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New College of Western Idaho leader backs alternative ways of learning

President wants to fashion a community college that meets students' needs on campus and online.

Dispensing education online could become a hallmark of the College of Western Idaho if the school's new president has his way. Berton Glandon, a former Treasure Valley Community College president during the mid-1990s, was named the College of Western Idaho's second president Friday by the school's board of trustees. Glandon, 62, has more than 30 years of community college experience.

He said a main mission is to find ways to deliver education to students on their schedules, not the school's. Any way a community college can "deliver their courses the way the student wants it, when the student



wants it, is one of the biggest advantages to the growth of a community college right now," Glandon told the Idaho Statesman.

Trustees hired Glandon for \$175,000 a year with a two-year contract that also includes a \$12,000 yearly housing allowance and a \$6,000 yearly auto allowance. If his contract is renewed at the end of two years, it will extend an additional three years. He begins work July 13.

Dennis Griffin, the first College of Western Idaho president, will retire in August. Jerry Hess, former college board chairman and leader of the search committee, has

been an advocate of moving the College of Western Idaho heavily into high-tech learning since Ada and Canyon county voters approved creation of the two-year college in 2007.

Hess said he was impressed with Glandon's knowledge of high-tech instruction. "When he came in, he had all the answers," Hess said. "I think he is the guy to do it."

Glandon has served as president at two community colleges: Arapahoe Community College in Colorado and Treasure Valley Community College, a public community college in Ontario, Ore., that offers classes in Canyon County. He was chosen from a field of 77 candidates. "Bert Glandon's experience and abilities stood out," said Guy Hurlbutt, board chairman. "We are extremely confident that Bert has the ability to continue to establish CWI as a state-of-the-art community college while keeping education affordable."

The college, headquartered in Nampa, began classes in January with 1,200 students. The school is expected to take over operation of Boise State University's Selland College of Applied Technology next month.