

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MARCH 26, 2007**

**INSTITUTION / AGENCY AGENDA
OFFICE OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

SUBJECT

Establishment of a Community College District in Ada and Canyon Counties

REFERENCE

November 30, 2006 The Board approved a resolution outlining its position regarding the governance and financing of a new community college.

APPLICABLE STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

Sections 33-2101 through 33-2104, Idaho Code.

BACKGROUND

The greater Boise Metropolitan area is currently the largest metropolitan area, outside of Washington D.C., in the United States without its own community college district. Currently Boise State University's Larry Selland College of Applied Technology carries the professional-technical and work force training functions of a community college, with an enrollment of 1,073, while the typical developmental and lower-division courses offered by a community college are in other colleges within the University. The proposed community college would incorporate the developmental, professional-technical, lower division academic courses and workforce training. Boise State University (BSU) would continue to offer lower division courses. Also, Treasure Valley Community College in Oregon has come into the area to help meet the demand and currently enrolls 800 students.

An advocacy organization, *Community College Yes!*, has presented the Idaho State Board of Education (SBOE) a petition with the expressed intent of initiating a referendum to form a community college district for Ada and Canyon counties (**see Attachment A**). Before such a vote can occur, the Board needs to approve the proposal. If the Board approves the proposal it will notify Canyon County, where the main campus will be located, and the County Commissioners will set a date and conduct an election for this purpose.

Portions of this analysis are based upon the BSU Business Plan and Proposal to the J.A. & Kathryn Albertson Foundation (JKAF) (January 2007). The BSU proposal presents a potential model for the start up of a community college in Ada and Canyon counties. This proposal anticipates that BSU and the newly formed community college district will work cooperatively in ensuring the new community college will have a full range of services and accredited programs.

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DISCUSSION

Section 33-2101, Idaho Code, stipulates the designated boundaries for community college districts in the state of Idaho. Specifically, the statute identifies Area No. 3, which consists of the territory of the counties of Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Gem, Payette, Valley, Washington, and portions of Elmore.

This petition states that the counties of Ada and Canyon, which reside within Area No. 3, will constitute the boundaries of the proposed district. The proposed new community college will be called "The College of Western Idaho."

Section 33-2103, Idaho Code, sets forth minimum requirements for the formation of a community college district, as follows:

- 1) The community college district must contain four (4) or more school districts;
- 2) The enrollment in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) must not be less than 2,000 students; and
- 3) The net taxable property value of the proposed district must not be less than \$100,000,000.

In addition, Section 33-2104, Idaho Code, requires the Board to review the following information in determining whether to approve any petition:

- 4) Existing postsecondary opportunities within the proposed district;
- 5) Number of prospective students;
- 6) Academic courses to be offered; and
- 7) Financial viability of the new community college including available facilities.

ANALYSIS/IMPACT

The State Board of Education office has received from Canyon County petitions to form the community college district containing more than 3,200 signatures of school district electors (**see Attachment B**).

1) Number of Local School Districts

The area of the proposed district includes nine (12) school districts:

ADA COUNTY - Boise, Kuna, Meridian;

CANYON COUNTY - Caldwell, Kuna, Melba, Middleton, Nampa, Notus, Parma, Vallivue, Wilder.

2) Number of High School Students

Within the district there are more than 25,000 total high school students enrolled in the proposed area as of fall 2006. (**see Attachment C**).

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3) Taxable Market Value

The net taxable market value as of September 2006 in Ada and Canyon counties is \$35,110,903,058.00 (Source: Gary Houde, Senior Research Analyst, Idaho Tax Commission, February 12, 2007).

4) Existing Opportunities for Post-Secondary Education

There are thirteen institutions of higher education; both public and private in the proposed district (**see Attachment D**). Two of the existing institutions, Seland College of BSU and Treasure Valley Community College would be directly impacted by this proposal. The proposal envisions the subsuming of Seland College's current enrollment of 1,073 students, which would be absorbed by the proposed community college.

The most compelling reasons to create a community college are geographical and academic access and affordability. Treasure Valley Community College's current tuition of \$80 per credit hour is based on four academic quarters. When translated into semesters, the comparable tuition range is \$120 per credit hour. This is the most financially affordable, followed by the public institutions' tuition of \$200+ per credit hour. Private college tuition in the proposed district ranges between \$670 - \$853 per credit.

Typically, community colleges offer open admissions, as well as day, evening, and weekend classes; BSU has set the expectation since they currently offer day, evening, weekend and distance education classes. That is not true, however, for all traditional institutions of higher education that tend to offer more limited class schedules.

5) Projected Enrollment

Boise State University's proposal to migrate the Seland College of Applied Technology to the proposed Western Idaho Community College enables rapid delivery of programs to occur; with BSU projecting the ability to serve up to 3,500 credit-bearing students (2,000 academic and 1,500 professional-technical) annually, plus thousands more through noncredit programming (per Albertson Proposal, p. 10).

6) Academic Courses Offered

It should be noted that the historic mission of a community college embraces life-long learning, and certainly, non-traditional students (e.g. 24 years or older) typically comprise a major portion of community college students. It is therefore significant that the two counties proposed for the community college district comprise over 500,000 residents with an up-trending demographic (**see Attachment E**). In order to get the proposed community college off to an excellent start, BSU has proposed a full menu of community college courses in its "Academic Plan."

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These include the following areas:

- lower-division academic courses that will transfer to baccalaureate programs
- academic associate degrees and certificates
- developmental and remedial courses

As well as the following professional-technical areas:

- professional-technical degrees and certificates
- adult basic education
- noncredit workforce training
- local economic development and small business assistance
- leisure and enrichment courses

The other key benefit of BSU's proposed incubation of the proposed community college is that the quality and credibility already established by BSU then extends to the academic courses to be offered; thus, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) accreditation will extend to the community college as long as it is part of Boise State University and the university maintains the quality in its programs. This accreditation is critical for students to receive federal financial aid, transfer to other institutions, and seek employment in certain fields.

7) Financial Viability

In the proposal crafted by officials at BSU and presented to JKAF there are detailed projections relating to enrollment for lower division academic and professional-technical student bodies, and related expenses for instruction, institutional and academic support, plant maintenance, etc.

While relying upon this proposal for baseline numbers, SBOE staff has made its own assumptions regarding revenue (**see Attachment F**). For example, based upon action of the Idaho Legislature, Board staff included \$5.0 million General Fund in the analysis of revenue for FY 2008 and beyond. Also, staff included \$4.0 million property tax revenue in the same analysis, based upon figures supplied by the initial proponent of this new community college, Community College Yes! BSU's proposal to the JKAF did not include those revenues since it was developed prior to the state's commitment.

With regard to facilities for lower division academic students, the new community college proposes to utilize a portion of the BSU West campus building in Nampa, and additional sites as needed.

For professional-technical classes in the initial year(s) of operation, BSU has offered space at the Canyon County Center and at the Boise main campus at Selland College, where classes have been offered for several decades.

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Based upon the projected revenues and expenditures noted in Attachment F, the proposed community college would appear to have sufficient revenues with which to support the normal expenditures of the college. Even though revenues are significantly above expenditures, the new community college will have numerous start-up costs, including both buildings and equipment, that can not be completely anticipated or accurately estimated at this time.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Community College YES Petition Letter	Page 7
Attachment B – Letters referencing signatures	Page 9
Attachment C – Ada & Canyon County High School Enrollment	Page 11
Attachment D – Post High School Offerings in Ada/Canyon Counties	Page 13
Attachment E – Ada & Canyon County Population Trend	Page 15
Attachment F – Estimate Revenues and Expenditures	Page 17

STAFF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

After reviewing the revenue and expenditures as projected in the BSU proposal, and including additional revenue from the state General Fund and likely property tax revenues, it appears that a new community college in Ada and Canyon counties would have sufficient revenue to operate in the short- and long-term.

Based upon the existing opportunities for education beyond twelfth grade in Ada and Canyon counties, the number of prospective students for a community college, and the financial ability of a proposed community college district to provide and maintain educational services, it is the belief of staff that the statutory requirements listed in Sections 33-2101 through 33-2104, Idaho Code, have been satisfied.

Staff recommends approval of the request to create a community college district, as requested.

BOARD ACTION

The Board will need to make an appropriate motion based upon its review of the proposal.

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____ Carried Yes _____ No _____

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CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS

MC Niland • Skip Oppenheimer • Gary Michael • Jerry Hess

March 19, 2007

Idaho State Board of Education
P O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720

Dear State Board Members,

On Monday, March 26th, you will be meeting to discuss the proposal to create the College of Western Idaho College District. On behalf of the members of the Community College YES campaign I hope that we will receive your approval to continue the process to create the first community college district for Ada and Canyon Counties.

On March 7th the Community College YES Campaign filed over 3,000 signature petitions with the Canyon County Clerk in order to bring forth our request for an election pursuant to Idaho Code sec. 33-2104. These signatures were gladly collected in a short amount of time.

We believe the proposed community college district meets the requirements in Idaho law for us to continue. In proposing the district we kept in mind the following issues:

- 4 or more school districts with 2,000 or more total students between 9 and 12 grades
- Property having market value for assessment purposes of not less than \$100 million
- The existing opportunities for education beyond 12 grade in the proposed district
- The number of prospective students
- The financial ability of the proposed district to maintain and furnish education with tuition and other sources of revenue.

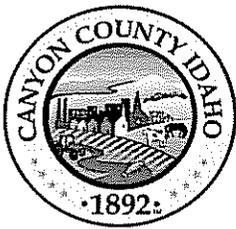
We strongly believe in the proposed community college district and hope that we will receive your permission to continue. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary C. Niland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MC Niland
Community College YES, Co-Chair

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CANYON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Steve Rule
District 1

Matt Beebe
District 2

David Ferdinand
District 3

1115 Albany ★ Caldwell, Idaho 83605 ★ Telephone: (208) 454-7507 ★ Fax: (208) 454-7336

March 12, 2007

Dwight Johnson, Executive Director
State Board of Education
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0037

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Attached are copies of petitions requesting the formation of a community college district. The petitions were received by the Clerk of the Board of Canyon County Commissioners on March 7, 2007. Pursuant to Idaho Code Section 33-2104, we are mailing the petitions to the state board of education for its consideration and recommendation.

Sincerely,

CANYON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Matt Beebe, Chairman

Unavailable for signature

Commissioner Steven J. Rule

Commissioner David J. Ferdinand, II

RECEIVED

MAR 12 2007

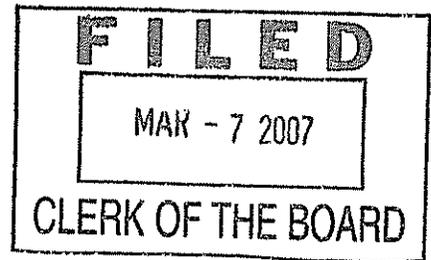
OFFICE OF THE IDAHO
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Attachments

COPY



P.O. Box 1671 • Boise, ID 83701



March 7, 2007

David Ferdinand, Canyon County Commissioner
Steve Rule, Canyon County Commissioner
Matt Beebe, Canyon County Commissioner
William Hurst, Canyon County Clerk
Canyon County Courthouse
1115 Albany
Caldwell, ID 83605

Dear Canyon County Commissioners and Clerk,

Attached are petitions containing 3,000 plus signatures of qualified electors within Ada and Canyon Counties requesting the formation of a Community College District (pursuant to Idaho Code sec. 33-2104).

The proposed district will consist of two counties, specifically Ada County and Canyon County. We request the district to be known as the College of Western Idaho.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "MC Niland".

MC Niland
Community College YES, Co-Chair

CC: Skip Oppenheimer, Community College YES, Co-Chair
Gary Michael, Community College YES, Co-Chair
Jerry Hess, Community College YES, Co-Chair

Table 3: Total Fall Enrollment in Grades 9 - 12 at School Districts in Ada County, Idaho (2002 - 2006)

	Fall 2002	Fall 2003	Fall 2004	Fall 2005	Fall 2006
Boise Independent School District:	8222	8127	8279	8153	8187
Meridian Joint School District:	7458	7838	8228	8753	9362
Kuna Joint School District:	985	985	1071	1074	1145

Table 4: Total Fall Enrollment in Grades 9 - 12 at School Districts in Canyon County, Idaho (2002 - 2006)

	Fall 2002	Fall 2003	Fall 2004	Fall 2005	Fall 2006
Nampa School District	3345	3666	3500	3573	3812
Caldwell School District	1431	1415	1426	1531	1694
Middleton School District	664	695	748	784	803
Wilder School District	118	115	121	130	122
Parma School District	280	286	278	287	297
Notus School District	110	87	89	89	101

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Post High School Offerings
In Ada and Canyon Counties,
Idaho

Institution Name	In Ada/Canyon	City	State of Origin	Affiliation or Control:	Accreditation	F/T Hour	F/T Tuition	PT tuition per cr.hr.	General Info
Albertson College of Idaho	y	Caldwell	Idaho/PVT	PRIV. NON-PROFIT: 4 Y	NWCCU	12 and up	\$16,000	\$670	
Boise Bible College	y	Boise	Idaho/PVT	CHRISTIAN CHURCH	ABHE	12-17	\$7,600	\$320	
Boise State University	y	Boise and Nampa/Caldwell	Idaho	PUBLIC INST: 4 YEAR	NWCCU	8-19	\$5,146	\$211	
SBSU/Selland College of Applied Technology	y	Boise and Nampa/Caldwell	Idaho	PUBLIC INST: 2 YEAR	NWCCU	8-19	\$4,154	\$211	
1. George Fox University, Boise Campus	y	Meridian/Boise	Oregon/PVT	PRIV. NON-PROFIT: 4 Y	NWCCU	12-18	\$22,250	\$690	
Idaho State University	y	Boise	Idaho	PUBLIC INST: 4 YEAR	NWCCU	8 and up	\$4,190	\$251	
Lesley University National Outreach in Idaho		Limited to Boise School District	Massachusetts	PRIV. NON-PROFIT: 4 Y	NEASC-CIHE			\$425	As of June/07; Master's only 33 credits.
Northwest Nazarene University	y	Nampa	Idaho/PVT	PRIV. NON-PROFIT: 4 Y	NWCCU	12-19	\$19,700	\$853	
Stevens-Henager College	y	Boise	Utah/PVT	PROPRIETARY	ACCST				
Treasure Valley Community College	y	Caldwell	Oregon/PVT	PUBLIC INST: 2 YEAR	NWCCU	15-20		\$80	For courses taken in Idaho. No other fees applied.
University of Idaho	y	Boise	Idaho	PUBLIC INST: 4 YEAR	NWCCU	8 and up	\$4,200	\$200	
University of Phoenix, Idaho Campus	y	Meridian	Arizona/PVT	PROPRIETARY	NCA-HLC				
Apollo College	y	Boise	California	PROPRIETARY	ABHES		\$12,000		Certificate programs fees will vary. Certificate programs typically cost more
ITT Technical Institute	y	Boise		PROPRIETARY	ACICS	36/yr	\$15,300	\$425	Students usually take 36 credits/year.
Accreditation									
ABHE	Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE), Commission on Accreditation								
NEASC-CIHE	New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC-CIHE), Commission on Institutions of Higher Education.								
NEASC-CIHE	New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC-CIHE), Commission on Institutions of Higher Education.								
NCA-HLC	North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA-HLC), The Higher Learning Commission								
ACCST	Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology (ACCST).								
ABHES	Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES).								
ACICS	Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS).								

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Chart 1: Population Trend for Ada County, Idaho (July 1969 - July 2005)

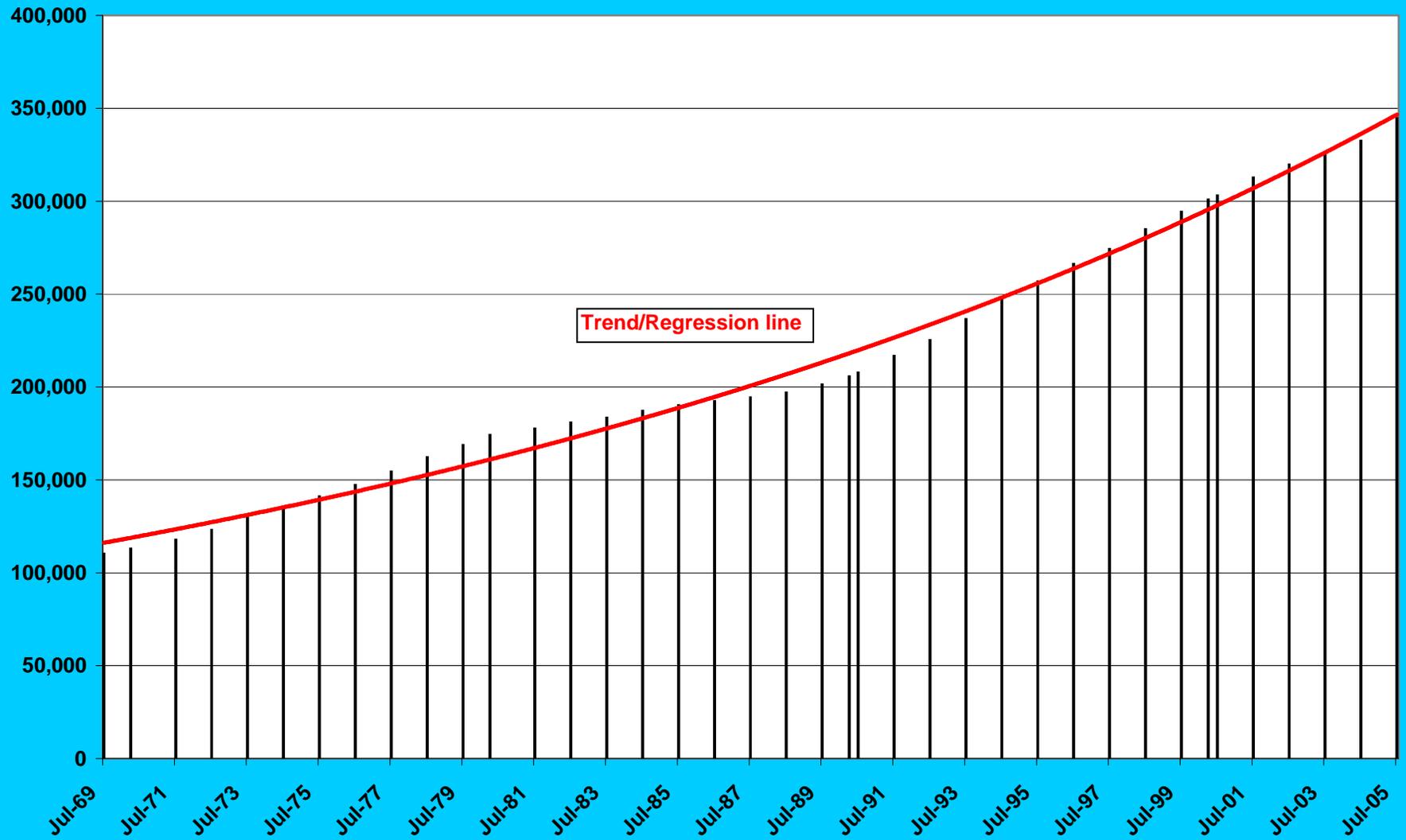
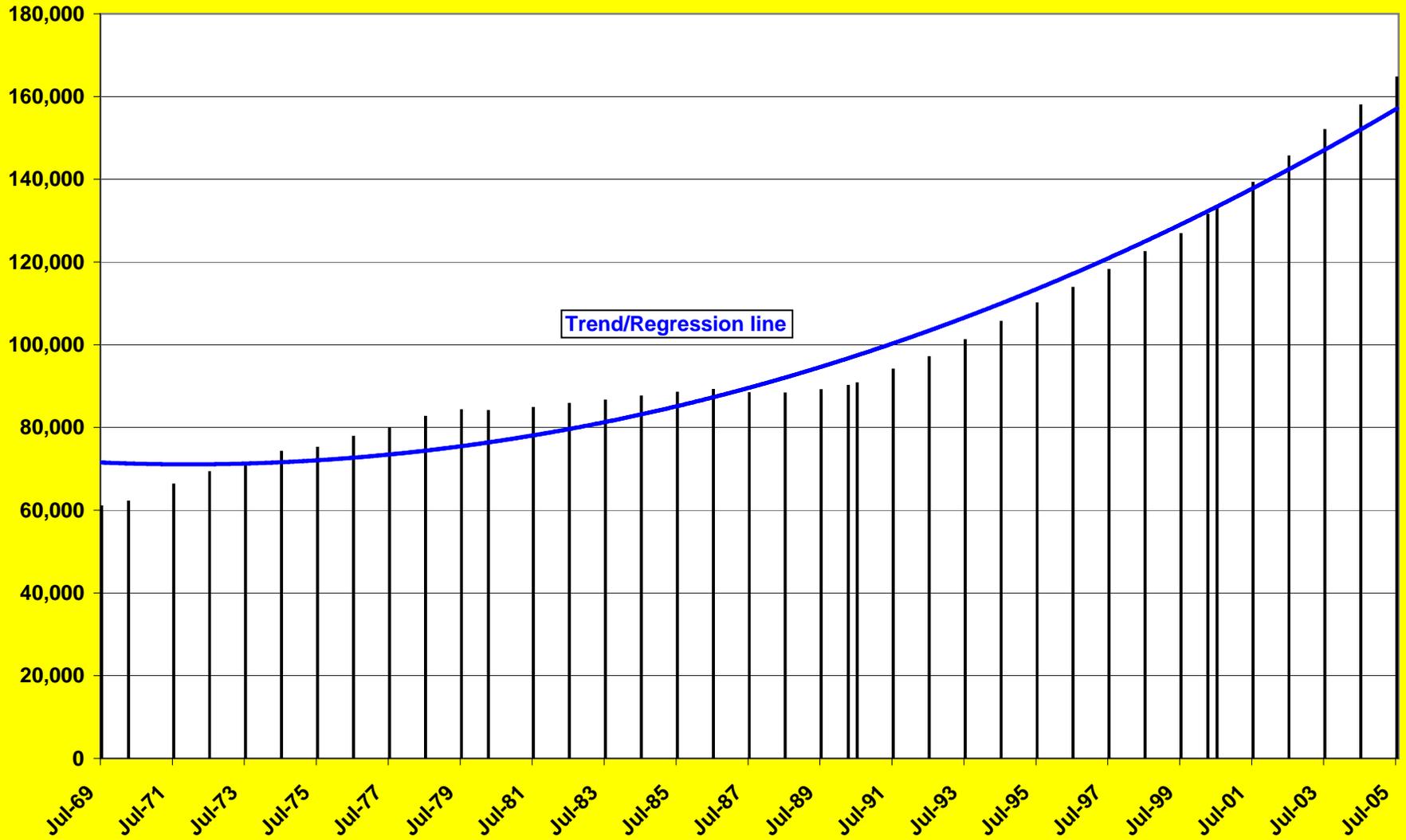


Chart 2: Population Trend for Canyon County, Idaho (July 1969 - July 2005)



Estimate of Revenues and Expenditures

	Year # 1	Year # 2	Year # 3
1 <u>Potential Revenue</u>			
2 Student Tuition			
3 Academic	\$ 3,225,000	\$ 4,232,800	\$ 5,322,100
4 Professional-Technical	2,531,300	2,923,600	3,369,900
5 Professional-Technical funds (state)	7,324,600	7,544,300	7,770,700
6 State General Fund	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
7 Property Taxes (estimated)	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000
8 Out-of-District Tuition	unknown	unknown	unknown
9 Other Sources			
10 Adult Basic Ed.			
11 Center for Workforce Training	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000
12 Short-term Certifications			
13 Private Donations	unknown	unknown	unknown
14 <i>Total, Potential Revenue</i>	<u>\$ 26,080,900</u>	<u>\$ 27,700,700</u>	<u>\$ 29,462,700</u>
15 <u>Anticipated Expenditures</u>			
16 Lower Division Academic Programs	\$ 2,965,900	\$ 3,262,500	\$ 3,507,100
17 Remedial	396,000	435,600	468,300
18 Professional-Technical Programs	4,778,000	5,138,400	5,393,200
19 Remedial	344,700	361,900	380,000
20 Adult Basic Education	1,900,000	1,900,000	1,900,000
21 Center for Workforce Training	2,100,000	2,100,000	2,100,000
22 Student Support	2,400,000	2,494,600	2,586,600
23 Academic Support	1,900,000	1,972,000	2,100,300
24 Institutional Support	1,800,000	1,891,400	1,986,000
25 Plant Operations	1,075,000	1,091,700	1,129,600
26 <i>Total, Anticipated Expenditures</i>	<u>\$ 19,659,600</u>	<u>\$ 20,648,100</u>	<u>\$ 21,551,100</u>

Above figures taken primarily from business plan prepared by Boise State University

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