

A COMMUNITY UNITED

CWI Foundation supports mission of valley college

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NAMPA —The College of Western Idaho (CWI) has a mission to provide open access to affordable, quality teaching and learning opportunities to the residents of western Idaho. As the only charitable, nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting CWI, the CWI Foundation plays a vital role in helping the college meet its mission.

Idaho Press-Tribune: What does the Foundation do?

Kelly Gibbons, CWI Foundation: Working in partnership with the community, the CWI Foundation helps enhance access to higher education through scholarships, start-up funds for educational programs and funding for long-term capital growth that support the educational needs of our community.

Today, the CWI Foundation raises funds through multiple avenues including partnerships with local organizations, generous donations from supporters and CWI employees, public and private grants, and events.

Annually, the CWI Foundation provides scholarships for students of all backgrounds and needs. Scholarships can range from those that are established by local companies for their employees, to those focused on specific subjects or programs. There are scholarships available for almost any area of study you want to pursue at CWI.

Monetary gifts make scholarships and much more possible for students at CWI. Gifts of all sizes can be made to the CWI Foundation to support CWI in many ways, and may provide tax advantages to the donor as well. These generous gifts can be directed to support CWI's most immediate needs, or to meet an identified priority such as scholarships, capital projects, student clubs, program support, or more.



Submitted photo

The explosive growth the College of Western Idaho experienced since opening has rocketed the college to an enrollment of 9,107 in the fall of 2012. This continued growth has thrust the CWI Foundation into the forefront of fulfilling the needs of students and the college.

HOW CWI GOT ITS START

CWI was founded out of a need within our community as the last metropolitan area in the country without a community college. In March of 2007, the Idaho Legislature appropriated funds for the College, and in May, a super majority of voters in Canyon and Ada counties voted to form a community college district. With generous transfers of facilities and programs from Boise State University in Canyon County, and thanks to tremendous community support, CWI had the resources necessary to start offering credit classes in the spring of 2009.

IPT: How does the Foundation serve CWI?

Gibbons: Recently the CWI Foundation was instrumental in the college's largest expansion to date, the CWI Micron Center for Professional Technical Education. Through tireless efforts, the foundation worked with local organizations, businesses, and individuals to raise the necessary funds to construct a state of the indus-

try facility in Nampa.

This new facility poises CWI and our region to be industry leaders. Students and businesses are benefiting from the quality, hands-on training available at this facility that is shaping the workforce of the 21st century. Special recognition for this facility goes to the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation and Micron Foundation for setting an unbelievable standard of support for training a skilled workforce in the region.

Continued growth in our community is driving positive increased enrollment and program needs at CWI. Fulfilling this community need is critical and the CWI Foundation is prepared to take the necessary steps to support the College of Western Idaho mission.

IPT: How can local residents help?

Gibbons: By making a gift to the CWI Foundation you make possible a premier education for CWI students. Your gifts to the CWI Foundation are an investment in the leaders of tomorrow. Contact us at 562-3100 or online at www.cwidaho.cc/foundation.