

CWI moves closer to accreditation, focuses on retention

President gives faculty and staff report on state of college

By KELCIE MOSELEY
kmoseley@idahopress.com

© 2014 Idaho Press-Tribune

NAMPA — College of Western Idaho President Bert Glandon struck a positive tone last week at the “State of the College” annual address, even though enrollment at the college is expected to be flat this year.

Glandon said the stagnation of enrollment numbers can be attributed to more focused efforts on student retention and completion.

“We aren’t really a shining star on retention and completion,”



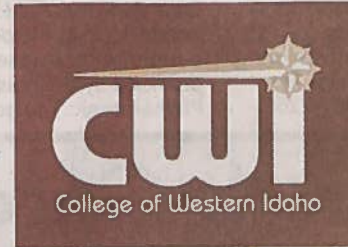
Bert Glandon
CWI president

Glandon told the audience of faculty and staff members. “That’s one of the key things we want to look at this year.”

Earlier this year, CWI launched a “Successful Starts” program that included enrollment deadlines for the fall semester — the first time the college has enforced deadlines, in an attempt to increase retention.

“We’re flat because we made a decision that student success is more important than just getting in,” Glandon said.

Last year, CWI served 19,624 students and awarded 1,260 de-



grees and certificates along with 2,000 general education development degrees. That represents a 62 percent increase in degrees and certificates awarded in 2014 versus 2013.

Glandon also said CWI is “very, very close” to receiving independent accreditation. The college is currently accredited under the College of South-

ern Idaho in Twin Falls, which means, among other things, that the college must first receive approval from CSI before introducing new programs. CWI will host an accreditation team from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities on Oct. 8 and 9 as one of the final steps of the process. CWI will have a “huge celebration” when the accreditation goes through, Glandon said.

The college has also experienced a 97 percent increase in the number of dual-credit enrollment students after partnering with 60 high schools across Idaho.

“What we’re doing is unparalleled anywhere,” Glandon said.