



RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION AMONG THE SHARED GOVERNANCE ENTITIES OF LARAMIE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT, WYOMING, IN SUPPORT OF APPLIED BACCALAURATE PROGRAM OFFERINGS.

THIS RESOLUTION, upon signature of all Parties, is made effective on this ____ day of _____, 2019, between the shared governance entities of Laramie County Community College District, Wyoming, and created by said parties through mutual consent and belief.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, there is a strong correlation between state economic productivity and bachelor's degree attainment of the adult population; and

WHEREAS, individuals who earn bachelor's degrees will, on average, earn \$1 million more over the course of their lifetime than high school graduates; and

WHEREAS, Wyoming's higher education attainment goal is that 67 percent of the state's working population 25–64 years of age will possess a valuable post-secondary credential (certificate or degree) by 2025, and a secondary goal of 82 percent attainment by 2040; and

WHEREAS, Wyoming ranks 48th in the nation for bachelor's degree production per 1,000 residents and 35th in the nation for the percent of its population age 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, the Forward Greater Cheyenne Community and Economic Development strategy has established a goal to reverse recent trends of stagnant adult educational attainment, increasing the percentage of adults with a bachelor's degree or higher and closing the community's education gap with the average American community; and

WHEREAS, in March of 2019, the 65th Wyoming Legislature overwhelmingly passed legislation that became Senate Enrolled Act 80, enabling community colleges to offer applied baccalaureate degrees; and

WHEREAS, business and community leaders have asked Laramie County Community College (LCCC) to respond to community workforce and individual educational needs by offering applied bachelor's degrees; and

WHEREAS, a majority of surveyed LCCC associate degree graduates said they could benefit in their occupation from earning a Bachelor's degree and a similar amount feel there are NOT adequate opportunities to earn a relevant bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, a majority of employers surveyed from the LCCC service area currently have employees that could benefit from obtaining a bachelor's degree and nearly all responded that a bachelor's is preferred or required for management, leadership, or administration positions at their business/organization.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and commitments contained herein, the Parties collectively affirm the following:

1. LCCC is a comprehensive community college, and while the term “community college” is often unilaterally substituted with “two-year college,” we recognize the growing contradiction. Time does not define the purpose of a community college education. With an increasing need and expectation for life-long learning, a growing body of knowledge, and the rapidly changing nature of work, the concept of educational programs and credentials expected to fit within standard timeframes or as “terminal” is quickly becoming antiquated.
2. Community colleges are just that—the community’s. They are designed and expected to be responsive to the needs of the community’s individuals, organizations, and businesses. Today, those needs are expanding and diversifying, necessitating LCCC does the same. In some instances that requires short-term, accelerated programs, and it increasingly means offering programs that are at the upper-division or bachelor’s degree level.
3. The mission of LCCC is “*to transform our students’ lives through the power of inspired learning,*” and we are compelled to aid this transformation by offering diverse educational experiences designed to be inspirational for all those involved in the learning process. While we recognize our mission is broad and our work diverse, the entirety of what we do is grounded in the four foundational elements of the comprehensive community college mission that includes *Academic Preparation, Transfer Preparation, Workforce Development, and Community Development*.
4. In following our mission, LCCC seeks to offer high-value degrees and certificates that offer our students social mobility through greater employability and transferability in response to the workforce needs of the communities we serve. We collectively believe our expansion of degree offerings to the applied baccalaureate level clearly aligns with this mission by (1) responding to emerging and unmet workforce needs (workforce development) within the College’s service area and (2) providing a pathway to the baccalaureate (transfer preparation) especially for students who are unserved.
5. Like many community colleges, LCCC has a deep understanding and expertise of applied learning. It has been a hallmark of the College’s educational offerings for more than 50 years and has produced thousands of graduates who have thrived in an applied learning environment. These individuals live in our communities and already have a relationship with LCCC. Thus, we believe our goal to provide them with an educational pathway from their applied associate’s degree to an applied baccalaureate degree is a natural one.
6. Although we believe LCCC is positioned well with our community, students, and educational expertise to offer pathways to an applied bachelor’s degree, we recognize and embrace the differences between the associate-level and baccalaureate-level students, curricula, teaching, and learning. These distinctions will form the foundation of the College’s educational philosophy on baccalaureate-level education at LCCC.

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Signature Page

The parties to this Resolution, through their duly authorized representatives, have executed this Resolution on the dates set out below, and certify their full understanding and dedication to the commitments outlined within this Resolution to proceed with developing and offering applied baccalaureate degrees at LCCC.

The effective date of this Resolution is the date of the signature last affixed to this page.

For LCCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

_____ Date _____
Mr. Jess Ketcham, Board Chair

For LCCC PRESIDENT'S CABINET

_____ Date _____
Dr. Joe Schaffer, President

For LCCC COLLEGE COUNCIL

_____ Date _____
Mr. Jamie McKim, Chair

For LCCC ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE

_____ Date _____
Dr. Cynthia Henning, Faculty Chair

For LCCC FACULTY SENATE

_____ Date _____
Mr. Rob Van Cleave, President