



MEDIA ADVISORY – January 13, 2009

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Governor Butch Otter and SW Idaho Community Members Officially Open the College of Western Idaho

SW Idaho's only local community college prepares for the first day of classes as enrollment continues to climb

Nampa, Idaho (January 13, 2009) – Today, the College of Western Idaho (CWI) officially opened its doors, preparing for academic classes to begin next week (January 20, 2009) for the first time in its history. A large gathering of Southwest Idaho community college supporters, members of the general public, faculty, staff, and state-wide dignitaries all joined Governor Butch Otter in a ribbon cutting ceremony that signified the official opening of the school that was created by a supermajority of voters in Ada and Canyon counties on May 22, 2007.

“Today we’ve written a new page in Idaho history and created a long-standing legacy for generations to come,” said CWI President, Dennis Griffin. “Together, as a community, we have established the first locally-owned community college in Southwest Idaho which will provide tremendous opportunities for learning and growth—both key components to the viability of this state.”

As the doors of CWI officially open, enrollment continues to climb. The CWI “Funnel Report” (*which indicates how many people have expressed interest in attending to those actually registered*) shows that as of today, 2011 people have expressed interest, 1540 have submitted an application, 915 have been admitted and 810 have paid and are registered. This last number, those admitted, continues to increase daily as students finish the registration process. Additionally, we budgeted for students to carry a credit load of 8.3 and currently, it is at 9.2.

National statistics show that community college students generally wait until the final weeks of enrollment to complete the process. Potential CWI students can register until 10 days after classes start. CWI’s response rate is more comparable to a 3,500 opening enrollment rate, making it likely the school could get close to its goal of 1,700 students.

“Recent news articles and opinions have all speculated on whether or not CWI will reach its goal of 1,700 students,” said Griffin. “Certainly, it would have been better to start up a community college from scratch in better economic times or not open the doors mid-year. Similar to every Idahoan, we are dealing with these challenges head on and will do everything we can to ensure CWI’s success. I strongly believe that CWI will play a major role in the economic development of this state from this historic day forward.”

Since May 22, 2007, the Board of Trustees and CWI staff have been working diligently—partnering with the College of Southern Idaho to offer accredited courses that transfer to four-year institutions, coordinating the upcoming transition of Boise State’s Seland College staff and curriculum to CWI, hiring instructors, accepting applications and enrolling students. Individuals interested in more information about CWI or to enroll in course can visit www.cwidaho.cc or call (208) 562-3000.

About the College of Western Idaho:

The College of Western Idaho is the gateway to a comprehensive range of education and training opportunities for the communities it serves across Southwestern Idaho. CWI is a community asset that enhances accessibility to higher education and 21st Century technical skills acquisition, enabling its students and the broader community to achieve more. The foundation for Southwestern Idaho's only community college was created by a supermajority of voters in Ada and Canyon counties on May 22, 2007. CWI will begin enrolling students this October and will begin offering classes in January 2009. For more information, visit www.cwidaho.cc or call (208) 562-3000.

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