

Community College Now! e-Watch

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Your Weekly Community CollegeNow! Update

Thanks for taking the time to read the third 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.

Please share this newsletter with a friend.

What is Community College Now?

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.

Community College Supporters Turn in Petitions with 3,200 Signatures

On Thursday, March 8, the *Idaho Press Tribune* reported that organizers of the Treasure Valley drive to build a community college in Nampa delivered petitions with 3,200 signatures to the Canyon County Courthouse—three times the number of signatures needed.

Petition originals will be retained by the County Clerk 's office, while petition copies will be forwarded to the State Board of Education for approval of the proposed district after they are read into the commissioner's record on March 12. If the Board approves the proposed college, Canyon County commissioners would set an election date for which 2/3 of the voters would have to approve creation of the district. That vote could happen as early as May 22.

Jason Lehosit, Community College YES! campaign manager has called the latest drive for a two-year school in the Treasure Valley "a wonderful plan" and a "community-driven effort."

"The citizens of the Treasure Valley— Boise, Meridian, Nampa, Star, Caldwell, Parma —have all come together to help build this," said Lehosit.

Local Community College Opportunity Will Help Keep the Treasure Valley Safe

"A community college in the Treasure Valley will unquestionably help the Peace Officer Standards and Training Academy (POST) expand its reach in training and educating peace officers as they prepare for the noble profession of public service. Let's support a community

college in the Treasure Valley and make an investment in keeping our communities safe.”

Jeffrey Black – POST Executive Director

POST oversees the training and certification of all Idaho law enforcement officers. That includes: police officers, sheriff's deputies, correctional officers, detention officers, probation and parole officers, conservation officers, and state troopers.

What Opportunities Do Community Colleges Bring?

- **For many people**, community colleges provide a first – and second – chance. With college costs increasing faster than the rate of inflation, community colleges are an affordable option for many individuals and families, or a valuable starting point before transferring to a four-year institution.
- **For others**, community colleges offer a chance to change careers, start a business, an opportunity get the re-training needed to get back into the workforce.
- **For seniors**, community colleges provide social opportunity, continued education, a place to stay active.
- **For employers**, community colleges are a responsive, affordable partner in remaining competitive through tailored employee training and re-training.
- **And, for communities**, community colleges represent an often overlooked economic engine and a source of life-long learning for residents.

Community College Now! Brochures Available

The Community College Now! public education campaign staff has made available 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.

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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.