



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Dr. Joe Schaffer

MEMORANDUM

To: LCCC Foundation Board of Directors

Cc: LCCC Board of Trustees
Lisa Trimble, Vice President of Advancement

From: Dr. Joe Schaffer, President

Date: September 21, 2022

Subject: 2023-2025 LCCC Development Priorities

Pursuant to section 6.0, sub-section 6.1 – Funding Priorities of the operating agreement between Laramie County Community College (LCCC) and the Laramie County Community College Foundation (LCCCF), it is my responsibility to provide the LCCCF Board of Directors a written statement of LCCC's current development priorities. The priorities are to be provided at least every biennium. Recognizing the time required to accomplish significant philanthropic development please accept the following as the priority list of areas LCCC would ask the LCCCF to focus on from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025.

Priority #1: Recreation & Athletic Complex (RAC) Renovation/Expansion

I fully anticipate beginning the early construction phases of the RAC renovation this fall. However, this project has been challenged with supply chain and inflationary issues that have pushed the bounds of the budget. I realize that the LCCCF has been actively raising funds for this project with a goal of reaching \$3 million from private gifts. That goal still remains; however, I would also ask that the Foundation help play an advocacy role in the coming legislative sessions as we seek to secure additional state funding to ensure the project can be completed at the scope we have designed for.

Priority #2: Strengthen LCCC Athletics Through Private Giving

This priority is a continuation from previous years. The College, through the division of Athletics and Recreation, remains focused on working with LCCCF to increase the levels of private funding that come into the College to help support LCCC athletics. I would ask the LCCCF to focus on two primary objectives:

- 1) generating privately-funded athletic scholarships with a goal of having the Golden Eagle Athletics Scholarship Fund endowment reach \$1 million; and
- 2) working closely with the Golden Eagle Club to help them establish fundraising goals and structure that focuses on areas such as funding for pre/post-season competition expenses, unrestricted operating expenses, and direct funding for full-ride scholarships to student athletes.

Priority #3: LCCC Pathway Endowments

The LCCCF has been successful in helping us launch, and in some cases grow substantially, endowments associated with our Guided Pathways work. For the coming years, I would ask the Foundation to work

closely with me and the College to grow existing endowments to support the eight LCCC Pathways (Ag & Equine, Business & Accounting, Communication & Creative Arts, Health Sciences & Wellness, Human & Public Services, Information Technology, Trades & Technical Studies, and STEM). Each Pathway will not only function as a structure to guide students through academic programs but will also serve as a community of interest for each program to create bonds between students, with faculty and staff, and with business and industry. The Pathway Endowment funds would be used to support activities and opportunities to create this community. A long-term goal should be to have these endowments reach the \$1 million threshold.

In addition to these three areas of emphasis, the College would encourage the Foundation to continue growing those programmatic endowments that have been established over the past few years.

Priority #4: Supporting Early Childhood Education Through the CDC

Finding and affording quality early childhood education/preschool has been a perennial challenge. It is estimated that nearly 16,000 childcare providers shut down as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Here locally, there have been at least 10 closures of centers in the recent months. This trend is becoming a social and economic crisis as fewer young children have access to early education during the most formative years, and parents are having to choose to leave the workforce (at a time when a talented workforce is in the highest of demands) to care for children.

Fortunately, LCCC continues to operate the Children's Discovery Center (CDC), but it too continues to feel the pressure. Limited space and a long wait list of children, lean operating budgets with rising costs, difficulty in hiring qualified teachers and meet market wages, and rates for families that already leave the most economically disadvantaged on the sidelines, are all parts of the reality we face. Thus, I would ask the LCCCF to consider helping the CDC and the people we serve by pursuing development in the following:

- 1) Growing the Strickland Early Childhood Education endowment to provide additional unrestricted operating funds that would defray increasing costs while not passing those onto families; and
- 2) Establishing a scholarship fund focused on aiding with tuition for LCCC students or working families with low-income.

Priority #5: Scholarships or Support for Students Living in the LCCC Residence Halls

LCCC is blessed to have a diverse series of residence halls on campus. These offer the opportunity to recruit young individuals to Cheyenne, educate them and hopefully connect them to the state so that they choose to stay, live and work here after graduation. Research also tells us that students who live on campus are more likely to persist and complete post-secondary credential. Yet we recognize that for some students the costs associated with living on campus are considerable, especially local students who may pass on the chance to experience the college life and build lasting relationships simply because it is cheaper to stay home with family. I would ask the LCCCF to work closely with the College, especially those in student life, to help establish two scholarship funds (endowment or spend-down) that would assist and incentivize:

- 1) A fund that would help off-set the costs of living on campus (room and board) for second year students who return to LCCC and had lived in the residence halls their freshman year;
- 2) A fund that would help off-set the costs of living on campus (room and board) for students from the LCCC Service area of Laramie and Albany County; and
- 3) A scholarship fund for low-income students with validated need to help with the costs of living on campus (room and board).