

## President's State of the College Address

August 14, 2017

Welcome to the start of the 2017-2018 school year! I am glad to see you after the summer, and I am also pleased to welcome our new faculty and staff to the College of Southern Idaho. In many ways, the summer activities on campus seem to be the beginning of the year, for there is so much activity, so many students here for one reason or another. Of course, we have summer school, but there have been conferences here and daily activities. This is not a comprehensive list, but it gives you a sense of how engaged CSI is with our community and students.

- P20 Conference that featured over 150 sessions and over 640 participants.
- There was the CSI Jazz Camp which featured clinicians and students who studied at CSI for the week and then performed at Jazz on the Canyon.
- CSI INBRE students worked with area science-related professionals and prepared presentations for the statewide event in Moscow this summer.
- Building on the successful pilot from last year, students were here as part of the Summer Bridge program. By every metric, this is a successful program, and students are taking more credits, staying in school, and completing classes with solid grades.
- This summer CSI again hosted the ISTEM Summer Institute titled “Innovating the Future” with a record number of K-12 educators, around 140, and some excellent guest speakers.

And at the heart of each of these events and more, CSI faculty and staff were front and center as facilitators, volunteers, instructors, and mentors. I'd also like to thank Teri Fattig and the amazing staff of the Herrett Center for Arts and Science and Camille Barigar and company at the CSI Fine Arts Center for facilitating a very busy summer.

This summer the College of Eastern Idaho has come alive, and it will start offering classes this fall. We will maintain a CSI presence there until the end of the fall term. We expect the CVEI operation to impact us over time. This last week, all five of CSI's Trustees joined me in Idaho Falls along with representatives from the other community colleges to help the new CEI board get off the ground. CSI is so fortunate to have five committed and generous trustees who not only support and guide this college but make themselves available for others.

For the past several years, we have had some amazing work done by faculty in the **Innovation Circle Grants**. Among funded projects were

- Amphitheater Concept
- Mech-Tech Robot
- Service Learning
- Instructional Maker-Thinker Space Design
- Engaged Learning Communities

This year, I will be funding a **Focused Innovation Circle Grant** for Instructional in Online Learning, and I will be reaching out to several folks for that purpose.

Later this morning, HR will introduce our new employees, always a chance to welcome the next generation of faculty and staff to CSI. The flip side of this is those who are retiring, and farewells are always bittersweet. We will miss Mike Youngman, Dennis Heiner, Jim Irons, Doug

Maughan, Elaine Bryant, Joy Worsham, Allen Scherbinkse, Lori Garnand, Brent Jensen, Deb Stuart, and Paul Morgan. They have given their full measure to CSI. Jim Dawson is stepping down from chairing the Health, Fitness, and Recreation Department to teach mathematics full time. Thank you, Jim, for your excellence and passion; CSI students are lucky to have you back in the classroom.

At a soiree about a year ago, a person came up to me and announced she had received alumni information from BSU and U of I, two schools she attended, but nothing from CSI. With thousands of graduates over these past 50 years, it seemed that was a gap we needed to fill. I am excited to announce the finalizing of the Alumni Coordinator position, and Raylene Abbot will be working with the Foundation Office and Student Services.

I am also excited to announce the hiring of the Multicultural Coordinator, Alejandra Hernandez. She will be working with several initiatives on campus building on our intention to improve recruitment from high school to college.

Todd, Jeff, and I will be meeting with our area legislators as well as officials from Department of Financial Management and Legislative Services Office in the coming weeks to discuss our funding requests. This year at the legislature, we will be asking for funding for the following line items for a total of approximately \$1M:

1. IT personnel and software (4 FTE + software platform support)
2. Weekend college support (2 FT and funding for instructional resources)
3. Center for Education Innovation (funding for consulting support)

## **Governor's Higher Education Task Force Update**

There are some potential changes in the way higher education funding operates in Idaho so I'm going to spend a bit of time talking about the Governor's Higher Education Task Force. Two years ago, the Governor convened a task for K-12 public education, and he was pleased with the results, and this year he convened a similar task force for higher education. I and the other public post-secondary presidents all sit on this task force. Laird Stone is involved as community college trustee representative. There are four subcommittees, and President Fernandez from LCSC I sit on the Funding Subcommittee. We have been meeting for about three months, and we are charged with presenting the subcommittee findings to the larger task force which will present the Governor with a final report sometime in late September. That's a short period of time to deal with a hugely complex issue. The Finding Subcommittee is discussing Outcome Based Funding (OBF). For many years, the state used an Enrollment Workload Adjustment formula which was based on inputs. Funding was calculated on a rolling three-year average of students enrolled on day ten of a given semester. The formula was in place for a number of years until the Great Recession when colleges and universities saw spikes in enrollment, but the state coffers were challenged because of declining revenue in a troubled economy. Differently, OBF is based on outputs as described by conferred degrees and certificates at the end of each year. Tangent to this is the state's 60% Goal, the plan to have 60% of Idahoans between the ages of 25-34 with some form of post-secondary degree or certificate by 2020. It probably won't happen in 2020, maybe not even in 2025, but as an aspirational goal, it works to address an undereducated workforce in a low wage state. OBF is not a new concept, and there are several states who have been at it with varying degrees of success and failure for many years. Even those successful OBF states have seen only small increase in degree and

certificate awards. It seems the conflation of the 60% Goal and the incentives proposed as OBF is problematic. Last year OSBE created a proposal for an OBF model that was rejected by the Governor who wanted broader input from business and industry, hence the process we are involved in now.

I would like to send a shout out to our local legislators. They are believers in what we do. They believe in the power of the community college. They believe in us. They believe in our students. If you see them out in the community, please give them a pat on the back.

As I end my remarks this morning, we are again at the start of the new year. I have of the thought of the cycle of school. It was more apparent when I taught, but I still recognize the newness of each fall. There are a fresh bunch of students coming to study with us. We are at the start of the year of seasons, and there is a consequent anticipation of the autumnal colors and chill in the air, perhaps even a longing for snow. We have new and improved lessons prepared, and it is exciting to see how those will play out in our classrooms and with our students. Now is the time also when we see each other again, like getting back together with friends after a long absence. It is always affirming to see a familiar face, to catch up on life, to once again share the collegial world. The beginning of a school year for all of us is sustaining. We are reminded of the significance of meaningful work and the value of camaraderie and shared hope that we will inspire our students with knowledge and passion.

Importantly in these days, our communal vision and commitment for good through civil, educated decision-making and social interaction is vital to each of us. It is crucial for our students and our community.

Let us go forth with love, courage, and singleness of heart.