



**Idaho Inclusiveness Coalition**  
Hear More, See More, Say More. Be More.

**Linda Gibbs, IIC Secretary**  
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**Media Advisory:**

**BPD Officer Shelli Sonnenberg to speak to members of the Idaho Inclusiveness Symposium.**

**Officer Sonnenberg will address her award-winning work with Boise's Refugee Community and her recent exchange study trip to India.**

Boise, March 29, 2011 - The Idaho Inclusiveness Coalition is offering its members a Brown Bag session with Boise Police Officer Shelli Sonnenberg, Community Policing Officer and BPD Refugee Liaison. Media is invited to attend to learn and share more about the important work Officer Sonnenberg has done assisting Boise's growing refugee population.

Boise Police Chief Michael Masterson has been a member of the Idaho Inclusiveness Coalition since he was named Chief of Police in 2005.

"Officer Sonnenberg does this work with her heart, she truly cares about the people and families that make up Boise's refugee communities, which is a growing and increasingly diverse population." said Chief Masterson.

Officer Shelli Sonnenberg was honored earlier this month as the first recipient of the Refugee Champion Award presented by the Idaho Office of Refugees.

Who: Idaho Inclusiveness Symposium members, Officer Shelli Sonnenberg

What: brown bag lunch session

Where: Boise Police Admin, City Hall West, 333 N. Sailfish Pl., Boise

When: Noon - 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 6, 2011

Background: Officer Sonnenberg was recently honored to take part in the Rotary International Group Exchange Study and spent 5 weeks in India. The Group Study Exchange is a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for young business and professional men and women. The program provides teams of participants to exchange visits between paired areas in different countries, i.e. USA - Idaho and India. For four to six weeks, team members study the host country's institutions and ways of life, observe their own vocations as practiced abroad, develop personal and professional relationships, and exchange ideas. Officer Sonnenberg says the experience taught her the importance of recognizing the differences we share, but more significantly, the similarities we have in common.

Officer Sonnenberg graduated from the University of Idaho in 1998 with a degree in Criminal Justice. She began her law enforcement career with Boise Police Department in 1999 and was voted the first female President of her POST Academy. Her current assignments include: Community Policing Officer, Honor Guard member, Crisis Negotiator and Refugee/Immigrant Liaison for the Department. For the last four years, Officer Sonnenberg has focused her attention on creating and running the Interpreter/Translator Program.

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