

# CEI announces Aman as president and a \$1.73M gift

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Rick Aman, shown speaking at a Nov. 29 College of Eastern Idaho candidate forum, will be the first president of the College of Eastern Idaho. Aman was announced Wednesday as CEI's president. John Roark / [jroark@postregister.com](mailto:jroark@postregister.com)



Rick Aman speaks to audience members on Nov. 29 during a forum with candidates for the president of the College of Eastern Idaho. Aman, who was announced Wednesday as CEI's president, had been serving as the college's interim president and was the president of Eastern Idaho Technical College before that. John Roark / [jroark@postregister.com](mailto:jroark@postregister.com)

**By NATHAN BROWN**  
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The College of Eastern Idaho on Wednesday got both a new old president and a \$1.73 million gift that will let it make some major improvements to its health and science programs.

After a brief closed session the college's Board of Trustees came back into open session and voted unanimously to offer the job to Rick Aman, who is the college's interim president now and was the president of Eastern Idaho Technical College before that.

Aman was chosen out of four finalists picked by a search committee after a nationwide search.

"I like this kind of work," Aman said after the vote. "I like what community colleges do."

Board Chairman Park Price praised the search committee and all four of the finalists, but said "Dr. Aman is the right person to lead this institution and we're very lucky that he has enthusiastically accepted this challenge."

The Board of Trustees also announced the \$1.73 million gift from Bill and Shirley Maeck.

Bill Maeck, 88, graduated from the former East Idaho Technical College decades ago and has donated to EITC and served on the foundation board in the years since.

The Maecks' gift will pay for several projects, one being the construction of the new 4-bed Shirley Maeck Nursing Simulation Laboratory, said Ann Marie Peters, the college's director of strategic partnerships.

"It's an amazing, amazing state-of-the-art addition to this college that's going to be giving back to this college for many, many years," Peters said.

The money also will help pay to renovate the college's four science laboratories. It will pay for a surgical manikin and a virtual cadaver for the students to practice their skills. And it will pay for a testing center that will benefit students and others who now have to travel to Pocatello and Salt Lake City for certification tests.

The four projects will commence in early 2018, and are projected to be complete by fall 2018, a CEI news release said.

"This is an incredible gift, not just for the College of Eastern Idaho but for the entire community," Peters said.

Bill Maeck said he hopes his gifts will "give incentives to the students to go on and get an advanced degree and do anything they want."

The board also voted to ratify a joint admissions and enrollment deal with the University of Idaho that was announced Tuesday. This deal, the first such in the state, will let students who wish to get a bachelor's degree at U of I to continue there without transferring after they get their associate degree at CEI.

"I know there's going to be a lot of students who are greatly benefited by this," said Marc Skinner, head of U of I's Idaho Falls Center.