



**Dennis Griffin**  
President  
College of Western Idaho

Though only a couple of months have passed since our first academic semester began, it is hard to imagine the CWI campus without the energy and bustle of our students and faculty. Similar to many of our students, we've taken significant steps to get here and are excited about the number of opportunities ahead.

CWI didn't just happen overnight. It took the will of Ada and Canyon County voters to establish the community college district in May 2007, followed by the appointment of a Board of Trustees driven to make CWI a reality. Since then we've assembled a dedicated staff who laid the foundation for Southwest Idaho's only community college – from the development of our enterprise resource planning (ERP) information system which coordinates all of the resources, data, and key components of our community college to implementing the policies, procedures and plans to make CWI functional.

Our leadership team spent a considerable amount of time researching the best practices of community colleges across the nation and listening to members of our community to determine how we can customize these practices to best serve Southwest Idaho. We also forged a great partnership with the College of Southern Idaho, and thanks to their camaraderie we are able to offer our academic students classes that can transfer to a four-year institution. Aside from serving our first academic students, perhaps our most important accomplishment was establishing our strategic plan to help drive how we serve our students and our community today and in the years ahead.

Speaking of the future, we are thrilled by the opportunity to add the quality curriculum and talented staff of the Larry G. Selland College of Applied Technology this July. Adding this critical workforce development and job training education will allow us to deliver a full array of occupational training programs to our students. It also enables CWI to become the comprehensive community college for Southwest Idaho – one that can truly serve the variety of educational needs throughout our community and make the voters proud to have cast their ballot in support of a community college nearly two years ago.

As far as we have come, we realize we are just at the beginning of a great journey alongside our students. We share their optimism, energy and passion to seize the opportunities to improve, take on the challenges ahead and contribute to the community that has given us such a tremendous chance to succeed.

## Community Education

CWI is now registering for [community education classes](#) which offer a variety of hands-on, fun and creative learning opportunities that are open to everyone. Class topics include art, theater & photography; computers and technology; dance; healthy lifestyles; languages; successful business skills and a number of other special interests. Classes fill up quickly and enrollments are limited. Individuals interested in more information about the community education offerings are encouraged to visit [www.cwidaho.cc](http://www.cwidaho.cc) or call (208) 562-3000 for additional details.

## In The News

[College of Western Idaho won't raise fees next year](#)  
Idaho Statesman

[College of Western Idaho committee to look for new president](#)  
Idaho Statesman

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