

Community College Now **e-Watch**

Volume 1, Issue 2: Monday, March 5, 2007

Another Big Week!

Welcome to the second edition of **Community College Now! e-Watch**, a periodic newsletter keeping interested parties informed and chronicling the efforts to create a comprehensive, sustainable, locally governed community college here in the Treasure Valley.

What is *CommunityCollegeNow*?

Community College Now ! is a public education program of the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation to raise awareness of the need for increased access to comprehensive community college education in the Treasure Valley . Last fall, the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation launched a public education campaign on television, radio, and newspaper to bring attention to the need for a community college. A new wave of public education advertising is underway. For more information, please visit www.communitycollegenow.org.

Otter Encourages Local Business & Community Leaders to Get Involved

Over 200 local Treasure Valley business and community leaders came together to attend a March 1, 2007 call to action event hosted by Governor Butch Otter. He challenged attendees to help make the establishment of a local community college district a reality by offering both financial and grassroots support. Governor Otter unveiled a community vision and a plan for the establishment of the College of Western Idaho . Community College Yes! campaign co-chairs, M.C. Niland and Skip Oppenheimer, also spoke about the economic impact and the importance of establishing a community college district. Former state Senator Skip Smyser, speaking as a citizen of Parma, said Parma students need affordable postsecondary choices.

For more information, please contact campaign coordinator Jason Lehosit at (208) 867-6511 or email collegeteyes@gmail.com.

CollegeCollegeNow! Brochures Available

Just this week, the CommunityCollegeNow! public education program staff released an easy-to-read, informational brochure intended to help communicate the needs and benefits of a comprehensive community college. If you would like to obtain copies of the brochure for distribution, please contact chris.latter@jkaf.org. The brochure is also available online at www.communitycollegenow.org.

Limited Community College Access in the Treasure Valley

Last summer, Jennifer and Skyler Johnson told the *Times-News* that they were selling their

Emmett home to attend the College of Southern Idaho (CSI). They attributed their decision to the lack of local options in the Treasure Valley.

As a newly married couple, CSI is easier to afford. Especially, because both my husband and I will be taking classes – Jennifer Johnson

(Source: *Times-News* , June 30, 2006)

Petition Drive Continues

Representatives from Boise, Meridian, Caldwell, Star, Eagle and Kuna are working with the Nampa Chamber of Commerce to circulate petitions that could result in a May 22, 2007 call for voters to support the establishment of a community college district. One thousand signatures are needed to jump start the state-sanctioned process for creating a community college district in Idaho. According to Nampa Chamber of Commerce, they have collected 2,000 more signatures than required. For more information, please contact Georgia Bowman-Gunstream, President/CEO, Nampa Chamber of Commerce, at (208) 466-4641 ext.102.

In Idaho, the process for establishing a community college district is:

- collect 1,000 signatures
- get approval from the State Board of Education
- get voters to the polls to support a community college district

(Full text of the statute can be viewed at

<http://www3.state.id.us/cgi-bin/newidst?scid=330210004.K>)

What Could a Local Community College Offer YOU?

Community colleges are characterized by **open admissions and equity** (anyone can attend), **a community-based philosophy**, **low tuition** and a **good-quality education**, a **wide range of offerings** including two-year degrees (associate degree vs. a Bachelor's degree resulting from a four-year college education), **transferable degrees** (for those who wish to go on to a four-year college or university), **vocational and occupational training to prepare students for** employment in specific fields, certificate courses, adult basic education, small business development assistance, **English as a second language**, **developmental and remedial coursework**, and **noncredit community and continuing education**.

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CommunityCollege
Now!

A public education program of the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation to raise awareness of the need, value and benefit of high quality, affordable community college access in the Treasure Valley.

