

**College of Western Idaho's  
2016 State of the College Address  
President Bert Glandon**

Welcome and thank everyone for attending CWI's 2016 Fall Address.

Every year we open with a video that reminds us all of why we are here and the difference we are making in our students' lives and the community we are serving.

Last year was no exception to the excellence we are delivering and amazing accomplishments of our students.

This summer our community lost one of its finest visionaries and educational supporters. Hatch Barrett was a founding CWI trustee who devoted a great deal of time and energy to helping create the college and ensure students will continue to have access to quality education for years to come.

In celebration of his life, his family established a scholarship endowment to honor his legacy for years to come. This fund has received support from several additional people throughout our community and is already at nearly \$20,000, with \$15,000 of that as an endowment.

The support from our community and accomplishments to date are merely a glimpse of what is possible in our future.

Today, I want to discuss four major areas of focus in the coming year at CWI:

1. CWI's pursuit of our independent accreditation status
2. The 2018-2022 Comprehensive Strategic Plan
3. Growing our campuses to support more students and programs
4. Our continued commitment to educational excellence that is accomplished through strong community ties, focus on workforce, and innovative teaching and learning practices.

As most of you know CWI delivers its college credit instruction, certificates and degrees through a memorandum of understanding with the College of Southern Idaho. CSI is accredited through The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.

Since 2010, CWI has been diligently working on attaining its own accreditation status – yes this is a long time!

This year we are hosting evaluators from NWCCU in hopes of attaining independent accreditation status which will be reviewed and hopefully granted as part of the NWCCU meeting in January.

Accreditation is paramount for any college, and CWI is no exception!

Receiving our independent accreditation status would allow our college:  
to create and deliver programs specific to our community needs,  
Continued and possibly expanded access to federal funding,  
And accreditation status is an acknowledgement of the quality of instruction, institutional integrity and sustainability.

When the College was initially created a five-year plan was drafted to help guide CWI. Many of the assumptions of where we would be in five years were realized in the first two years.

Last fall CWI once again embarked on a process to update our 5 year strategic plan. This plan included participation from a variety of constituents including faculty, staff, students, trustees, local business and industry, and friends of the College. I am so grateful for the efforts of everyone who contributed to the plan, and I am very pleased with the resulting direction outlined for the years ahead.

The illustration here is a reminder of the first two phases that were worked on over this past year including a long term visioning aspect and five year operational plans in key cross-functioning areas across the College.

The results of the work thus far is our strategic plan for FY2018 through FY2022, appropriately titled: A Transformational College Focused on Student Success Strategic Plan.

*We have refined our mission and vision based on a year 2040 view, and* outlined the inspiration for the College and our strong passion to enhance the culture and delivery of education through five core themes:

- Student Success
- Instructional Excellence
- Community Connections
- Organizational Stewardship
- Inclusive Excellence

The plan also provides an in-depth analysis of the opportunities and challenges ahead, what resources we need to meet the increasing demands, and how we will prioritize initiatives based on the long-range direction we have established.

This document was approved by the Board of Trustees and will be loaded to the CWI website soon.

Looking at the enrollment at community colleges in other areas and the projected growth established in our strategic plan, we anticipate that our student population could grow by another 20,000 students being served each year – bringing us to 40,000+ students attending CWI each year in a very short time.

The development of programs at each of our physical campus locations along with the mix of online training will be programmed to address workforce needs. Programs will be expanded in high-demand fields such as healthcare, technology, trades and business. Our goal is to help students and our community attain the skills to continue to move Idaho forward. CWI is programming to help Idaho meet the goal of 60% of Idahoans age 25-34 attaining a certificate or degree.

With opportunities comes challenges that we will also focus on addressing. As a young college we are still building the infrastructure for the future. Our levy rate is substantially lower than our community college counterparts and our state funding is at 61% of what the other two are receiving. We need to increase funding support, along with additional capacity and resources to meet the demand and keep our quality of programs high and yet still affordable to students.

Much work has been completed to establish our vision and objectives over the next five years.

Our goals and objectives are ambitious.

1. First and foremost, advance student success
2. Promote and invest in the development of quality instruction
3. Initiate connections and partnerships to support economic development
4. Demonstrate fiscal stability and sustainability
5. Ensure operational sustainability and compliance
6. Foster a respectful community and be a model for organizational diversity

Over this next year departments from around the college will come together to build upon the foundation already established in comprehensive strategic plan. You will be creating implementation plans that will help us meet our projections. This will require a great deal of thought and effort, yet will be critical to realizing the vision we set forth. I encourage everyone to engage in this process and bring forward the initiatives that drive educational attainment for our community.

This academic year will be transitional in many aspects as we map out initiatives to meet our strategic plan objectives. With that said, the amazing CWI team does not rest when it comes to taking active and innovative steps to meet our student and community demands.

This year several program changes and pilots will launch including:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Open Educational Resource launch in Education department - **This is the first “open” course offered in Idaho and only requires a special course fee of \$10 for students.**
- Launch of Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) - education that **pairs students who are education majors with education majors in other counties.**
- Perioperative Nursing – certification program
- New afternoon/evening program offerings – Automotive, Welding, Machine Tool, Software Development, and Law Enforcement
- And, several pilot courses will be introduced as special topics that will be a part of the redesigned degrees coming in Fall 2017

We are also expanding several service learning and student-centered projects and symposiums across the College. Continue to read CWI’s e-newsletters for more information.

To help address our growth and best serve our students, CWI is looking at its overall campus development needs.

Starting with the main campus in Nampa, we have identified two critical buildings and infrastructure. Due to its size and location the Nampa Campus provides adequate area for developing programs that require more physical spaces for labs and equipment, including a Health Services building. The health care industry is expected to have the largest increase of workforce needed in Idaho and CWI works very closely with the main hospitals and health centers to meet the workforce needs.

The second critical need is for a Student Success Center. The Student Success Center is designed around a thoughtful combination of quality resources that directly support student success. Academic advisors, career and transfer support, a library, and financial aid just to name a few. All under one roof.

The Center will promote increased interaction and collaboration in an inclusive culture. It will foster student involvement and peer mentoring along side the colleges support staff to reiterate a one-stop approach for students to attain the critical care that leads to success.

Our second, more urban Ada County Campus in Boise has approximately 10 acres of land located at the intersection of Main and Whitewater Park Blvd.

Although detailed campus programming has not been completed, we did engage the community in conceptual campus planning and programming for development. The site, once developed, will serve our existing student population and programs offered in Boise with the ability to enable the College to grow its program offerings that are in high demand.

To accomplish our aggressive goals and meet the educational needs of our community, we absolutely need to garner more financial support from our community. This year, our Board will be focused on funding for our campus development and ongoing operational costs. .

The Board has announced its intent to go out for a bond this November to support campus development which will most likely also include a capital campaign to supplement the growth.

Additionally, CWI continues to seek additional funding from the state to support our general operation funds.

We know that these requests are necessary and we have received tremendous community support willing to come forward and help us.

To garner the support needed, we must make sure that our community is aware of the benefits and important role we are playing in the community.

This year CWI launched an education and awareness campaign – Community.Workforce.Innovation.

The goal of the campaign is to create more awareness of CWI throughout Ada and Canyon Counties, promote the college as the top choice for affordable excellence in education, and educate our community about the positive benefits.

Throughout the campaign we have used personal stories mixed with data points to help illustrate our impact.

We also aligned our messages and data points with the topics of most value to our community. The messages and aligning topics are simple, yet leave a great impression. We have engaged our partners and supporters, as well as increased interaction with CWI students, employees and alumni.

CWI is:

Community focused – driving education and economic growth

Workforce focused – addressing shortage in high demand fields

Innovative in its approach – transforming the traditional classroom

Affordable – making college accessible for everyone

I am asking for your help in spreading the word about CWI. Please continue to share your stories and pride in CWI!

For more details on each of the items we discussed today please visit the following pages on the CWI website.

Community leaders and special guests, thank you all for joining us this morning as we kick-off another fantastic year here at CWI! Employees please stay with us as we transition to our employee awards and recognition portion of the address.