



2025

DONOR IMPACT REPORT

Brynlee, CWI Scholarship Recipient

"Receiving scholarships has shown me that there are people who believe in me and in the effort I'm putting into my education. That encouragement truly motivates me to keep pushing toward my goals. I'm deeply grateful for the donors whose generosity has made such a meaningful difference in my life and my path toward becoming a nurse."

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CWI!

Your 2025 Donor Impact Report showcases the incredible difference your generosity has made, highlighting the success and opportunities you've helped create for our students and college community.



With the remarkable support of donors like you, CWI continues to make significant strides in expanding our campus and programs while remaining firmly committed to our mission of providing affordable, accessible education to Idaho's students. Your generosity strengthens our resolve and allows us to stay focused on advancing student success and contributing to the economic vitality of the Treasure Valley.

2025 marked a period of exceptional growth and opportunity for CWI. The transfer of ownership of the Ford Idaho Center from the City of Nampa to CWI represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to deepen our connection with local partners and create new pathways for our students. Combined with the continued build out of our campus and the opening of new facilities, the future of CWI is taking shape in powerful and inspiring ways.

Your support is at the heart of this progress and continues to have an immeasurable impact on the lives of our students. Thank you for believing in our mission and in the transformative power of education — and for your continued partnership.

Gordon Jones, CWI President



Thanks to the generosity of donors and community partners, CWI students are gaining the education and training needed to achieve their goals.

The impact is clear. According to the latest survey, 94% of CWI graduates are either employed or continuing their education, demonstrating a strong return on investment in student success and the region's future workforce.

Throughout the past year, the CWI Foundation celebrated student achievement through key events such as CWI Nights, Opening Doors, and CWI Giving Day. Looking ahead, the Foundation is committed to expanding opportunities for donors and partners to connect directly with the students whose lives they are helping to transform.

The Foundation also extends special recognition to its volunteer board members for their leadership and dedication to CWI's mission.

Support from our community makes this work possible. Together, we are creating pathways for student success and building a stronger future for our region.

Mike Peña, Foundation Board President

FRANK RAMIREZ
WELDING & METAL FABRICATION STUDENT

On a Friday afternoon, long after classes end, College of Western Idaho (CWI) Welding and Metal Fabrication student Frank Ramirez is still at work at the Nampa Campus Micron Education Center, carefully shaping a welding sculpture for this year's SkillsUSA competition. His project, a human bust blending realistic facial features with a mechanical upper body, took nearly six months to complete.

Ramirez placed first in Idaho at last year's state SkillsUSA welding sculpture competition and eighth at nationals, earning a scholarship that reinforced his confidence. "It made me realize I'm doing something right. This is what I'm meant to do," he said. Ramirez placed first again this year and is set to complete at nationals in June.

Ramirez discovered welding in high school through agriculture classes and FFA, quickly realizing it was a passion. Now a second-year CWI student, he has gained hands-on experience with industry tools and techniques while building confidence in the lab. Living with autism and Tourette's syndrome, Ramirez processes the world differently, but in the welding booth he finds focus and calm. "When I'm welding, I become

hyper-focused. It gives me a break, physically and mentally," he said.

At CWI, Ramirez experiences a community that helps him grow. He has learned to advocate for himself, break tasks into manageable steps, and now mentors other welding students preparing for SkillsUSA.

Scholarships have also played a critical role in his journey. Ramirez received the Nagel Foundation Scholarship, which helped relieve the financial pressure of balancing full-time coursework with a 32-hour workweek. He shared that the award "instantly took a huge load of stress off my shoulders" and allowed him to focus more fully on his education.

Set to graduate in May 2026, Ramirez hopes to pursue a career in aerospace welding. "Just because I have these so-called disabilities doesn't mean I'm not able to do it," he said. Through persistence, mentorship, and support from CWI and generous donors, Ramirez is not only building a career, he is proof of what is possible.

POWERING THE TREASURE VALLEY INITIATIVES

College of Western Idaho (CWI) reached a major milestone in 2025 as the Powering the Treasure Valley comprehensive campaign moved into its final stretch. Thanks to the generosity of donors and community partners, CWI is nearing completion of the campaign's \$30 million goal to support campus expansion, student success, and workforce development across the region.

This year marked significant progress in building a true college campus experience for CWI students. In Fall 2025, the College opened two new facilities on the Nampa Campus, the Health and Science Building and the Simplot Agriculture Building, providing modern learning environments for high-demand programs. Additionally, CWI broke ground on the CapEd Student Success Center, which remains on track to open in Fall 2026 and will serve as a central hub for students to gather and access support services.



Momentum continued throughout the year as CWI broke ground on the Micron Academic Center at the River District in Boise, making education more accessible for students in the state's largest city. In December, the Ford Idaho Center became part of CWI's campus, doubling the College's footprint to 200 acres and creating opportunities for future program growth and community engagement.

These developments are helping create cohesive campus environments that foster student connection and success while expanding access to high-value, flexible learning opportunities. With the continued support of donors and partners, CWI is building the spaces, programs, and opportunities that will power the future of the Treasure Valley.

"These investments are transforming CWI into a true college campus while expanding the programs and opportunities that prepare our students for Idaho's workforce."

Mark Arstein
Vice President, Advancement



ROD EMERY & GREG BRAUN

Rod Emery and Greg Braun are not only donors to CWI, but also dedicated members of the CWI Foundation Board. They invest their time, leadership, and resources to expand opportunities for Idaho students. Both lifelong residents of the Treasure Valley, they share a deep belief in the power of accessible, affordable education and a commitment to supporting the community that helped shape their own paths.

For Braun, he saw firsthand how education can change a life when he received a full-ride scholarship to Washington State University. "I wouldn't have been able to go to college without that support," he shares. That was an experience that set him up for success in his long career at Ripley Doorn CPAs and continues to shape his commitment to helping others access education.

Emery's journey echoes that belief. Growing up in Caldwell, he saw how education could open doors, and today, after nearly three decades with Edward Jones, he is passionate about

supporting students as they find their path.

Both were introduced to the CWI Foundation Board by friends, Shirley 'Sus' Helpenstell and Mitch Minnette, but stayed because of a shared belief in the College's mission. "CWI is such an amazing asset," Braun says. "Providing education at a reasonable price and accepting all students is something worth investing in." Together, they created a scholarship for local students connected to the Boys & Girls Club of Canyon County. Emery has also chosen to extend that impact beyond his lifetime by including a gift to CWI in his estate plan.

For Emery, the impact is both immediate and lasting: "It can change the entire lives of these students and their families." Braun agrees, emphasizing the importance of supporting the future of the Treasure Valley by saying "If you want to leave a legacy for our community, invest in CWI."

CWI FOOD PANTRIES

Campus food pantries are experiencing record demand nationwide. College students face food insecurity at rates higher than the general adult population, often due to limited financial resources, concerns about stigma, demanding schedules, and lack of time or experience to prepare meals.

To help address this growing need, CWI established five food and hygiene pantries across our campuses. These pantries provide students with reliable access to nutritious food and essential hygiene supplies, ensuring they can focus on learning instead of worrying about their next meal.

When federal food assistance benefits were paused in Fall 2025, one student shared this heartfelt message of gratitude for the donors and staff who keep CWI's pantries stocked and accessible:

"Thank you so much for the help you provide, and especially for your recent support. While I hadn't used the pantries often before, the assistance came at a critical time for me. The support from CWI's food pantries has brought a true sense of peace and stability back to my school life. I can now dedicate my full attention to my classes. Thank you for keeping this resource consistently stocked and available for students like me."



STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND

This year, the CWI Student Emergency Fund supported a Medical Assistant student and single mother who, after escaping domestic violence, suffered a life-threatening medical crisis that left her unable to work. When she recovered, she learned she had lost her job and was facing a \$2,000 eviction notice, just weeks before starting a new position at a local hospital.

The Student Emergency Fund covered her back rent, preventing homelessness and allowing her to finish her final semester. She graduated and is now working full-time in her new healthcare career. This bright future was made possible by donor support.

"I felt like I was drowning after I woke up in the hospital only to find out I had lost my job and was losing my home. The emergency fund didn't just pay my rent; it gave me the air I needed to breathe and continue with my degree. Today, I am stable, employed, and my son is safe. I wouldn't be here without that help."

CWI Alumna
Student Emergency Fund Recipient



YOUR GIFTS SUPPORTED

\$833K+

DIRECT SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT FOR CWI STUDENTS

94.3%

POSITIVE PLACEMENT RATE OF GRADUATES

34,000+

TOTAL STUDENTS SERVED ANNUALLY

130

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

ACCESSIBILITY. AFFORDABILITY. EMPLOYABILITY



MEET YOUR TEAM



COLLEGE OF WESTERN IDAHO
FOUNDATION

We're Here to Help

foundation@cw.edu

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SAVE THE DATE

CWI WEEK

Oct. 19 – 23, 2026

Mark your calendars for a week of connection, celebration, and community at CWI!

GIVE NOW
Powering the
Treasure Valley
Campaign



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