

Transfer services growing between CWI, Boise State

University plans to offer classes in Nampa in fall 2015

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NAMPA — As the College of Western Idaho grows, so does the partnership between the two-year community college and Boise State University.

Last week, two BSU staff members started working with students at the main CWI campus in Nampa to develop transfer plans and connect them with advising and admissions resources. By next fall, BSU expects to have an offering of evening and weekend classes available for students at the Nampa campus.

"It's taken several years for CWI to get their feet under them, and they are continuing to grow gangbusters, and we're finally at a point where we can support the upper-division and transfer goals between both institutions," said Peter Risse, associate dean of Extended Studies at BSU. "There's been some positive personnel changes at CWI, along with Boise State, and the ground is just ready

TRANSFER STUDENT STATISTICS

A study conducted by the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center showed 60 percent of students who transferred from two-year schools in the 2005-06 academic year obtained degrees at four-year institutions.

It also found that bachelor's degree attainment rates were higher for students who transferred with a two-year degree or certificate than those who transferred without — 72 percent versus 56 percent, respectively.

to plant, if you will."

The university is still working on determining which classes it might offer in Nampa and is planning a survey of students to help make those decisions.

The top transfer students BSU sees are for pre-nursing, biology and nursing, Risse said. In 2010, they enrolled 43 transfers from CWI, and in fall 2013, they had 149 student transfers.

"It's been a fairly steady climb over the past several

years," Risse said.

Jennifer Couch, director of communications at CWI, said the amount and types of classes offered will also depend on scheduling and availability of classroom space. Couch said there will likely be a limited amount of classes offered at first, but with time she hopes it will grow to other post-secondary institutions as well.

"We work with all of the colleges and universities in Idaho to really make sure that we have strong partnerships with them, so we provide our students the opportunity to go on, regardless of their institution of choice," she said.

The top priority, Risse and Couch agreed, is to make the transfer process "seamless" for students, and that includes establishing early relationships between the two schools. Risse said he sees no downside to the growing relationship and hopes it will help students become bigger contributors to the economy and their communities.

"Anytime that somebody can fall back and ask somebody that they know and trust a question, that's in everybody's best interest," Risse said. "And that's what we're working to achieve."