

Press Release

For Immediate Release

April 28, 2020

Successful Launch of *Blaine Recovery Series* Bilingual Live Interviews with Community Leaders

- *Interviews will cover education, health, transportation, community resources, long-term recovery*
- *Community leader interviews will be conducted in Spanish and English by blainerecovery.org website creator, Luis Alberto Lecanda*
- *Conversations are streamed live on [Sun Valley Institute's Facebook page](#) with a question and answer session following the interview*
- *The first interview featured Stephanie Wallace, Vice Principal of Ernest Hemingway STEAM School and Hailey Elementary School, who spoke about how to optimize online learning*

Blaine County, Idaho -- Sun Valley Institute, in its role coordinating the Blaine Recovery Committee, is pleased to host Luis Alberto Lecanda as he kicks off the *Blaine Recovery Series* of live interviews with community leaders about the response to COVID-19 and strategies for recovery. The interviews are being streamed live on the [Sun Valley Institute Facebook page](#). Mr. Lecanda is conducting the interviews in both Spanish and English and the interviews will be followed by an opportunity for participants to ask questions of the host and guest.

The Blaine Recovery Series launched on Monday with its first interview with Stephanie Wallace, Vice Principal of Ernest Hemingway STEAM School and Hailey Elementary School, where she offered advice for improving the at-home educational experience. The recording of this live session can be viewed on the [Sun Valley Institute Facebook page](#). The next episodes will cover health, with a representative from St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center, and safety on public transportation with Mountain Rides.

"The series enhances [blainerecovery.org](#) by utilizing a live video platform to distribute valuable, real-time information to the community, says Lecanda. "Implementing live-stream technology allows the community to be interactive with our numerous guests, to ask the questions in our live chat format that are most urgent for them and others. We look forward to binding our content with a common thread of hope, optimism, and inspiration for the future we all want."

BRC member organizations include: Mike Higgs of Blaine County Chaplaincy; Mary Fauth of Blaine County Charitable Foundation; Chris Corwin of Blaine County Disaster Services; Jim Keating of Blaine County Recreation District; Laurie Strand of Blaine County School District and 5B Suicide Prevention Alliance; Mike McKenna of The Chamber - Hailey & Wood River Valley; Tammy Davis of the Crisis Hotline; Lindsay Mollineaux of the Environmental Resource Center; Ryan Redman of Flourish Foundation; Carol Waller of Fly Sun Valley Alliance; Lisa Emerick and Steve Guthrie of Friedman Memorial Airport; Jeanne Liston of The Hunger Coalition; Christina Cernansky and Brittany Shipley of NAMI; Herbert Romero of

PROJECT.O.O.L.S & PARTNERS & NAMI; Lorna Hoopes of The Red Cross; Erin Pfaeffle of St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center; Sally Gillespie of Spur Community Foundation; Harry Griffith of Sun Valley Economic Development; Aimée Christensen and Wendolyn Holland of Sun Valley Institute; Sarah Busdon and Grant Loomis of University of Idaho Extension; Scott Fortner of Visit Sun Valley; Stacy McLaughlin of West Magic Fire District; and Jason Shearer of Wood River Community YMCA.

Contact:

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About the Blaine Recovery Committee

Blaine County, Idaho community leaders have joined to create a long-term recovery committee, the Blaine Recovery Committee, to support effective and rapid recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee includes Blaine County-based representatives of government, non-profit, business, and faith-based, community-centric organizations. The Committee identifies and prioritizes challenges facing the community's recovery, and advances solutions to address those needs. As a first action, the Committee is setting up a multi-agency resource center (MARC) to connect information resources (including economic, physical and mental health, spiritual/faith), to community organizations and individuals, especially those most in need. By providing up to date, accurate, and reliable information to the community, the LTRC will reduce and eliminate key barriers to effective recovery.