



## **250+ Idaho educators to attend largest tech training ever hosted by Khan Academy**

Sal Khan's appearance before a sold-out crowd at the ED Sessions in Boise last May ignited educators and students across the state. Khan is founder of KhanAcademy.org, a free on-line learning site that uses thousands of short videos, exercises and real-time data to provide anytime/anywhere learning to millions of users around the globe. The number of Idahoans visiting Khan's site rose from 40,000 users to more than 55,000 users after his visit.

On October 4-5, the learning revolution continues in Idaho when 250 educators from schools and non-profits across the state converge on Boise for a free, 2-day training led by four members of Khan Academy's School Implementations team. More will watch the training live via the Idaho Education Network.

"The teacher workshop in Boise, Idaho will be our largest training to date," says Khan Academy's Maureen Suhendra. "While preparing for this workshop, we had the privilege of hearing directly from teachers in Idaho. It became clear that within Idaho's teacher community is a strong spirit of innovation and a deep care for students. The teachers expressed a desire to learn more about how Khan Academy can be used effectively in their classrooms."

The interactive, hands-on training is designed to accelerate the use of Khan Academy in Idaho. Teachers will learn how the site's data and various features can meet the unique needs of each student, creating a classroom where everyone is able to feel challenged and successful.

"Forcing 35 students to all proceed at the same pace fosters boredom and loss of motivation and interest," explains training participant Matt Werner, a teacher at Lake City High School in Coeur d' Alene. "Students working at individual paces promote strong ownership of their own learning. I don't see Khan Academy as just some online learning site. Rather, I see Khan Academy as an excellent tool in my classroom. With Khan Academy my time as a teacher is utilized far more effectively."

The J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation is providing this highly sought-after professional development opportunity for free to support the Foundation's new strategic vision---*limitless learning for all Idahoans*.

"One way to deliver on that vision is to expand access to world-class programs and methods," says Jamie MacMillan, executive director of the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation. "Khan Academy provides a platform upon which to begin building a different path to success for Idaho students."

KhanAcademy.org is the world leader in online education, especially in the area of mathematics, a subject with which many Idaho students struggle. In 2011, only 9% of Idaho 8th graders scored in the advanced range on the National Assessment of Educational Progress standardized test for math proficiency. Research shows that students who complete algebra by the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade are well positioned for success in upper level math course taking.

"As a district we are trying to improve our math scores and knowledge as well as our access to help outside of the classroom," says Horseshoe Bend High School teacher and training participant, Jennifer Riley. "Khan Academy seems like the perfect format to help with this."

The workshop is Thursday, October 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Friday, October 5, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the [Boise campus of Northwest Nazarene University](#).

The J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation is a private family foundation committed to limitless learning for all Idahoans. Since 1997, the Foundation has invested more than \$500 million to improve education in Idaho. For more information about the Foundation visit [www.jkaf.org](http://www.jkaf.org).

Khan Academy is a not-for profit organization with a mission of changing education for the better by providing a free-world class education for anyone, anywhere. For more information, visit [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org).

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