



Dennis Griffin
President
College of Western Idaho

Since the first academic classes ever offered by the College of Western Idaho started on January 20, our campus has been surging with energy and opportunity. It has been truly inspiring to see the tremendous efforts and support of so many people become a reality – together we've built the first community college in Idaho in more than 40 years!

While we often focus on the future to evaluate how we can continue to grow, evolve and serve our students more effectively, we recently took time to reflect on this historic milestone by hosting a grand opening. An impressive crowd that included some very distinguished guests joined us in the lobby of our main campus building on January 13, including the Governor of Idaho – Butch Otter, Boise Mayor Dave Bieter, Idaho State Board of Education President Milford Terrell, Idaho State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna, our Board of Trustees for the College of Western Idaho, and a number of other state and local officials and business leaders from across the Treasure Valley.

Our grand opening was a significant event, not only because we had the pleasure of celebrating this milestone in our history, but because we had the opportunity to thank everyone for their ongoing support and recognize those that have been critical partners from the beginning. It truly takes community support when it comes to creating Southwest Idaho's only local community college. We've had some great partners throughout this process, especially Boise State University, the College of Southern Idaho and the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation.

Boise State has enabled us to build a solid foundation for our community college – both literally and figuratively. Our main campus building and the surrounding land was the property of BSU until earlier this year, and we're very excited to have the competencies, curriculum and talented staff of the Larry G. Selland College of Applied Technology transition to CWI later this year. This will expand our community college into a comprehensive educational resource for Southwest Idaho and continue a proud local legacy.

Thanks to our partnership with the College of Southern Idaho, CWI is able to offer accredited courses as well as financial aid services to our students while we seek our own accreditation status. Throughout this process, we've seen an impressive commitment from CSI to help improve access to education across Idaho regardless of geography or politics and we truly value our ongoing partnership.

The Albertsons Foundation has been generous not only with their donations to CWI but with their time, counsel and insight. They were also the engine driving the successful Community College Now campaign and have done so much for our area, especially to improve education in Idaho. We thank them and all of our supporters.

Grand Opening Event



President Dennis Griffin and Board of Trustees Chairperson Guy Hurlbutt join Idaho Governor Butch Otter at the grand opening of the College of Western Idaho on January 13.

In the News

1/25/09—Idaho Statesman, [The new community college, College of Western Idaho, brings new opportunities](#)

1/14/09—Idaho Press Tribune, [It's Official! CWI is here](#)

1/14/09—Idaho Statesman, [College of Western Idaho officially opens in Nampa](#)

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No doubt you have heard us talk about how CWI offers our students, local businesses and our community the opportunity to achieve more by offering a wide range of opportunities. We wouldn't have been able to achieve what we have without the support of these critical partnerships and our community as a whole. Now that we've officially opened our doors and began to serve our students, I hope you take immense pride in this accomplishment as well.

Since we've taken the time to reflect on where we've come, we will now shift our focus back to our commitment to serve our students and our community to the best of our abilities. CWI will continue to seek community input and continually research the best ways to deliver what our neighbors, friends, co-workers and local businesses need to achieve their full potential. Now it is up to us to help everyone – students, businesses and our community – to achieve more, starting today. We are excited by this challenge and look forward to seizing the opportunities with you in the months and years ahead. Our progress to date is significant, but where we go from here will be even more amazing. The energy and opportunity on our campus is just the beginning.

