Welcome to Fall Semester 2014, we are thrilled that you and your student have chosen Western Wyoming Community College as the place to pursue higher education. We are committed to making each student’s experience a positive one by helping them establish career goals and creating a path to achieve those goals. You can play a significant role in this process; encourage your student to determine what they want and how they plan on getting there. Uncertainty is common for many college students at this point but those who “own” their education by asking questions and taking responsibility for their outcomes are much more likely to persist and graduate.

Western has a variety of services to help students be more successful. A few of these are:

- **ACE IT Center**-advising and career services
- **Support Disability & Counseling**-personal counseling and support for students with disabilities
- **Peer Tutor Center**-free tutoring services in a variety of subjects
- **Residence Halls & Student Life**-student activities, intramurals, residence halls

Please ask your student how they are doing. If you believe they are need of any services encourage them to seek help.

We are committed to the helping all of our students be successful, please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you

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WWCC NAMED AMONG BEST ONLINE COLLEGES

Western Wyoming Community College has been named by BestColleges.com to its 2014 list of the nation’s top 100 schools for online degree programs. The list is divided into categories for two-year and four-year institutions, and Western was ranked 23rd among the top 50 two-year programs.

The complete list can be found at http://www.bestcolleges.com/features/top-online-schools/.

In its summary of Western’s online offerings, the nationally recognized website referenced the College’s 17 web-based educational programs, including: an Associate of Arts degree with emphases in criminal justice, general studies, social science, social work, or sociology; an Associate of Science degree with emphases in accounting, business administration, computer information systems, marketing, and general studies; an Associate of Applied Science degree in Office Information Systems; and six professional certificates requiring commitments of anywhere from 15 hours to one year.

BestColleges.com’s rankings were based on the latest information provided by the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) and College Navigator databases, both of which are maintained by the National Center for Education Statistics. Specific data used to establish rankings included schools’ acceptance and retention rates, and graduation and enrollment rates.

WWCC Distance Learning Director Nancy Johnson said that Western’s strong ranking for online education programs reflects the College’s commitment to providing quality, accessible degree options to residents who live throughout Western’s extended service area in southwestern Wyoming. “Online classes are one vital component of outreach education at Western Wyoming Community College, and we certainly encourage students from beyond Wyoming to take advantage of the affordable tuition for these quality programs, as well,” Johnson said. “We also offer many live courses at our outreach sites throughout the region, and we have staff at those locations who can provide advising, registration assistance, and other services to students from those areas who wish to complete a certificate or degree.”

Johnson noted that students from outreach sites, including students whose programs are entirely online, may also qualify for Western’s 16 to Succeed program, in which students who commit to pursue a full-time or part-time track, and who complete their degree by the specified date, can receive an award of $1,000 upon graduation. The program applies to associate degrees but not to certificate programs, and some restrictions do apply.

For more information about 16 to Succeed, go to http://www.wwcc.wy.edu/engagement/16tosucceed.htm

Western’s Outreach Centers include locations in: Afton/Star Valley; Big Piney; Bridger Valley; Cokeville; Evanston; Farson; Medicine Bow/Elk Mountain; Kemmerer; Little Snake River Valley; Pinedale; Rawlins; and Saratoga/Encampment.

For more information about Distance Learning at Western, go to http://www.wwcc.wy.edu/Dist_ed/outreach.htm.

16 TO SUCCEED

16 to Succeed is a WWCC initiative that asks students to take ownership of their education, assume responsibility for their academic success and graduate in a timely manner; which means finishing an associate degree in two years if they are a full-time student or four years if they are a part-time student.

By meeting the requirements of this initiative WWCC will pay the student $1000.

Any student who enrolled at WWCC for the first-time in Fall 2013 or any subsequent semester (not including high school dual or concurrent courses) is eligible to receive this award.

The student must sign and submit the 16 to Succeed commitment statement by the end of their first semester at WWCC and indicate whether they will be a full-time or part-time student to be eligible for the award.

The commitment statement also includes specific details about additional eligibility requirements.

Please visit our website at: http://www.wwcc.wy.edu/engagement/16tosucceed.htm for more information.
LOCAL MAN LEAVES LEGACY OF LEARNING

Mario Temperini was a man who cared about learning. So much so, in fact, that he bequeathed $380,000 to Western Wyoming Community College in support of student achievement.

The College and Mr. Temperini's sister, Rock Springs resident Rose Zupence, announced the donation on Sept. 26. Mr. Temperini passed away several years ago, but his bequeathal to Western was not made public at that time by request of the family.

"They asked us to wait for a while, so we have," said Western President Dr. Karla Leach, who with Community Relations Director David Tate visited Ms. Zupence to offer thanks for her brother's tremendous generosity.

"I can tell you that the Western Wyoming College Foundation is so thankful for it," Dr. Leach said. "It really does help because we serve students. Those are student scholarship dollars. That money will be there to support our students. So members of the Foundation were very thankful and appreciative for the gift. It has made a difference."

Mr. Temperini was a veteran of World War II who served as General Douglas MacArthur’s "right-hand man," according to his sister. He also worked for years in the meat industry in his hometown of Superior, Wyoming, before joining his family in Rock Springs and taking on a second career as a manager in the utility industry.

The Temperini family emigrated to the United States and Wyoming from Italy following World War I. Rose was born in Italy but Mario was born in Superior, where her father had initially relocated in 1918.

Despite her father’s assurances that she could return to Italy in five years, Rose said, their mother did not actually make it back there until the mid-1950s...and then she found herself as one of the passengers of the Italian cruise liner Andrea Doria, which sank off the coast of Massachusetts in one of the most famous maritime disasters ever to take place in U.S. waters.

"She was a survivor," Rose said.

As for her brother’s decision to bequeath such a substantial donation to Western, Rose explained it simply.

"Mario had the money, so he gave it," she said.

(Above, from left) Community Relations Director David Tate; Rock Springs resident Rose Zupence, whose brother, Mario Temperini (photo right) bequeathed $380,000 to Western; Western President Karla Leach; and Marketing and Communications Coordinator Christopher Sheid. The Western contingent visited Zupence on Sept. 26 to thank her.

Photos courtesy of Matt Nabor, Rose Zupence, and the Rocket-Miner

Mario Temperini
NEW EXERCISE SCIENCE AND WELLNESS BUILDING

Western officials cut the ribbon on the new Exercise Science and Wellness Building on Friday, August 24, at an open house event.

The new Wellness Center furnishes Western Wyoming Community College with a dynamic, multi-functional learning and activity space that serves the needs of students and athletic competitors, faculty and staff, and community stakeholders.

MUSTANG MADNESS

Western Wyoming Community College welcomed the 2014-15 school year in a most exciting fashion with Mustang Welcome Week, as students, faculty and staff participated in a variety of events and activities designed to immerse new and returning students in a positive Western campus experience.

From orientation sessions, campus tours, and informational sessions with faculty members, to BBQs, volleyball games and hiking trips, Western students got a great start to their campus experience.

Sponsored and organized by the Office of Student Engagement and Completion, and carried out with assistance from many other campus offices and staff, including our Residence Assistants and Student Ambassadors, Mustang Welcome Week provided students with a first-class kickoff to their school year.

We look forward to making this event a campus tradition for many years to come.

Professor of Musical Theatre Chris Will belts out a song about the travails of non-traditional students during Orientation on August 25.

Motivational speaker and Rock Springs native Spencer West addresses students during Orientation Day on August 25. West has climbed mountains and achieved many other amazing feats despite having lost his legs at a very young age. He spoke to students about the importance of focusing on achieving goals, and not on the obstacles that must be overcome to attain them.

Residence Assistant and soccer player Celeste Cox enjoys an ice cream cone during Mustang Madness Day on August 26.
Kim Farley, Ph.D., VP for Student Learning

Dr. Farley, 56, succeeded retired VP for Student Learning Lou Flaim and formally joined the campus on July 1. She came to Rock Springs from Milwaukee, WI, where she served as Associate Dean for Mathematics and Natural Sciences at Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC).

Dr. Farley holds a Ph.D. in American Government, Public Administration, Environmental and Energy Policy, and an M.P.A. in Environmental and Natural Resource Management, both from Texas Tech University. She is a Wyoming native and earned her Bachelor of Science in Political Science from the University of Wyoming.

"Very glad to be back in Wyoming," Dr. Farley said. "It's always been home to me. I've always liked the wide-open spaces. In some ways, it's just like being able to breathe again."

At MATC, Dr. Farley served as the district-wide Associate Dean for Mathematics and Natural Sciences. In that role, she supervised more than 200 full and part-time instructors and educational assistants. She also has an extensive teaching background and has taught such subjects as American Government, Public Policy, Sociology, and Environmental Science.

Brian Kaumo, Learning Center Director

A Rock Springs native, Brian Kaumo, 44, joined Western after nine years with Sweetwater County District #1 as Director of Special Education and, prior to that, as Assessment Coordinator and Consolidated Grant Manager.

"I think a big advantage (for me) is that I have a sense of where the kids are coming from and what their experience has been, and what they've encountered in the schools," said Kaumo, now a Green River resident. "I understand the curriculum. I understand the standards. I know what we're looking at for assessments, and I know what those results mean. So, when they're coming up here to the College, I really have an idea of what their background looked like and how we can capitalize on that and keep them moving forward."

Kaumo earned his undergraduate degree in elementary and special education from the University of Wyoming and his Master of Science in Elementary Education from the University of New Mexico. He worked for 12 years in Albuquerque's public school system.

Kaumo said that many students who complete their HSE studies through the Learning Center do so because they want to find better-paying jobs.

"Hopefully, we can tie the completion of that into some college certificate programs or a two-year degree, as well," Kaumo said.

Marsha King, MSN, RN, Nursing Faculty, Rawlins Campus

Prof. King hails from Tennessee but comes to Western from the Minneapolis area, where she previously worked at Rasmussen College. A practicing nurse since 1978, King, 58, brings to Rawlins Outreach a wide array of professional experiences, having worked in long-term care, at small community hospitals, and in oncology clinics, among other venues.

Until now, her higher education work has primarily involved instruction in simulation labs, but King said the opportunity to move into a broader classroom role for Western enticed her to relocate to Wyoming.

"I never did think that I'd be living out this far West," said King, who was contacted by a search firm about the opening in Rawlins. "Before this, I had only done simulations and the lab (work) for nursing programs. I really did want to get in the classroom and teach. That's what I got my master's degree in, healthcare education." King said that she is accustomed to small-town life, so the remoteness of Southwest Wyoming doesn't bother her.

King completed her own nursing education in stages, beginning with an LPN certification in the 1970s and concluding with her MSN through the University of Phoenix in the mid-2000s.

Garett Sherman, Head Women's Basketball Coach and Academic Advisor

Coach Garett Sherman comes to Western from Gordon State College in Georgia, and he succeeds longtime head coach Ken Swartz following an outstanding season for the Lady Mustangs in 2013-14. This isn't the first time Sherman has had a tough act to follow.

"My first year as a head women's coach at Allegheny College in Maryland, they were 28-2 the year before and actually lost in the regional championship, as did the women's team here last year," he said. "The following year we went 28-2 again and made the national tournament."

Still, he's making no promises in his first season at the helm at Western. "I think we'll have a good year. How good of a year? We'll wait and see," he said.