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Officials: College awarded accreditation candidacy status

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NAMPA — The College of Western Idaho has taken a significant step forward in becoming a fully accredited institution, CWI officials announced Friday.

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities awarded the Nampa-based community college accreditation candidacy status, effective Jan. 11 of this year and valid until 2017. Previously, CWI offered degrees, certificates and college credits via a memorandum of understanding with the College of Southern Idaho, CWI officials said in a prepared statement. CSI will continue to provide accreditation to CWI status until full accreditation is awarded.

During the candidacy period, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities will continue to review all accreditation requirements. NWCCU officials will visit the college in fall 2014, and again in fall 2016.

CWI performed very well for such a young institution, the statement reads. NWCCU's report states "CWI has assembled an impressive faculty and staff, a functional infrastructure, and a relevant, high-quality set of educational programs."

Candidacy status makes the college eligible for a wider array of systems, including federal grants, financial aid, independent enrollment and student data systems.

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— NWCCU

Report statement