



**Cheyenne Regional
Medical Center**

We Inspire Great Health!

April 4, 2022

Dr. Joe Schaffer, President
Laramie County Community College
1400 E. College Drive
Administration Building, Room 138
Cheyenne, WY 82009

RE: Needed – Respiratory Therapists

Dear Dr. Schaffer,

Cheyenne Regional Medical Center (CRMC) enthusiastically supports the establishment of a Respiratory Therapy program at LCCC. As you know, members of our Intensive Care Unit and Respiratory Care team approached you a few years ago to make the case for a program here in Laramie County and Southeast Wyoming. Although the need was significant then, the COVID-19 Pandemic has further exacerbated this need and the shortage of Respiratory Therapists is yet another hurdle healthcare faces today as we struggle to recruit and retain a qualified workforce in many disciplines.

LCCC and CRMC have a long history of partnership. CRMC provides great opportunities for graduates to start or advance in their professional careers in healthcare. Today, possibly more than ever, the need to ensure that our partnership remains strong is critical. CRMC has become increasingly dependent on recruiting healthcare professionals in any fashion we can, and the expense of doing so is significant. We have witnessed this specifically in certain areas like travel nurses, physicians and many of the therapies, including Respiratory. Yet we know that hiring local talent who are already committed to living in our community and serving our citizens is almost always the best approach.

Because we value our partnership so deeply, and because the need for Respiratory Therapists is and will continue to be significant, CRMC is proud to commit \$300,000 to LCCC for the start-up and early years of a Respiratory Therapy program. We view this as an investment in our future as a hospital, and more importantly the future of the individuals and families we serve with our commitment to quality care.

Please know that CRMC stands ready to continue our partnership as you move forward with this program. If I can be of any additional assistance, don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Tim Thornell
President & CEO
Cheyenne Regional Health System