

Seiter Hall Remodel: Seiter Hall, built in 1974, formerly housed home economics, physics, geology, biology, chemistry, and engineering programs and labs to support them. Since the Meyer Health and Sciences Building opened in July 2005, Seiter Hall has been converted to general classroom use. In the summer of 2006, the Idaho Department of Public Works provided funds to update six former laboratories to general use classrooms.

After 33 years of heavy use, Seiter Hall needs a complete remodel including new mechanical and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems. A total of \$4.35 million has been requested from the state Department of Public Works. On Nov. 6, 2008, the Permanent Building Fund Advisory Council selected this as one of its priority projects for fiscal year 2010.



Changing lives every day

Attracting and Retaining Quality Faculty and Staff

PERSI Option for Faculty and Professional Staff:

Under current Idaho statute, community college faculty and professional staff are not eligible for PERSI, the state retirement system. Their only choice, by law, is the optional retirement system. Expanding retirement program options would assist North Idaho College in recruiting and retaining outstanding faculty and professional staff. Therefore, NIC supports a revision to Idaho Code to allow those faculty and professional staff, not currently eligible for PERSI, the option to enroll in the program if they elect to do so.

Compensation: The ability of North Idaho College to attract and retain quality faculty and staff faces substantial challenges. Without a competitive compensation package coupled with a shrinking availability of qualified applicants in the workplace, the ability of NIC to attract, motivate, and retain top quality employees is hampered. Given what appears to be a limited ability to increase salaries next fiscal year, NIC continues to seek additional resources to compete for qualified talent in a marketplace filled with options that appear to be able to reward and compensate today's top talent. In spite of previous pay increases, NIC faculty members continue to trail their comparator schools by 12.1 percent (2008). With rising inflation at 5.56 percent per Social Security cost of living adjustments, NIC's employee compensation remains a concern.

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PROGRAMS



FACILITIES



EMPLOYEES



2009

Legislative Agenda



North Idaho College

Expanding Programs to Provide More Opportunities for Students

Dental Programs: North Idaho College requests funding (\$605,100) to create a Dental Hygiene/Dental Assisting Program. This will help provide dental hygienists and dental assistants to meet workforce needs in the five northern counties of Idaho. Students will have an opportunity to receive education in North Idaho and not have to travel out of state or eight hours in state to get dental hygiene education.

NIC would work with the Dirne Clinic in Coeur d'Alene to find a central location to offer dental care for the uninsured and underserved members of the community. NIC would partner with the Dirne Clinic by utilizing its facility as a clinical site for nursing, medical assisting, and dental hygiene programs.

One-time funds for the dental clinic equipment and for part of the renovation cost of a location are being requested, along with ongoing funds for the personnel and program operation costs.

Once established, eight to 10 students could be accepted into the dental hygiene program every five semesters and eight to 10 students could be trained as dental assistants each year. More than 2,500 community members who are uninsured or underinsured could be assisted by the dental clinic each year.



Funding to Assist High School Dual Credit Students:

NIC supports the Idaho State Board of Education request for funds to help qualified high school students defray tuition costs for dual enrollment credits at local colleges. As part of this program, high school juniors and seniors who attain grade-level proficiency on their ISAT test in their sophomore year would be eligible to take up to six dual enrollment courses through NIC's program, which is called "Win by Getting a Good Start" (WINGS).

A nationwide study by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education notes that the percentage of Idaho high school students who go on to college is among the lowest in the nation and is actually declining. Recent studies in several states show dual enrollment as a way to expand college opportunity, particularly for students who might not be college bound.

Continued Support for Professional-Technical Education:

The demand among the manufacturing and business sector for professional-technical education (PTE) is growing in North Idaho and across the state. North Idaho College supports initiatives that enhance employment opportunities funded through increased state allocations for PTE across Idaho, through appropriations requests made by the state Division of Professional-Technical Education.

Proposed expansion of current programs includes:

- Welding Technology,
- Carpentry,
- Diesel Technology,
- Outdoor Power/Recreational Vehicle Technology, and
- Culinary Arts.

New degree and/or certification programs proposed for NIC in the next few years include:

- Gerontology Care Specialist,
- Veterinary Assistant,
- Transportation and Logistics Management,
- Instrumentation Technology,
- Surgical Technician,
- Warehouse/Distribution Specialist, and
- Respiratory Therapy.

Enhancing Student Learning through Facilities and Equipment

Classroom Technology Upgrades: North Idaho College is requesting \$334,500 for the first year of a two-year span to equip all classrooms to the campus minimum standard. Classrooms will be assessed against the standard classroom minimum. All items with useful life will continue to be used. Classrooms that will not be used for student or instructor presentations are not included.

NIC has partially equipped 81 of 152 classrooms for media presentations using readily available technology like projectors, Internet-attached computers, and audio/video players. Lighting, screens, and furniture have been added to classrooms to make it easy for faculty and students to use technology for teaching and learning.

While the processes and services to acquire and support the use of teaching technology have improved, there is still a lack of systematic equipping to protect the investments, lower operating costs, and further improve use. A "baseline" reset of the classroom technology is needed to bring all appropriate classrooms to the minimum campus standard.

