

Contact: Nick Jezierny, Communications Specialist  
[njezierny@bcidahofoundation.org](mailto:njezierny@bcidahofoundation.org)  
(986) 224-6425

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CITY OF LAPWAI OFFICIALS GRADUATE FROM COMMUNITY HEALTH ACADEMY**

*~ The Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health program provides opportunities for city and community leaders to explore how they can improve the health of their communities ~*

**Boise, Idaho** – Mayor Antonio Smith, Councilwoman Julie Seely, and the Utilities & Grant Manager, Ruby Moses, completed the Community Health Academy, a program of the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health (the Foundation) that provides expertise and funding to help build healthier communities.

The Community Health Academy is a learning collaborative where mayors and city staff collaborate with each other and learn from local and national experts. Sessions in the academy focus on things that impact community health, such as childcare, communications, housing, food systems, civility, and creating pedestrian-friendly environments.

“The City of Lapwai appreciated the opportunity to participate in the recent Blue Cross of Idaho Community Health Academy and have already begun to implement things we learned. We are so thankful for their recent support and assistance and how they have stood alongside us over the years” City of Lapwai Mayor Antonio Smith said.

The City of Lapwai received a \$20,000 grant for completing the academy. Smith said those funds will be used to increase pedestrian safety by the installation of seven (7) solar lights extending from the Post Office to N Highway 95.

The Community Health Academy is open to all Idaho cities, who must apply to the annual program. The City of Lapwai was one of 14 cities that was accepted into this year’s academy. The other participating cities were Ammon, Blackfoot, Buhl, Dayton, Gooding, Hazelton, Mountain Home, Parma, Pocatello, Post Falls, St. Anthony, Stanley and Tetonia.

“Cities that attend the Community Health Academy leave with knowledge, actionable items, and funding to help make transformational change within their communities,” said Kendra Witt-Doyle, Executive Director, Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health.

**About the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health**

The Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health, Inc., is a nonprofit charitable foundation established in 2001 by Blue Cross of Idaho. The Foundation is dedicated to giving back to Idaho and addressing root causes that impact health. More information is available at [www.bcidahofoundation.org](http://www.bcidahofoundation.org).