



AFFORDABLE ONLINE CYBER PROGRAMS AT BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY SUPPORT COLLEGE OF EASTERN IDAHO STUDENTS

Collaboration Between Boise State University and College of Eastern Idaho Provides Online Pathways To Bachelor's Degrees

BOISE, Idaho — In a joint effort to help meet Idaho's workforce needs, Boise State University and College of Eastern Idaho have developed a new way for students to attain a bachelor's degree in cyber security.

The affordable degree path links concurrent enrollment classes at eastern Idaho high schools, College of Eastern Idaho's lower-division offerings, and Boise State's courses in its online bachelor's degree in cyber operations and resilience. Idaho Falls residents can stairstep their way to a bachelor's degree in a highly sought-after field without leaving their community.

“Boise State University is proud to partner with College of Eastern Idaho to expand educational opportunities for all Idahoans to earn in-demand degrees. With this program, graduates can achieve great success and give back to our state,” said Dr. Marlene Tromp, Boise State president. “Our expertise in cyber and this innovative partnership will help people gain valuable credentials with high earning potential — all without leaving home.”

Maximizing concurrent enrollment and community college credits within the degree makes this bachelor's degree affordable — total cost is about \$24,000 in tuition and fees, about 25-40 percent less than the cost of traditional university tuition and fees. By taking final coursework fully online through Boise State, eastern Idaho residents also are not faced with the added costs of relocating or leaving their jobs.

President Dr. Rick Aman explained that “College of Eastern Idaho is enthusiastic to provide our students with a pathway into a full bachelor's degree in cyber security from Boise State. This is a very efficient BS degree given that it is fully online and affordable in that more than half of the degree can be completed at a community college tuition rate. Our proximity to Idaho National Lab affords graduates who complete this degree wonderful opportunities in one of the most in demand careers in Idaho.”

Boise State's online programs are designed for transfer students and to meet the needs of working Idahoans who balance responsibilities like work, school, family obligations and military service. The collaboration between Boise State and College of Eastern Idaho creates a pathway for students to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to join the cyber workforce. The immediately applicable program gives students opportunities to begin a new career, change industries or advance in their current organization.

Students reap benefits from collaborations between Boise State, College of Eastern Idaho and other Idaho institutions. Innovative degree programs in critical industries, affordable tuition and a supportive transfer process equip Idaho students to pursue educational goals regardless of location.

The two schools have committed to exploring other affordable online pathways. Boise State has nearly 100 online degrees and certificates that can be completed anytime, anywhere. College of Eastern Idaho has 20 degree programs with available online classes and over 40 types of online classes in professional development such as apprenticeships, cybersecurity bootcamps, and administrative assistant courses to help meet the needs of the industry and their community.

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About Boise State University

Boise State provides an innovative, transformative, and equitable educational environment that prepares students for success and advances Idaho and the world. Serving more than 32,000 students annually, Boise State is proud to be powered by creativity and innovation, receiving national recognition as one of the most innovative universities in the country. Located in Idaho's capital city, the university has a growing research agenda and plays a crucial role in the region's knowledge economy and famed quality of life. In the past 10 years, the university has quadrupled the number of doctoral degrees and doubled its master's degree offerings. Learn more at boiseState.edu.

About CEI

College of Eastern Idaho (CEI) became Idaho's newest comprehensive community college in 2017. Bucking national trends of enrollment decline, CEI has continued to grow even through the COVID-19 pandemic, enrolling more students every year with a total credit student headcount increase of 187.27% over the past five years. Overall 2022 fiscal year college-wide enrollment was 21,248 (comprised of credit students 3,225, Workforce Training 17,494, College & Career Readiness 529).

At CEI, the students are at the heart of everything the college does. CEI consistently delivers stellar, in-demand education. Employers agree, as shown by CEI's 97% CTE positive placement rate. CEI offers academic associate of arts and science degrees with transferable general education credits. Early College Programs for high school students are expanding and saving educational dollars for east Idaho families. CEI continues to offer career technical programs, basic skills instruction, workforce training and continuing education, and online learning. The college was created in 1969 to serve citizens in a nine-county service area. Now CEI's mission enlarges to provide affordable, open-access, and quality education for all of eastern Idaho. All CEI graduates are ready to change the trajectories of lives – theirs and the generations following in their footsteps.