Financial Conference

Boise, ID—Mary Hughes, acting director of the Idaho Department of Finance, announced today that the department will be a sponsor of the upcoming “Smart Women, Smart Money Conference” in Moscow. The department is a long-time sponsor of the conference, which will be held on **Friday, October 25th, at the University of Idaho Pitman Center. The conference will run from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with doors opening at 7 a.m.**

“We are pleased to again be a part of this valuable and fun conference offering Idaho’s women an excellent opportunity to increase their financial knowledge and skills. In our daily work at the department, we witness firsthand the critical need for enhanced financial education and urge women to participate. Financial literacy can lead to a financially secure future,” said Hughes.

The Smart Women, Smart Money Conference, organized and hosted by the **State Financial Officers Foundation** has become an Idaho tradition for women seeking financial education. This conference is **FREE** thanks to generous donations from the Idaho and Washington business communities.

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.

Julie Ellsworth, Idaho State Treasurer, will speak at this event as well as **Tamika Catchings**, who will be the keynote speaker for the Moscow conference. Catchings, the Indiana Fever’s “do-everything” forward, completed 16 seasons in the WNBA. Her being named as recipient of the very first ESPN Humanitarian Award in 2015 and a 14-year run of community service by her Catch The Stars Foundation are testament to her impactful work off the court. In March 2016, Catchings released an autobiographical story, ***Catch A Star: Shining through Adversity to Become a Champion***, sharing her story of overcoming hearing loss, separation from family, high expectations and the pain of debilitating physical injuries.

The topic of **“Investment Fraud—Avoid Becoming a Victim”** will be presented by **Kristen Butler**, Securities Investigator with the Department’s Securities Bureau. Employees of the Department will also staff a booth in Moscow 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, 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.



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