

	BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING July 9, 2026 MINUTES	Board of Trustees Jim Reames, Chair Nicole Bradshaw, Vice Chair Molly Lentz, Sec/Treas Cherie Buckner-Webb David Bishop
CWI MISSION The College of Western Idaho is committed to empowering students to succeed by providing affordable and accessible education to advance the local and global workforce		

**CWI Nampa Campus Administrative Building
Room 200B President's Conference Room
3:00PM**

ATTENDANCE:

Jim Reames, Chair
Nicole Bradshaw, Vice Chair
Molly Lentz, Secretary/Treasurer
David Bishop, Trustee
Cherie Buckner-Webb, Trustee

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Reames called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
Secretary/Treasurer Lentz recited the CWI mission statement. No visitor introductions were made, and no public comments were received.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. June 2026 Minutes
- B. Treasurer's Report
- C. Capital Projects Budget to Actuals Report

MS (Bradshaw / Bishop): To approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried.

III. ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

Vice President Arstein reported the successful completion of the Powering the Treasure Valley Campaign, exceeding their goal by raising approximately \$32 million in less than three years. The campaign generated support for capital projects, scholarships, endowments, planned gifts, and workforce development initiatives, with a donor celebration planned during CWI Week in October.

Campaign results included nearly 1,200 gifts and significant growth in fundraising capacity compared to previous years. While corporate and organizational donors provided the majority of campaign funding, Advancement leadership identified increasing individual giving and donor engagement as a key priority moving forward.

Looking ahead, the Advancement division aims to increase average annual fundraising to \$15 million, increase donor participation to 1,000 donors annually, and improve donor retention, which currently exceeds the higher education average. Efforts will focus on

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strengthening donor relationships, enhancing fundraising infrastructure, and implementing a new CRM system to improve donor stewardship and reporting.

Advancement is also beginning to evaluate goals for the next fiscal year, including athletics, workforce development programs, and other institutional initiatives. Additional upcoming efforts include Foundation Board development, faculty and staff fundraising training, CWI Week activities, alumni engagement programs, and enhancements to donor outreach and recognition.

Secretary / Treasurer Lentz - Question: How are you working with finance and the budget team to make sure we do not run into an issue where a bill is due before the full amount of a gift comes in?

Vice President Arstein - Answer: It is best practice that planned gifts should not be counted on to fund specific projects or programs before they are received.

Chair Reames - Question: What is the goal for the Athletics fund?

Vice President Arstein - Answer: CWI's growth is creating opportunities to reach new audiences, build new partnerships, and generate interest in the college. While these efforts can support new student pathways, the goal is not the numbers—it's the impact we make in our community.

Athletic Director - Sheikh - Answer: With a twofold approach we are actively building relationships and fundraising to establish a new athletic program. While we are still deciding how ambitious the program should be, we believe that the community's support will drive that decision. The average endowment will require between \$4–5 million and we are confident they may secure one or two such gifts over the next 18 months—the main challenge now is turning those prospects into actual donations.

Chair Reames - Question: What lessons have you learned from past experiences that will help us develop this infrastructure, and what we need to be wary of.

Vice President Arstein - Answer: Fundraising success depends on taking a long-term view: being patient, leveraging the foundation already built, adapting outreach strategies, and prioritizing enduring donor relationships and partnerships over immediate financial contributions. This relationship-centered approach will generate greater and more sustainable philanthropic support than traditional transactional fundraising methods.

Chair Reames - Question: How has the Foundations success been impacted by the work that has been accomplished by Marketing and Leadership?

Foundations Board President Pena - Answer: These factors have enabled the organization to accomplish significant results, and I have personal pride in being part of the foundation and the broader CWI team.

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IV. ACADEMIC UPDATE

Provost Aberle-Cannata presented that summer enrollment increased by 3.5%, while fall enrollment is tracking 11% growth, and is projected to finish between 6-7%. The college is expanding several workforce programs, including Surgical Technology, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Welding, with support from grants, community partnerships, and state funding. A new Enrollment and Student Success Center opened on June 29, providing students with a more centralized and cohesive campus experience beginning this fall.

An update was also provided on the college's Open Educational Resources (OER) initiative, which aims to reduce textbook costs through low-cost and no-cost course materials. Supported by state funding, the program has expanded from a single degree pathway to multiple degree options, and an established transfer partnership with BSU.

From Fall 2022 through Spring 2026, students saved approximately \$1.47 million in textbook expenses. It was also noted that the CWI-BSU partnership has been recognized as a national model for its sustainable approach to affordable education and successful collaboration between a community college and a four-year institution.

Chair Reames - Question: Why do you think that is the case?

Provost Aberle-Cannata - Answer: CWI strategically used grant funding to create a sustainable Open Educational Resources program that achieved faculty buy-in, expanded beyond the institution, and produced measurable improvements in student success rather than becoming a short-lived initiative that ended when the money ran out.

Vice Chair Bradshaw - Question: Can you explain more about how it will sustain itself and which programs will be utilizing this method.

Provost Aberle-Cannata - Answer: I will get you a full list of programs at a later date. For the self-sustaining aspect, we used college funds to create an assistant dean position to help with this, and also implemented an internal faculty training program with coupled mentors, which allows the program to grow with little cost.

Vice Chair Bradshaw - Question: What are some of the other programs that are experiencing a backlog?

Provost Aberle-Cannata - Answer: We have several including our healthcare programs and some of our IET programs. CWI's strategy is to find creative ways to meet workforce and student needs despite funding challenges. When state funding was reduced, the college pursued grants, strengthened industry partnerships, and looked for new opportunities to continue growing key programs.



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CWI MISSION

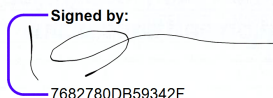
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V. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Reames concluded by emphasizing personal accountability, noting that individuals are often their own greatest obstacle and that progress depends on the choices they make each day. He commended the team for the remarkable growth and positive transformation the school has experienced over the past three years, recognizing contributions across programs, athletics, marketing, finance, and other areas. He then expressed appreciation for the team's dedication and leadership, encouraged everyone to continue moving forward with purpose and determination, and closed by thanking the group and wishing them a great weekend.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:45pm.

Signed by:

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Molly Lentz

Board Secretary