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STATE BOARD SUPPORTS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT IN BONNEVILLE COUNTY

(Boise). During its meeting yesterday, the Idaho State Board of Education unanimously approved the recommendation of a new community college district in Bonneville County in eastern Idaho. The community college district boundary would follow Bonneville County's boundary. The Board's approval of the community college district is a required step in the establishment of a community college in eastern Idaho.

"The State Board of Education is very supportive of this new education opportunity for students in eastern Idaho by providing both academic and career technical education programs that will lead to a more educated citizenry and qualified workforce," said Emma Atchley, President of the Idaho State Board of Education.

In December, the Bonneville County Clerk notified the State Board that more than 2,000 registered voters signed a petition to establish a community college district. The notice triggered a statutory requirement for the State Board to conduct a financial and needs assessment. The State Board's review shows a growing need and demand for higher education in the Bonneville County area and that the financial model submitted by community organizers uses reasonable revenue assumptions to support college operations.

Now that State Board approval of the recommendation to form a community college district is secured, the State Board will send notice of the approval to the Bonneville County Commissioners with a recommendation that an election be held among registered voters to approve the organization of the community college district. Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter and the Idaho Legislature appropriated \$5 million for start-up costs for the new community college if voters approve the district in fiscal year 2017.

The State Board of Education is charged with the general supervision and governance of the public educational institutions and the public school system of the State of Idaho. To learn more about the Idaho State Board of Education, please visit www.boardofed.idaho.gov.

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