



ACCREDITATION EVIDENCE

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Western Wyoming Community College

College President's Report to the Board of Trustees – September 8, 2022

We are off and running into our Fall Semester after a busy semester start. Lots of events took place prior to the first day of classes on August 22.

1. New Faculty Breakfast
2. Camping Trip with Students at Flaming Gorge Reservoir
3. Welcome Western 101 – new employee orientation
4. Faculty and Staff Meet and Greet Potluck at the Wittstruck's
5. Inservice Week Activities
 - a. President's Welcome Back and Forward (powerpoint previously provided to BOT)
 - b. President's Cabinet Updates
 - c. All Employee Professional Development
 - i. Accessibility
 - ii. Assessment
 - iii. Title IX
 - iv. Project Management
 - d. Conversations – Open Forums
 - i. Kim Dale, College President
 - ii. President's Cabinet
 - iii. Great Colleges and Culture Committee (see attached project charter)

I continue to serve on the Governor's Statewide Nuclear Task Force. I will be facilitating a Zoom Roundtable meeting for 150+ people later this month, focusing on workforce issues.

A subcommittee of the Wyoming Innovation Partnership, which I am part of, dedicated a number of hours to prepare a recommendation to the WIP President's Steering Committee on how to engage more business and industry partners. Our subteam consists of Robin Cooley, Director of Workforce Services, Curtis Biggs, University of Wyoming, and Erin Taylor, Taylor Strategies and WACCT Executive Director.

A full-day WIP Retreat took place in late September at Casper College. Phase I projects were analyzed for progress, and our Powerline Program was used as a best case and practice. It was decided that enough progress had not been made to support asking the Governor and Legislature for more funding. WIP needs to exhaust all of its Phase I funding and show results before going back for more. I am pleased to share that (Sweetwater County Commissioner) Lauren Schoenfeld has been named as the new WIP Executive Director. Next steps for WIP will be to orient Lauren and define a process for how each college can request new/additional funding for WIP projects.

I participated in a meeting with Sweetwater County officials and the White House Interagency Working Group to discuss how SW County can be more competitive when applying for Federal grants. Agency reps were there from EDA, USDA, and DOE, to help us learn more about access to these monies. Reps from SW County (including me) mentioned how frustrated we are that very little money is being allocated to Wyoming. The EDA rep mentioned that an exciting announcement for an award in Sweetwater County is forthcoming. Fingers and toes crossed that he was referencing our \$3 million

grant for the Health Sciences Wing! We should know by the end of this month, as their new fiscal year begins October 1.

The Joint Education Committee met on Monday, September 5, to discuss community college funding issues. Please see the attached summary from WACCT Executive Director, Erin Taylor (this may be a duplicate from WACCT Chair/Trustee Clark). As I mentioned in the Board Meeting, it is exciting to see our intentional efforts to educate legislators over the last three years is seeing results. Having a home committee, in and of itself, is a huge step forward. Now onto a stable funding model that will improve budget forecasting!

On Wednesday, September 7, I participated in a welcome reception for the Wyoming Business Council at Bunning Hall. I also had the honor of welcoming the WBC Board and staff to their meeting on Thursday, September 8, on our campus. This was a great opportunity to share with the WBC all the great work we are doing at Western to address economic development and diversity within our State.

Below is a photo from the student camping trip. Special thanks go to Dr. Dustin Conover, Chelley Rezzonico and Eric Fry who helped organize and shepard our students and Kim Rembacz and Preston Ackerman who were there to capture photos and video for marketing purposes. Hanging with students in the great outdoors is definitely the fun stuff!



Email from Erin Taylor: Good afternoon – Here is a quick summary of the JEIC meeting from this morning. Please feel free to pass along to your boards to update everyone.

WCCC Presentation – Both Michael Swank and Dr. Moritz did a great job walking the committee through [this presentation](#). I was there to provide color commentary and shed light on issues as they needed. I was able to visit with committee members prior to the meeting (either last week or this morning). The presentation follows from the June Casper meeting and gives an analysis of certain scenarios for the levels of instruction, headcount, and consideration of an external cost adjustment. We had Dr. Divine and Dr. Schaffer in attendance, and I know several Presidents watching. Trustee Reggie Clark was also in attendance from WWCC (and current President of the WACCT Board).

Questions from the Committee – we got a lot of questions from the Committee during the presentation, and I think we (collectively – between Dr. Moritz, Mr. Swank, Dr. Divine, and myself) did a good job of answering most. Thank you to everyone who provided feedback in real time – it really is helpful! Some questions will require a little more digging and getting back in touch with the Committee – here are a few:

- Why the dip in 2016 for community college enrollment? (Scott, Obermueller)
- From where does the 60/20/20 funding distribution come? (Sommers)
- How are the variable and fixed costs calculated? It seems the definitions may be misused or misleading, the result being that the colleges are systematically underfunded, especially during times of inflation. (Scott)
- What is the process for an ECA now? Should it be every two years or with recalibration every four years? (Obermueller)
- Should the ECA be related to individual cost categories or across the board? (Connolly)
- How does adding new programs impact the funding allocation model? (Sommers)
- Prior to HB 80 in 2016 how were LOI's calculated? (Brown)
- Distance Ed LOI is clearly not effective – would it be more helpful to simply get rid of it all together? (Scott)
- Do the colleges just want to get rid of the recalibration process completely and make this committee study this every year? (Connolly)

Ultimately, we ended up with four bill drafts:

1. Motion to delete the previous bill draft changing the LOI for **distance education** – a new bill will be drafted to simply get rid of it.
2. Motion to have the WCCC work with LSO staff to amend the budget exception statutes for the WCCC to allow for some **consideration of an ECA** (currently we do not have a mechanism – that became clear in the last budget request from the WCCC). The

Committee expressed an interest in learning more about how the funding allocation model works vs HB80 that determines what the legislature appropriates. I would submit we all have more work to do with how we communicate the difference. I know many members of the Committee were shocked to learn that the community colleges currently have NO mechanism to discuss external cost adjustments and inflationary impacts.

3. Motion to adjust the **minimum estimated cost of cap con approval** for the WCCC from \$500,000 to \$250,000. [Here is the draft bill that was amended.](#) Some members of the Committee thought the jump to \$500,000 was just too big to stay in the range of accountability.
4. Motion to draft a bill **appropriating \$20M in general funds to support the Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarship program** with a 1 to 1 match from non-government entities (industry, nonprofit, individuals, etc.). This bill carried two no votes – Neiman and Biteman

All-in-all, my assessment is that it was a pretty good day for the colleges. It was detailed, if even arduous at times, and a little circular in understanding, but one thing was clear – this committee indeed does have a want to be the home committee for the colleges and is willing to do the hard work. Our “Long Game” that I remember telling you we must keep in mind probably three years ago in Gillette is at play. All the work that has been done to come together on our messaging, fully illustrate the needs of the colleges through the WCCC budget process, remind them of the “big picture” like the attainment goals and how it all fits together is so important – all of which we have done in the last seven years. Really good work everyone! If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

P.s. I asked Linden to give the current logo a refresh with Gillette College as a new star – see below!

-erin

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