



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
GOVERNOR

## NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Jon Hanian

(208) 334-2100

### **KEN EDMUNDS NAMED NEW IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR DIRECTOR**

(BOISE) – Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter announced the appointment today of Twin Falls businessman and State Board of Education member **Ken Edmunds** to succeed the retiring **Roger Madsen** as director of the Idaho Department of Labor.

Edmunds will start his new job on November 25. He is resigning from the Board of Education effective the same day, and will step down from his seat as a member of the Idaho Global Entrepreneurial (IGEM) Council. Governor Otter will appoint a successor to fill the remainder of Edmunds' second five-year term on the Board of Education, which runs until March 2018.

Edmunds' appointment is subject to confirmation by the Idaho Senate when it reconvenes in January.

**Jay Engstrom**, deputy director at the Department of Labor, will serve as acting director until Edmunds assumes the job. Roger Madsen, whose work at Labor ends today, has been the agency's director since his appointment by Governor Phil Batt in 1995. He was reappointed by Governors Dirk Kempthorne in 1999, Jim Risch in 2006 and Governor Otter in 2007.

"The Department of Labor has had extraordinary leadership under Roger for 18 years. I'm confident that Ken will continue that tradition of excellence while bringing valuable perspective to the job of helping prepare Idaho's workforce for the future," Governor Otter said. "Ken's years on the Board of Education and his private-sector experience will be critically important in positioning the Department of Labor to advance its collaborative efforts with the education and economic development communities and Idaho employers."

Edmunds has worked in development and investments since 1987. The Brigham Young University graduate with a master's degree in accounting previously was a senior executive and consultant with Ameristar Casinos, a Certified Public Accountant and manager for the accounting firm Price Waterhouse, and controller of a Twin Falls development and construction company.

Edmunds and his wife, Jane, have four children and seven grandchildren.

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