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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The 7th annual Caldwell Youth Forum was hosted today by the College of Idaho. The Caldwell Youth Forum is a one-day leadership seminar that encourages students to step out of the background and lead the way in making positive changes within their schools and communities. The forum began in 2011 as part of the Caldwell Youth Master Plan, which was adopted to provide a framework to enhance the life and safety of Caldwell's youth and children.

The Forum brings together students from multiple different schools around the area and uses team-building activities, advocates and lectures to facilitate brainstorming from the students themselves about how to make a positive impact in their own capacity. "It's On Us" has been the theme of the Forum over the last few years. Each student is encouraged to think about their own role in school and beyond and how taking action can influence others.

Since the Forum's inception, students have conceived and implemented ideas such as a birthday calendar at Caldwell High School, "Random Acts of Kindness" or "Ractivist" [rack-ti-vist] club at Ridgevue, and the hosting of their own "It's On Us" forum at Vallivue.

The Caldwell Youth Forum has gained steam since 2011, adding Caldwell's new Elevate Academy to its list of participants that now includes Caldwell High School, Vallivue High School, Canyon Springs High School, Vallivue Academy, COSSA and Ridgevue High School.

In a testament to how widespread the Forum's influence has become, Idaho's State Superintendent of Schools Sherri Ybarra attended this year as well.

The Caldwell Youth Forum is made possible year after year by the community's deep rooted interest in the well-being of our youth and many generous partnerships. The College of Idaho has been supportive since the beginning. Doug Brigham and Jim Everett, the College's co-presidents, are champions of youth involvement in education and the community. This year the students were welcomed during the luncheon by Jim himself. Jim challenged the students to think of themselves as role models – for their schools, their communities and their peers. Needless to say, the students are rising to the challenge.