

Idaho Statesman, Wednesday, June 3, 2009 – by Kathleen Kreller

What the CWI candidates have to say

Educators hope to use a lifetime of skills and experience to launch the College of Western Idaho, the state's newest community college. Trustees are considering five people for the school's top position. The final two candidates interviewed for the job Tuesday in Meridian. The Idaho Statesman introduced the other three candidates Tuesday.

SUSAN WOLFF

Why she's here: An opportunity to collaborate and create partnerships, to take the vision for the college, plan it and implement it. "It's the coalescing of all of my skills and experiences."

Challenges for CWI: Pulling together several very important partnerships and entities and ways of doing business to create a single institution and single culture.

Successful challenges: Created a two-year renewable energy technology program at Columbia Gorge Community College to train locals to service the wind turbine industry rather than importing workers.

Job 1 at CWI: Careful listening with as many entities in a fairly short time and learning what people want the college to be, what part they can play and what are the concerns.

About Susan Wolff: Chief academic officer, Columbia Gorge Community College, the Dalles, Ore. Current vice-chair of the Board for the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District.

BERT GLANDON

Why he's here: Phenomenal opportunity personally and professionally to develop the college culture and collaborative attitude about working with the local community and schools from scratch. "It's once in a lifetime, once in a career."

Challenges for CWI: Merging two cultures of Seland College and CWI and getting into the community quickly enough to anticipate the growth that will occur.

Successful challenges: Tripled the size of the nursing program in two years with no state funds by partnering with local hospitals. Ended up making money with the program.

Job 1 at CWI: Quickly get out and be involved in the community to establish an external funding base to stabilize the college long term.

About Bert Glandon: President, Arapahoe Community College, Littleton, Colo. Former president of Treasure Valley Community College, Ontario, Ore.