IDAHO’S COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Expanding Opportunities & Growing Our Economy
The Unique Value of Idaho Community Colleges

**CREATING PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS:**

In response to the state's workforce challenges, Idaho's four comprehensive community colleges are working directly with business and industry to meet local and regional labor demand. Our adaptable nature allows us to create focused educational credentials that are a direct match for students, employers, and communities.

Idaho's community colleges are also known for their transfer mission. Students can earn low-cost college credits and prepare to successfully transition to a four-year college or university.

Many of our students are the first in their families to attend college. Others may not have learned to read beyond a basic education level. And some have not been in a classroom for ten or more years. That's why Idaho community colleges have created programs and services to support learners of all abilities and backgrounds.

We do our work with a great sense of urgency. Idaho's low college go-on rate, aging workforce, increasing population, and widening labor gap all lead to a single, directionally defining conclusion: Idaho needs everyone in the game. Idaho community colleges empower all Idahoans to complete their educational and career goals.

We are committed to providing Idahoans access to affordable, high-quality education and workforce training.

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**COMMUNITY COLLEGE FUNDING**

Annual state funding for community colleges is allocated in three ways, all requiring legislative approval:

- The Idaho Legislature passes a direct appropriation from the General Fund for the community colleges.
- Colleges submit line-item budget requests to the Legislature through the State Board of Education for additional needed funding.
- Community colleges receive funds from the Division of Career Technical Education (CTE) specifically for CTE programming.

Locally generated funds also support Idaho's community colleges:

- Elected community college boards of trustees establish student tuition and fees for in-district and out-of-district attendees.
- The boards of trustees are statutorily authorized to levy local property taxes within the prescribed boundaries of the individual community college district.


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**Sources:**

1. DFM Performance Measurement Report, FY2017
2. PSR: Fall 2017 Snapshot (Lower Division Headcount)
3. Volunteer Framework of Accountability (VFA)

CEI is Idaho's newest community college, created May 2017. CEI did not have academic transfer enrollment until fall 2017.
Community Colleges at the Forefront of Idaho’s Future

By 2020, 65 percent of all American jobs will require some form of post-secondary degree or credential (Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce).

Idaho’s community colleges offer education and training to Idahoans so they can thrive and succeed in current and future economies.

“New Collar Jobs” that represent skilled positions in fast-growing fields (that don’t require a traditional four-year degree) demand that Idaho’s community colleges remain agile to fulfill evolving industry needs and contribute to the talent pipeline. Community colleges are a critical economic development tool to tailor training to industry need.

Our Relevancy & Our Role

WE ARE EDUCATING IDAHOANS FOR TODAY’S ESSENTIAL PROFESSIONS AND THOSE OF THE FUTURE.

Close the Skills Gap – Training thousands of Idahoans for jobs that require education and training beyond a high school degree.

Provide Specialized Instruction – Teaching skills for rapidly advancing fields such as information technology and cybersecurity.

Upskill – Preparing students for the next step in their career by offering cutting-edge course content to meet current and emerging workplace demands.

Facilitate Mentorship – Strengthening the connection between classroom education and hands-on experience while introducing students to in-demand career options.

Offer Affordability – Reducing the cost of postsecondary training for both students seeking career-specific education and those continuing to a four-year college or university.

CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY

We provide community enrichment opportunities such as performance, music and visual arts programs, cultural events, library access, athletic events, conferences, wellness activities, and programming for children and youth.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE GOVERNANCE

Each community college is governed by a five-member board of trustees, elected to four-year terms. There are five districts within each community college taxing district and one trustee must be elected from each.

The boards of trustees are tasked with hiring a president, approving a budget and developing governance policies. The college administration manages curriculum and instruction along with operational decisions.
North Idaho College (NIC) was originally founded as North Idaho Junior College in 1933. The college changed its name from North Idaho Junior College to North Idaho College in 1971. NIC is located in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho and serves students in the northern panhandle of the state. NIC serves Kootenai, Boundary, Bonner, Shoshone, and Benewah Counties.

College of Southern Idaho (CSI) was established in the fall of 1964. Located in Twin Falls, it serves the southwest region of the state, including Blaine, Camas, Lincoln, Gooding, Cassia, Twin Falls, Jerome, and Minidoka Counties.

College of Western Idaho (CWI) For over 40 years, Idaho had only two community colleges. In 2007, the citizens of Ada and Canyon Counties voted to establish a community college district. The College of Western Idaho (CWI) is located in Nampa and serves the Boise area (Treasure Valley) and beyond, including Adams, Valley, Washington, Boise, Canyon, Ada, Payette, Geman, Elmore, and Owyhee Counties.

College of Eastern Idaho (CEI) In 2017, Eastern Idaho Technical College became the College of Eastern Idaho (CEI). The citizens of Bonneville County voted to establish a community college taxing district and Eastern Idaho Technical College’s role and mission were expanded to that of a comprehensive community college. CEI will serve the southeastern area of the state, which includes Lemhi, Custer, Clark, Butte, Fremont, Jefferson, Bonneville, Teton, and Madison Counties.