

LCCC Golden Eagle Athletics
SOARING INTO THE FUTURE
2020 – 2025 Strategic Plan

Mission: Golden Eagle Athletics inspires champions today as we prepare leaders for tomorrow.

Purpose Statement: The purpose of Golden Eagles Athletics is to contribute to student success while generating widespread support for Laramie County Community College (LCCC). We do this by creating a sense of affinity among our students, promoting diversity, inspiring and engaging others through the development of successful student leaders - in the classroom, in competition, and in our community.

Recruiting Philosophy Statement: At LCCC, we recruit individuals who will help us achieve excellence. We accomplish excellence by striving to recruit student athletes who provide a diversity of backgrounds, abilities, and potential, building team rosters that include a balance of regional, national, and international representation.

PILLARS OF EXCELLENCE

The Board of Trustees at LCCC is deeply invested in student success, in creating a sense of affinity among our students, and in engaging our broader community. Golden Eagle athletics is one of the primary mechanisms through which this occurs. Yet it requires an understanding of and focus on excellence, combined with a commitment to achieving results. The following four pillars of excellence provide that focus and have been established by LCCC for its athletics programs.

- 1. Academic Success - LCCC student athletes are students first. Golden Eagles and their teams will excel academically.** This is achieved by:
 - A. A cumulative GPA's of 3.0 or greater for the athletic department, with team GPA's above the sport-specific GPA of benchmark institutions.
 - B. Student athletes successfully earning a credential by completing a program of study and/or successfully transferring to a four-year institution.
- 2. Competitive Success - LCCC creates winners and we have a championship mindset. Golden Eagles and their teams will excel in competition, on the court, the field, or in the arena.** This is achieved by:
 - A. Roundball teams finishing in the top four Region IX, with the goal of winning the regional championship each year.
 - B. Rodeo teams qualifying for the CNFR, and having individual CNFR qualifiers each year.
 - C. LCCC student athletes successfully moving to next level of competition.
 - D. Frequent representation at the national tournaments.
 - E. Having LCCC teams ranked nationally each year.
 - F. Demonstrating consistent, high-level competitiveness by being in position to win every game, match, or event, and the progression of athletes over the course of their season.
- 3. Campus Relationships – Athletics create a sense of affinity and belonging by building relationships across campus. Golden Eagles are seen as leaders in the creation of this environment at LCCC.** This is achieved by:
 - A. Teams and athletes actively participating in campus events outside of athletics.

- B. Student athlete involvement in campus clubs outside of athletics, aspiring to hold leadership positions within these groups.
- C. Proactive outreach on campus by athletics staff, coaches, and teams to promote engagement in Golden Eagle Athletic events.

4. Community Relationships – Golden Eagles are ambassadors of LCCC in the communities we serve. They demonstrate a sense of service and create a connection between community members and the College. This is achieved by:

- A. Athletic team involvement in consistent, significant community service activities.
- B. Proactive outreach to the community by athletics staff, coaches, and teams to promote engagement in Golden Eagle Athletic events.
- C. Creating opportunities for community members to build relationships with Golden Eagle Athletics' teams, coaches, and athletes.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

To achieve excellence in athletics, the Board of Trustees has established a series of strategic priorities that should guide the operational activities of Golden Eagle Athletics over the next five years. The Board believes through the attainment of these strategic endeavors, Golden Eagle Athletics, and as a result, LCCC, will be able to soar to higher-levels of competitive, academic, and community success.

1. Develop and implement sport-specific strategic and operational plans.

To achieve excellence, as defined and measured by the Golden Eagle Athletics Pillars, all sports at LCCC must conduct thorough and honest assessments and develop specific strategic and operational plans that provide a roadmap for actions toward achieving excellence individually, and thus collectively.

2. Increase the community's awareness and engagement in Golden Eagle Athletics.

One significant component of the purpose of athletics at LCCC is to generate widespread support for the College. Our student athletes and athletic teams have compelling stories to tell and provide opportunities for improved quality of life in our community. But those can only be shared and achieved if the community has deep relationships and engagement with Golden Eagle Athletics.

3. Strengthen LCCC Golden Eagle Athletics through private giving.

The College, through the Department of Athletics and Recreation, and the LCCC Foundation remains focused on increasing the levels of private funding that support Golden Eagles Athletics. This should be accomplished by strengthening the LCCC booster club's overall financial standing in regards to its support for athletic operations, generating privately-funded athletic scholarships, assisting in the cultivation and identification of businesses that would like to sponsor or support LCCC athletics through naming opportunities and game day experiences, etc.

4. Transform LCCC's Athletics Facilities.

This priority is focused on two specific projects. The first is to remodel the 44-year-old Recreation & Athletics Complex (RAC), one of the most heavily used buildings on LCCC's campus. The facility has many functional and space deficit. Specific examples to Athletics, the competition gymnasium does not meet NJCAA/NCAA standards for ceiling height and available

seating is less than many K-12 schools in the state. The second project is to implement improvements and additions identified in the LCCC Ag and Equine Complex Master Plan, as feasible within the duration of this strategic plan.

5. Wise exploration of areas for potential expansion of Golden Eagle Athletics offerings.

Although the focus is to ensure current sports achieve and substance excellence, there are opportunities to advance LCCC's own strategic plan and priorities through the informed addition of new sports, clubs, or other offerings through Golden Eagle Athletics. There are however inherent risks and significant challenges in doing so. Thus, wise and well-researched selection of new offerings should be a priority of LCCC, but one taken on with great care and discipline to only exploring those where we feel we can be excellent.

LCCC GOLDEN EAGLE ATHLETICS BENCHMARK INSTITUTIONS

Golden Eagle Athletics strives for excellence and to be the best. That requires emulating others who have achieved this status. LCCC has identified the following colleges as its athletics benchmark institutions to provide constant, and consistent assessment of LCCC's achievement of excellence in community college athletics.

The bolded names had multiple people list them as benchmark institutions and they are in rank order (Tyler—5; Iowa Western & Salt Lake—4; CSI & Eastern Florida—3; Hutchinson—2). 7-12 had one person list them as benchmark institution.

- 1. Tyler Junior College**
- 2. Iowa Western Community College**
- 3. Salt Lake Community College**
- 4. College of Southern Idaho**
- 5. Eastern Florida State College (formerly Brevard Community College)**
- 6. Hutchinson Community College**
7. Casper College
8. Northeastern Junior College
9. Navarro College
10. Western Nebraska Community College
11. Polk State College (formerly Polk Community College)
12. Miami Dade College (formerly Miami Dade Community College)