

# CWI dedicates 'state-of-the-art' facility

Randy Johnson, welding program chair for the College of Western Idaho, uses a cutting torch to break a ceremonial chain at the dedication ceremony for the new CWI Micron Center Tuesday in Nampa. The ceremony was attended by First Lady Lori Otter, Nampa Mayor Tom Dale, CWI President Bert Glandon and representatives from the Micron and Albertsons foundations.



Adam Eschbach/IPT

Former Sam's Club home to new Nampa technical college

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NAMPA — The plot of land northeast of the Interstate 84 Garry exit, once home to fertile agricultural land and a Sam's Club, is part of a vision, Nampa Mayor Tom Dale said — a vision for change.

The former store is now home to the College of Western Idaho Micron Center for Professional Technical Education.

"We now have a center where the seeds of education will be planted in lives that will create more change and more opportunities for them to grow and for them to prosper," Dale said during the grand opening ceremonies Tuesday in front of the building on Franklin Road near the Idaho Center.

Please see CWI, A7

## CWI

Continued from A1

Idaho's First Lady, Lori Otter, the keynote speaker, said the 176,000-square-foot facility, is a state-of-the-art location that gives people the opportunity to build better lives for their families.

CWI's Nampa campus, which opened Aug. 27, highlights programs in auto, diesel, drafting, electronics, industry, machine tool, power sports and small engine repair, welding and metals fabrication.

Second-semester student Adam Mancini said the biggest difference in the new location from the Boise State University CWI location is space and technology.

"The space and the level of technology that we have here is state of the art compared to BSU," the automotive technology major said. "The fact that we have all these (car) lifts available now enables us to work on all these different things at the same time. We don't have to wait to put a car up on a lift to look at something or work on something."

Mancini said the class works on cars donated to the school, student's cars or clients. He said often the public can bring their vehicles to the school and get it worked on for the price of parts. A person can also negotiate pay for a student

### CWI BY THE NUMBERS

- 2 floors
- 5-acre facility
- 9 professional technical programs
- 127 miles of electrical wiring
- 1,400 fixtures
- 176,000-square-foot building
- 1,000,000 pounds of sheet rock

depending on the service.

He said the advanced facilities set students up for immediate success after graduating.

"They do a placement for you, the last six months of the program," Mancini said. "We actually do an internship at some of the local shops and dealerships ... it'll give you some experience in the job, actually in the field training, that helps us secure a job right out of this degree program."

Jamie MacMillan, the executive director of the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation, said a community college like CWI is important to the area.

"Community college plays one of the most vital roles in 21st century citizenry at a low cost without sacrificing quality," she said.

The building, which sees 2,000 students a day, was transformed with the help of the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation, Micron Technology Foundation, Inc., the J.R. Simplot Company, NORCO and hundreds more donors and contractors.