

# Otter's proposals in line with CSI's future plans

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TWIN FALLS - If it seems like Gov. C.L. Otter and the College of Southern Idaho are on the same page, that's because they are.

CSI made a calculated risk to invest time, money and other resources into expanding its nursing programs. Now, with Otter pledging his support for nursing programs in Idaho, including \$21.1 million for a new health and human science building at CSI, it appears that the risk just might pay off.

"It wasn't easy to get where we are at," said Jerry Beck, president of CSI. "We had to work really hard to be where we are today."

Beck spoke to faculty and staff at CSI on Monday during his annual State of the College address, which highlights current and future issues facing the college.

Among the issues are recommendations by the Interim Committee on Community Colleges to address a shortage of affordable and accessible community college courses in Idaho.

The recommendations include reducing the required voter approval to create a community college district from 66.7 percent to 60 percent and standardizing tuition and fees in colleges and universities throughout Idaho - Boise State University charges about \$100 more per credit hour than CSI.

"We support the addition of more community colleges and recommendations that will allow that," Beck said. "There is a need for them, and we believe that additional community colleges will increase the number of students. It would benefit all of us."

But he does not support two of the recommendations.

"I don't agree with reducing the terms of office of our board members to four years," he said. "I think that much change is too much change for a college board of trustees, and I don't think it's in our best interest because it takes time to learn a lot as a trustee."

Beck said CSI also does not support a recommendation to dissolve local community college districts, which both CSI and North Idaho College have fought aggressively to retain.

The Legislature will consider the interim committee's recommendations during this session. Lawmakers, as well as college and university presidents, say it will be one of the major legislative discussions this year - with state dollars and the future of education all in the mix.

"With all the change happening in the state, we see it as an opportunity," Beck said. "We will continue to be business-aggressive and to do more to work with the communities we serve."

### **C of I Statehouse requests**

**The College of Southern Idaho** is requesting more than \$830,000 from the state to enhance existing programs,

\$247,300 to expand the capacity of the current nursing program. The money would be used to add faculty and redesign the program to increase the number of registered nursing students from 100 to 240 by fall 2007.

\$250,000 to enhance work force development.

\$115,300 to expand the college's testing center.

\$218,500 to start a two-year program to increase CSI faculty salaries, which rank 30th out of the 39 colleges in the Mountain States Association.

**Source:** College of Southern Idaho

### **Main points of State of the College address**

**President Jerry Beck** and the CSI board of trustees support the recommendations made by the Interim Committee on Community Colleges except two proposals: reducing trustee terms from six years to four and dissolving local community college districts.

**Beck also talked** about increasing the college's employee compensation plan about 3 to 3.5 percent. Gov. Otter has proposed increasing employee compensation about 5 percent. <H80Z18F"FRANKLINGOTHIC-CONDENSED"