

CWI Professional Tech building project on track

by Brad Carlson

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Professional-technical programs will move to former Sam's Club under renovation in northeast Nampa. Photo provided courtesy of College of Western Idaho

Work is progressing on turning the former Sam's Club store into the College of Western Idaho Professional Technical Education Center. The 134,000-square-foot building is at 5725 E. Franklin Road in northeast Nampa.

The project remains on schedule for programs to take courses there in the fall, CWI spokeswoman Jennifer Couch said.

Thirteen programs were transferred to CWI in 2009 from the Seland College of Applied Technology at Boise State University. Eight will move from Boise State to the remodeled building, plus the drafting

program now in a CWI complex on the Nampa-Caldwell Boulevard. Four programs will stay at Boise State for now, Couch said.

Space constraints limit student enrollment as well as faculty headcount, both of which could increase when the Nampa building's remodeling concludes, Couch said. Some programs require smaller class sizes instructor because of the complexity and large scale of the work involved, she said.

The new building also will give CWI more room to host workplace instruction for businesses in industries similar to those the community college supports. Couch said the new building will allow the college to host more regional training sessions, some of which have been held outside the Boise area because of space requirements. Agco, a Minnesota-based company that sells farming equipment, last year signed CWI as a regional training center.

A Nampa permit values the remodel at \$4,462,590. Hummel Architects, Boise, is the designer. Falash & Ross of Meridian is overseeing construction.

A \$12.9 million contribution from the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation paid for acquisition and remodeling costs.

Enrollment

College of Western Idaho programs headed to Professional Technical Education Building

Source: CWI

Auto body 26

Automotive technology 55

Drafting technology 49

Electronics technology 72

Heavy duty truck technician 29

Heavy equipment technician 25

Machine tool technology 21

Powersports and small engine repair technology 25