



MEDIA ADVISORY – June 28, 2010

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College of Western Idaho Suspends Practical Nursing Program

Nampa – Based on a recent program review, The Board of Trustees for the College of Western Idaho (CWI) has approved an indefinite suspension of the Practical Nursing (PN) program. CWI will continue to serve the students who have already started the PN program, but has suspended applications for any new classes at this time.

College of Western Idaho continually reviews the economic conditions and job market to provide education based on market demand and remain flexible in meeting the needs of the residents of its service area. The Professional Technical Education healthcare programs work very closely with area hospitals to keep programs up to industry standards. Local hospitals and private clinics provide clinical experience for the students and in many cases hire the graduates for full-time positions upon graduation. Over the past year, local opportunities for clinical experience and job placement for PN students has decreased.

Based on feedback from the major healthcare providers in the area and a gap analysis completed by Economic Modeling Specialist Inc. (EMSI), CWI found that some healthcare occupations, such as registered nursing, are increasing in demand while the need for practical nursing is decreasing. Current data indicates a surplus of practical nurse graduates for the number of annual job openings.

"The decision to suspend the PN program was based on CWI's commitment to provide students the most applicable education for the marketplace," stated CWI President Bert Glandon. "We must remain flexible and in-line with industry demands and standards. We will continue to provide quality healthcare education and work closely with the community to meet career demands."

Resources and personnel for the PN program will be redirected into the College's Registered Nursing (RN) program.

The College of Western Idaho remains dedicated to providing sustainable programs in healthcare as it is a primary labor market for the state of Idaho. As part of its strategic plan, the College anticipates offering a bridge program for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) to enter the Registered Nursing (RN) Program that will provide students an additional option.

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About the College of Western Idaho

The College of Western Idaho is a public, open-access, and comprehensive community college committed to providing affordable access to quality teaching and learning opportunities to the residents of its service area in western Idaho. CWI has seven campus locations throughout Southwest Idaho providing higher education and 21st Century technical skills acquisition. The college is dedicated to improving the community's economic well-being by responding with highly-educated and productive graduates. The foundation for the area's only community college was created by a supermajority of voters in Ada and Canyon counties on May 22, 2007. For more information about the college, visit www.cwidaho.cc or call (208) 562-3000.

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