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BSU to CSI: Not so fast

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — To expand to the Treasure Valley, the College of Southern Idaho must win approval from Boise State University, a BSU spokesman said Wednesday.

That approval may be hard to get.

"This area has been designated as a service area for Boise State for community colleges and services," said Frank Zang, director of communications for BSU. "CSI would have to ask permission from the

state board and Boise State. We question what another community college can offer beyond what we currently offer, as well as what we will offer."

CSI officials announced Monday their desire to offer lower-division classes in the Boise area and said they would ask the state Board of Education for permission. On Wednesday, the state board confirmed that CSI needs to get permission from both the state board and BSU.

"Each college and university has a service area," said Luci Willits, communica-

tions officer for the Idaho State Board of Education. "So if they go outside their service area they need to get permission from the state board."

But will BSU be willing to share its market?

Zang said there is a need for lower-division courses, but BSU is gearing up to meet that need.

"Although it's been a missing part of the educational equation in this area, we certainly feel that BSU has the ability to meet demand in this area," he said.