



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Dr. Joe Schaffer

To: LCCC Board of Trustees

From: Joe Schaffer, President

Date: October 20, 2021

Subject: Revised Request for Spending Authority for Sonography Lab Move & Remodel

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) program is proposing an expansion of the program through a move and remodel into a new space in the Prentice-Surbrugg Health Sciences Building. A renovated classroom is the only space needed to fulfill this request. This expansion is not possible in the current instructional space used for this program. Preliminary discussions have been held with LCCC's Plant Maintenance regarding this move and remodel. The final layout, plumbing, and electrical requirements will be finalized when/if this request has been approved.

This expansion will allow the DMS program to support a greater number of students (up to 24) in the program by providing space to house 6-8 ultrasound machines, including Echo units. The LCCC DMS program has a stellar reputation throughout the US. Currently, well-trained graduates are needed in MT, CO, WY, ND, SD, NM, NV. In addition, the program at Boise State just lost its program director of several years due to retirement - and no replacement had been found as of early May. This may also lead to an even greater need in the southern Idaho region for new hires.

Due to COVID-19 and the effects on the cardiovascular system there is also a severe shortage of sonographers as well as for echo techs; there are no ECHO programs currently in Wyoming and the surrounding area. A larger lab would support the addition of Echo into the curriculum as a long-term plan. Given the COVID-19 impact and need, a request to cover the cost of this expansion was submitted to the Governor's office requesting funding from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funding. A total of \$317,000 was approved for this request. The funds received were requested to purchase additional patient beds, 2-3 new sonography units, and to cover the costs of relocation and renovation.

This expansion will allow the program to support a greater number of students (up to 24) and will benefit the State of Wyoming and the region by providing greater sonography program services, more graduates, and graduates with additional certifications. The need for additional Cardiovascular Sonographers is high and the current faculty have identified this specialty as another career opportunity with the appropriate certified cardiovascular sonographers.

The estimated cost to update our current sonography equipment and the relocation/renovation is \$519,000. This base request will allow program faculty to teach a cohort of 16 students using up-to-date imaging techniques in line with the industry standards for vascular, abdomen, breast, pediatric, obstetrical and gynecology sonographic procedures. The table below outlines the minimum requirements to provide a lab renovation to support the 16 current sonography students in the program.

| Lab Renovation | Number | EstimatedCost |
|--|--------|------------------|
| Ultrasound Machines (including freight and software upgrade to existing machinery) | 6 | \$325,000 |
| Patient Beds | 6 | \$36,000 |
| Classroom renovation (including architect design fees) | | \$150,000 |
| Moving expenses | | \$8,000 |
| Total: | | \$519,000 |

LCCC Comptroller Nola Rocha has collaborated on this proposal. She recommends the GEER funds be used exclusively for the purchase of the Ultrasound Machines and/or Patient Beds. Nola has identified increased construction costs due to Davis-Bacon wage requirements as well as our internal controls pertaining to equipment purchases as rationale for her recommendation. Allocating the GEER funds for this purpose allows for an immediate launch of the associated RFP process, positively impacting our ability to begin the Spring 2022 semester in the renovated space.

There is an approximately \$202,000 shortfall in the anticipated costs vs. the \$317,000 received through GEER funding. Additional funding for this project will come from the Health Careers Occupation Fund per Dean Mason. This expenditure has been discussed in the School of Health Sciences & Wellness and is put forth with the full support of the School's administration.

Staff Recommendation: That the Board of Trustees amends its previous action and authorizes the President to now expend up to \$519,000 for the purpose of the relocation and expansion of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography laboratory and program, with the primary source of the funding derived from allocated Governor's Emergency Education Relief funds and the Health Careers Occupation Fund.