BVA LAUNCHES 501c3 IN EFFORT TO CONNECT TEENS 2 TRADES AND ANNOUNCES THE INSPIRE EXCELLENCE AWARDS LUNCHEON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BVA CONTACT: Camille Blaylock

208.284.8064

camille@bvadev.com

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BVA Development (BVA) continues to change the landscape of the Treasure Valley by launching a non-profit, Inspire Excellence, focused on connecting Idaho teens to Idaho trades and industry.

Tommy Ahlquist, CEO of BVA said, “The best part of business is giving back. I am extremely proud of our team at BVA and the Board of Directors of our new non-profit led by former Mayor Tammy de Weerd. Partnering with The Boys and Girls Clubs of Ada County to connect at-risk teens to trades and careers is the mission of Inspire Excellence and we look forward to making a difference in the lives of these kids.”

BVA was formed in June of 2018 when Tommy Ahlquist joined forces with Ball Ventures. In just over 18 months BVA has changed the real estate landscape in the Treasure Valley and in addition to that, BVA is disrupting healthcare delivery to Idaho families with Saltzer Health.

The tagline for BVA is “Inspire Excellence” and the non-profit work of the company began as soon as it was formed. Each year BVA hosts the Inspire Excellence Summit in Sun Valley to bring together thought leaders from the region to make a difference in their communities. In addition, BVA hosts a weekly podcast titled “Inspire Excellence” to tell the stories of those who INSPIRE, UPLIFT, and SERVE.

On May 13th, 2020, BVA will host the first annual Inspire Excellence Awards Luncheon at JUMP in Boise. The event is designed to bring recognition to those in our community that INSPIRE, UPLIFT, and SERVE. Throughout the year, people can submit nominations in the following categories:

* **INSPIRE**: Leaders that never fail to motivate and inspire by their lofty vision, innovation, and work ethic. *(Nomination Examples: Entrepreneurs, Visionaries, CEOs, Managers, etc.)*
* **UPLIFT**: Walking examples of how to live an inspiring life through small acts of kindness, consistent positive attitude, and hard work. *(Nomination Examples: Everyday Heroes, Coworkers, Volunteers, etc.)*
* **SERVE**: Individuals with a service heart and who have chosen a career in the service of others. *(Nomination Examples: Civic Servants, Teachers, Pastors, Nonprofit Employees, etc.)*

The top three nominees from each award category will be featured and recognized at the event. Each will be given an engraved award at the luncheon along with a $1,000 donation in their name to any 501c3 charity of their choice.

100% of proceeds raised from the Inspire Excellence Awards Event will go directly to the TEENS 2 TRADES program which provides direct pathways for Idaho’s at-risk teens into profitable and career building trades within our community.

“I am thrilled to lead the Board for Inspire Excellence. There are so people many doing good in our communities, but we see a real need and gap when it comes to at-risk teens. Working with the The Boys and Girls Clubs of Ada County, we will connect these TEENS 2 TRADES. Having “line of sight” to a career for these kids is critical and we are determined to make that connection,” stated Tammy de Weerd, former Mayor of Meridian and Chair of the Board of Directors for Inspire Excellence.

Colleen Braga, Executive Director of The Boys and Girls Clubs of Ada County added, “We are an organization whose mission is to empower young people to reach their full potential as responsible, productive and caring citizens. we feel passionately that the TEENS 2 TRADES program is the next critical step in fulfilling that mission.”

The **TEENS 2 TRADES** program is designed to:

* Provide teens with direct pathways to trades and careers through skills training, internships, and apprenticeships.
* Connect Idaho adolescents to local mentors in Idaho companies.
* Offer career exploration and pathway counseling for at-risk youth.
* Create early access to job training and education programs that help guide teens to productive and self-sufficient lives.
* Provide a platform for local companies to engage and educate potential employees.
* Offer courses to teens in financial literacy, work ethic, conflict resolution, job acquisition, time management, etc.

Inspire Excellence is a 501c3 Nonprofit Organization.

**Below is the current Board of Directors:**

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| Tommy Ahlquist - CEO of BVA  Camille Blaylock - BVA  Joan Boren - Director of Obsidian Foundation  Ryan Cleverley - CFO of BVA  Ken Cortez - Owner of Metalcraft  Tammy de Weerd (*Chairman*) - Former Mayor  Tom Luna - Partner at Strategos | Troy McClain - CEO of Tovuti  Kate Morris - President of KTVB  Brandon Romero – Owner of Advanced Heating & Cooling  David Turnbull – Owner of Brighton  Bill Whitacre - Former CEO of Simplot |