



North Idaho College

ORIGINS AND GROWTH

The junior college movement, which evolved into the community college movement, brought about fundamental changes that influenced all of higher education and, indeed, our entire society during the twentieth century.

North Idaho College and other community colleges brought flexibility to a system of higher education that, prior to their inception, had been characterized by social elitism and a narrow, classical perception of who was entitled to benefit from a college education. The community college movement focused its concern on bringing college level educational opportunities to adults at an affordable cost. The relationship between the arts and sciences, and between learning and labor were incorporated in new ways into the mission of post-secondary education.

North Idaho College is Idaho's oldest public community college, having been founded in 1933 as Coeur d'Alene Junior College. It began with a faculty of nine, and held its classes on the third floor of the City Hall. It was financed entirely from public contributions. In 1939, the Idaho Legislature passed the Junior College Act, which gave geographical areas permission to form junior college districts, if they could meet the requirement of \$10 million assessed valuation and 800 high school students. In July of 1939, the North Idaho Junior College District was formed encompassing most of Kootenai County. In 1960, the District incorporated the remaining areas of Kootenai County, bringing the District to its present size.

The college serves out-of-district students from the five northern counties. In 1971, the name of the college was changed to North Idaho College in accordance with a law passed by the 41st Idaho Legislature.

Idaho Code, Sections 33-2101 through 33-2144, define Junior College District Law, including the formation of districts, trustees, powers, tuition, bonding, funding, and disposition of funds. Other sections of the code, pertaining to "public agencies," also apply.

Mr. Orrin E. Lee served as the first president of North Idaho College from 1939 to 1944. He was succeeded by Mr. G.O. Kildow who led the college until his death in 1962. Mr. Perry Christianson, who had served as an instructor, and then dean of faculty, assumed the presidency from 1962 until his retirement in 1968. His successor was Mr. Barry Schuler, who served from 1968 to 1986. Dr. C. Robert Bennett was president from 1986

to 1997. Dr. Ronald E. Bell, former president of Shoreline Community College, Shoreline, Washington, served as interim president from mid-1997 to mid-1998. Dr. Michael Burke was appointed president in July 1998 and served until February 2007. Dr. Priscilla J. Bell served as interim president from February 2007 through June 2007. Dr. Bell was appointed president July 1, 2007.

THE COLLEGE TODAY

Since 1950, North Idaho College has received unrestricted accreditation from the Northwest Commission of Colleges and Universities. Additional approval and accreditation for specific programs has been granted by the following agencies: The National League of Nursing, the Idaho State Board of Nursing, and the Idaho State Department of Vocational Education.

Revenue for North Idaho College is derived primarily from annual legislative appropriations, property taxes from the local district, and student tuition and fees. The college also receives gifts, grants, and endowments for scholarships and development from many sources, both public and private, primarily through the North Idaho College Foundation.