IDAHO FALLS, Idaho — College of Eastern Idaho is set to host its nurse pinning ceremony on Friday, December 8th, at the Bennion Student Union in University Place, Idaho Falls. The ceremony will be divided into two sessions, starting with the pinning of full-time RN program nurses at 3:00 pm, with approximately 30 participants, followed by the pinning of LPNs and part-time RNs, with an estimated 40 participants.

The pinning ceremony is a cherished tradition in nursing, symbolizing the completion of their formal nursing education required for licensure. During the ceremony, family members play a significant role in pinning the nursing graduates, marking their transition from students to graduate nurses. Although the pinning ceremony is a pivotal moment, the graduates will officially walk in the spring graduation.

Dr. Angela Sackett, Dean of Healthcare and Human Services at CEI, emphasized the importance of recognizing the hard work and dedication of nursing students, stating, "The nursing students have worked hard within their program, and graduation from the nursing program is a significant accomplishment. CEI feels it is important to recognize this accomplishment that will allow them to take their national board exam and then move into the in-demand and essential roles of LPNs and RNs. For many of these students, this is the culmination of years of study and planning, and sacrifices made both by them and their loved ones."

With a commitment to excellence and community needs, CEI is working to elevate its annual graduating class from 120 to 200 students over the next several years. Dean Sackett, expressing the institution's commitment, noted, "The growth of our program, evolving from modest graduating classes of around 20 nurses to our current capacity, is a testament to the unwavering dedication of our community partners." Our community health care partners, play a pivotal role in providing meaningful and robust clinical experiences essential for each student's comprehensive preparation before assuming the role of a nurse in our community. Dean Sackett emphasized, "These partnerships are absolutely essential for our students, giving them real-world opportunities to put their education into practice, and ensuring that they are thoroughly equipped for the responsibilities that lie ahead."

The pinning ceremony is a unique and special event in the nursing community, often held in higher regard than school commencements. It symbolizes the culmination of nursing students' hard work and dedication to their coursework and clinicals.

Originating from the 12th century, the pinning ceremony has deep historical roots, with its modern form closely tied to the recognition of Florence Nightingale and her outstanding contributions to nursing. This was formally recognized by her being given the Red Cross of Saint George by Queen Victoria for her contributions to the nursing profession and wounded soldiers in the Crimean War. The highlight of the modern Pinning ceremony is when the graduating students are each “pinned”. This is where they are presented with a pin representing their graduation from the nursing program. This presentation is made even more special to the students because they each choose the individual who presents their pin, usually someone significant in their life, such as a parent, spouse, or child.
The Pinning ceremony provides an opportunity for nursing students to celebrate their accomplishments with family, friends, and faculty. “In addition to the celebration of the graduate completing their nursing education, it also serves as a time for reflection on the rich history and significance of joining the nursing profession,” explained Dean Sackett.

Due to limited seating, the ceremony is closed except for invited guests of the graduates and Department of Nursing.

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**About College of Eastern Idaho**

College of Eastern Idaho (CEI, formerly EITC), Idaho’s newest comprehensive community college, offers associate degrees, technical certificates, and workforce training programs to help students achieve their educational and career goals. With a focus on affordability, accessibility, and student success, CEI is dedicated to providing high-quality education and training to the residents of eastern Idaho. Visit [https://cei.edu](https://cei.edu) for more information.