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Saturday, March 7, 2015

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CWI begins new law enforcement training program

Program has certification from state law enforcement council

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NAMPA — The College of Western Idaho has announced it is accepting applications for a new law enforcement program, which has been approved by the Idaho Peace Officer Standards and Training Council. The program, which is part of CWI's Professional Technical Education division, will welcome its first class of students in the fall 2015 semester.

All classes will be taught by certified POST academy instructors at CWI's Canyon County Center in Nampa. Retired Nampa Chief of Police LeRoy Forsman was appointed program chairman.

Through the program, students can choose to complete a two-year Associate of Applied Science degree or an 11-month technical certificate. The program will offer two areas of concentration — patrol officer and jail. Because of the POST designation, graduates from CWI's Law Enforcement program will not be required to complete basic police academy training prior to challenging the POST certification exam.

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"Our goal is to provide students with a top quality education while preparing them to enter the law enforcement field with a strong skill set," says Fors-

man. "Law enforcement agencies throughout the region have a need to fill open positions. Our goal at CWI is to provide these agencies with educated, well trained people who will be the next generation of peace officers."

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number of patrol of-

ficer jobs is projected to grow six percent from 2012 to 2022, both in Idaho and nationally. Similarly, correctional officer and jailer jobs are expected to see a five percent increase during the same period.

CWI plans to accept 25 students into the program each fall semester. May 1 is the applica-

tion deadline for the fall 2015 class. All Law Enforcement program applicants are required to complete an extensive back ground check and a competitive entry application, in addition to applying to CWI for general admission. Students may start the program prior to 21 years of age, but must be 21 to

test for fitness, firearms, and the POST exam.

CWI will host information sessions on March 18 and 19 for anyone interested in learning more about the program. Go to www.cwidaho.cc/program/law-enforcement for more details on the information sessions and the program.