

Idaho Press Tribune, Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2009 – by Mike Butts

CWI may see twice as many students

But officials say it's too early to tell how many will register for spring 2010 classes

NAMPA — The College of Western Idaho is preparing for as many as double the number of students when classes begin in January even though it's still too early to estimate how many people will enroll.

CWI has 3,618 students enrolled now. The community college with its central campus in Nampa opened in January. The college's first semester had 1,200 students. "We are growing our instruction staff," college communications and marketing director Jennifer Couch said. "There's just a lot of need for community college credit (now)."

The Nampa-based community college has 159 part-time and 95 full-time for-credit class instructors. It has another 250 instructors for other programs. Registration for spring classes has begun and will close Jan. 12. The first day of classes for the spring semester is Jan. 19.

Couch stressed that applying and registering early would help students have a better chance of getting the classes, times and locations they want. But most students register toward the end of the registration period.

"We really want to encourage people not to procrastinate, to apply early," Couch said.

CWI has seven campuses. Two are in Nampa: The Nampa Campus at 5500 E. Opportunity Drive north of the Idaho Center and the Canyon County Center at 2407 Nampa-Caldwell Blvd.