



March 24, 2006

Dr. Marilyn Davis
Office of the State Board of Education
PO Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0037

Dear Marilyn,

I am pleased to submit Idaho State University's response to the State Board of Education's Request for Information, Idaho's 21st Century Community College System. This response is a statement of a vision, a needs assessment, and a proposed structure for a *College of Eastern Idaho* serving community college students throughout Regions V and VI.

Nationally, community colleges serve as the point of access to higher education for nearly half of post-secondary students. They play a major role in meeting the needs of students, employees, employers, and the community. ISU's proposal to create a community college serving eastern Idaho will address the generally accepted functions of community colleges. These include offering courses and programs for:

- 1) the first two years of college to prepare students to transfer to a baccalaureate program at a four-year college or university.
- 2) vocational/professional-technical certificate and degree programs to prepare students for employment.
- 3) remedial and developmental education courses to prepare students for success in college-level courses.
- 4) training employees for business and industry.
- 5) community service and support for lifelong learning.

The need for community college services in Idaho is great, and ISU welcomes the community college initiative. To meet the community college need efficiently, quickly, and sustainably, Idaho must build on existing infrastructure. ISU's proposal to establish the College of Eastern Idaho does this, and assumes effective collaboration between ISU and Eastern Idaho Technical College. As a result of this reorganization and efficient expansion of community college services, we believe that College of Eastern Idaho will be able to provide courses at \$100 - \$120 per credit hour.

We look forward to working with the State Board of Education and all stakeholders on this extremely important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Wharton, Ph.D.
Vice President

Vice President for
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