



State Board of Education transfers campus to CEI

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Aman

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The College of Eastern Idaho will soon own its campus and buildings, clearing the way for new construction there meant to speed up the rate at which nurses can graduate from the nascent community college.

The transfer was approved at a meeting of the Idaho State Board of Education, which convened Thursday morning on CEI's campus.

"We have been waiting for this for a long time," CEI President Rick Aman said. "Now that it's been deeded over, the taxing district owns the property."

Aman said the campus deed transfer, which will take effect July 1, will allow the community college to begin planned improvements to improve educational opportunities there. That includes a planned nursing clinic, funded by a \$1.7 million grant from the William J. and Shirley A. Maeck Family Foundation.

"We're going to put in four high-definition simulators, essentially mannequins, and we'll treat the facility like a clinic," Aman said. "That will reduce — by half — the amount of time that our nursing students will have to be in clinics outside of the campus. We'll be able to train more nurses in a shorter time."

The campus also plans to add a 50-seat testing center.

"You can't really make those modifications when you don't own the buildings," Aman said.

Other than opening the way for new construction, Aman said the deed transfer will change little about the way the school works day-to-day or the experience of students on the campus.