



To: Laramie County Community College Board of Trustees

From: Dr. Joe Schaffer, President

Date: October 12, 2023

Subject: Request for Spending Authority, External Funding for WIP II and Perkins V

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Please accept this request seeking your authority to expend Wyoming Innovative Partnership (WIP) Phase II funds and Perkins V funds to purchase equipment in support of expansion in three distinct programming areas: Nursing, Trades & Technical Studies, and Advanced Manufacturing. LCCC has executed contracts for our WIP Phase II projects. These include funding and commitments for \$710,000 for major equipment. We also have an approved Perkins V proposal that identifies \$301,000 for major equipment purchases as well. I am seeking your approval to expend these funds for the purposes denoted below.

#### **Healthcare Expansion, Practical Nursing**

The Practical Nurse (PN) program is one of several components funded in the LCCC WIP II submission for Healthcare Expansion. PN is also a primary program funded in the Perkins V grant for the current fiscal year. The curricular aspects of the PN program have been developed and were approved by the Wyoming Community College Commission at its October 5 meeting. Additionally, Program Director Dr. Karen Bowen is working beside the Wyoming Board of Nursing and the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) in our pursuit of accreditation for this important program.

One aspect of program development is the acquisition of appropriate equipment and instructional tools. Our WIP II funds allow for \$200,000 to be spent on hospital beds and procedure equipment (wound care, IV pumps, skills manikins, high fidelity simulations, etc.). Similarly, the Perkins V funding supports purchases in the amount of \$136,000 for additional manikin simulation tools. These purchases will support student learning and laboratory simulations during the scheduled on-campus sessions throughout the program and will further be available for instruction across other programs in the School of Health Sciences & Wellness. Dr. Bowen, in collaboration with LCCC Contracting & Procurement, is working with vendors now to determine our best opportunity by weighing cost and compatibility with existing technology.

#### **Trades & Technical Studies Pathway**

Perkins V affords many of our Trades programs the opportunity to advance instruction by upgrading the tools and technology available for instruction. Of the FY2024 Perkins V grant, \$165,000 was awarded for this purpose. The planned purchases exceed \$60,000 and will benefit students in Diesel Technology and Welding.

#### **Advanced Manufacturing Expansion**

The College collaborated with Sheridan College on a WIP II proposal to help close skill gaps for the manufacturing industry in the southeast and northcentral regions of the state. Our funded proposal will support programming, equipment purchasing, and personnel in Sheridan's Advanced Manufacturing and

Applied Sciences Center. At LCCC the WIP II funds will support the purchase of equipment to create a smart factory environment in the Advanced Manufacturing & Material Center (AMMC).

Specifically, LCCC was awarded \$510,000 to purchase equipment to replicate and provide instruction and certifications in a real-world smart computer integrated manufacturing environment including robotics. AMMC Manager Dave Curry, in collaboration with LCCC Contracting & Procurement, is working with vendors now to determine our best opportunity by weighing cost and compatibility with existing technology.

The table below summarizes the planned purchases by programming area and funding source.

	Funding Source		
Programming	WIP II	Perkins V	TOTAL
Practical Nursing	\$200,000	\$136,000	\$336,000
Trades		\$165,000	\$165,000
AMMC	\$510,000		\$510,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$710,000</b>	<b>\$301,000</b>	<b>\$1,011,000</b>

The items included in this request exceed \$60,000, and thus require your approval to grant spending authority.

**Staff Recommendation:** That the Board of Trustees authorizes the President to expend up to \$1,011,000 for the purpose of:

- acquiring hospital beds and procedure equipment for the Practical Nurse (PN) program in the amount of \$336,000; and,
- acquiring modernized tools and technology for the Diesel Technology and Welding programs in the amount of \$165,000; and,
- acquiring smart factory equipment for the AMMC in the amount of \$510,000.

Funding will come from the WIP II and Perkins V contracts awarded to the College.