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Foundation gives \$7.5M to CWI

NAMPA (AP) — The J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation has followed through on its pledge to give \$10 million in financial backing to Idaho's newest community college.

The foundation's board of directors announced Monday it was awarding a \$7.5 million grant to the College of Western Idaho. The foundation initially gave the new Nampa-based campus \$2.5 million last December to help cover key startup costs, scholarships and strategic planning.

Foundation Executive Director Jamie MacMillan says the goal from the start was to help increase access to affordable, comprehensive community college education in Idaho.

CWI opened its doors for its first semester in January with an enrollment of 1,200, but has nearly tripled in size. The college reported fall 2008 enrollment of 3,618 students.