

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 13, 2025

CONTACT: Carolina Guzman VP External Affiars

Phone: 206.324.4330 ext.143

Email: carolinag@BusinessImpactNW.org

Idaho Women's Business Center (IWBC) Kicks Off New Chapter with Celebratory Grand Opening

Nampa, ID—<u>Business Impact NW</u>, in partnership with the <u>U. S. Small Business Administration</u> (SBA), celebrated the <u>Idaho Women's Business Center</u> (IWBC) grand opening on March 12, 2025. Esteemed guests and speakers included Kevin Arkoosh- Southwest Idaho Regional Director for <u>Senator Risch</u>; Parker Harrell- Southwest Idaho Regional Director for <u>Senator Crapo</u>; and Shannon Madsen-<u>Idaho SBA</u> District Director. In addition, representatives from the <u>City of Nampa</u>, Business Impact NW, IWBC Advisory Board, and local community partners were in attendance.

This event emphasized the IWBC's dedication to women entrepreneurs in Idaho. Speakers recognized the efforts of small business owners and the positive impact of comprehensive services. The IWBC's free, tailored business services, specialized training programs, and resources designed to support women entrepreneurs were highlighted.

Shannon Madsen, <u>Idaho SBA</u> District Director, says, "The impact of women entrepreneurs in Idaho is undeniable, with women owning 46.2% of all businesses in the state and driving economic growth in our communities. The launch of the Idaho Women's Business Center is a transformational step in providing the essential resources, training, and mentorship needed to help more women start and grow their businesses successfully."

Entrepreneurs from across the region showcased their businesses while connecting with community partners, and local vendors contributed to the celebration. The evening concluded with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, symbolizing the official launch of the IWBC.

"This has been a labor of love—seven months of deep learning, outreach, building connections, and reintegration back into the community. And now, today, it finally feels officially official! This Grand Opening isn't just a ribbon-cutting—it's a celebration of the work that's already happening and a launch pad for everything to come," exclaims Paige Wiscombe, IWBC Director.

Business Impact NW is committed to supporting Idaho small business owners through the IWBC by offering mentorship, access to funding, and programs designed to help them start, grow, and scale their businesses.

About Business Impact NW

Business Impact NW is a nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) dedicated to providing free business coaching, classes, and access to capital for small businesses. We emphasize working with entrepreneurs and offer services in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska. For more information about Business Impact NW and its work, please visit our <u>website</u>.