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CWI hires to handle explosive growth

Surge in enrollment prompts college to add high number of part-time job openings

NAMPA — Less than a year ago College of Western Idaho officials expected about 1,700 students for the Nampa-based community college's opening semester in January. They got only 1,200, but assured the public that those figures would grow.

Now enrollment at the college has exploded, passing the expectations of CWI leaders and prompting the college to hire almost 100 new faculty members for the spring 2010 semester. Eighty of those are part-time positions.

CWI officials expect enrollment growth to double each semester for about two years. That could give the two-year college some of the higher job opening rates of any organization in the Treasure Valley over that time, even though most of the jobs are part-time and require master's degrees.

"I haven't heard of anybody on any hiring binge," Idaho Department of Labor spokesman Bob Fick said when asked if other organizations across the state were hiring as many people.

The need for instructors will likely taper off as adjunct, or part-time, instructors take on more classes, alleviating the need to hire new instructors.

CWI already has 3,300 students enrolled for the spring semester. That's after just three weeks of registration. More than a month remains before regular registration ends Jan. 12.

CWI has 3,618 students this semester. The college has doubled the number of classes offered for spring. So far the college is at about 50 of occupancy for spring semester classes, CWI spokeswoman Jennifer Couch said. Information Technology classes are some of the most popular.

"We are far exceeding right now anything that we had anticipated," Couch said. "Those are pretty substantial numbers coming into only three weeks as we do tend to get a lot of people that register more towards the end."

CWI officials will consider hosting an evening jobs event soon to invite people interested in teaching positions to meet department heads. The college's Web site lists 29 part-time teaching openings. Starting salaries for those positions are \$875 per credit hour.

"We have pretty high standards for our instruction staff regardless if they're full time (or part-time) instructors," Couch said. This semester the college has 2,150 full-time students (those taking at least 12 credit hours) and 1,468 part-time students.

New student services

New students are encouraged to apply now as classes are filling quickly, CWI officials said. Each of the One Stop Student Service locations can assist students with all of their educational enrollment needs regardless of the CWI location where their classes are conducted. Those who wish to attend classes this spring can complete an application online at www.cwidaho.cc/apply or visit any of the One Stop Student Service locations: n Nampa Campus — 5500 E. Opportunity Drive, Nampa n Canyon County Center — 2407 Nampa-Caldwell Blvd., Nampa n Ada County Campus — 1360 Blackeagle Business Park, Boise n Oak Park Center — 2323 S. Vista Ave., Boise n CWI @ Boise State University – 1464 University Drive, Boise