



# **LCCC Athletic Department**

**Mark Puev: Athletic Director, LCCC**

**Board of Trustees Presentation  
“State of the Athletic Department”  
9/20/23**



**LCCC Golden Eagle Athletics**

# **SOARING INTO THE FUTURE**

**2020-2025 Strategic Plan**

*[www.GoLCCC.co](http://www.GoLCCC.co)*



## **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.



## Summary:

We want our student athletes to be *better...*

When they leave we want them to be:

- Better young men & women
- Better husbands and wives
- Better parents
- Better citizens in our community



## **Recruitment 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





# **LCCC ATHLETICS PILLARS** **OF EXCELLENCE**

- 1. Academic Success**
- 2. Competitive Success**
- 3. Campus Relationships**
- 4. Community Relationships**



## Pillar #1: Academic Success

### Department GPA's:

Fall 2020:	3.07
Spring 2021:	3.14
Fall 2021:	2.81*
*1 <sup>st</sup> year w/ Esports	
Spring 2022:	3.03
Fall 2022:	3.09
Spring 2023:	3.08



	2020	2021	2021	2022	2022	2023
Team Totals GPA:	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
Women's Basketball	3.67	3.39	3.533	3.632	3.42	3.19
Women's Soccer	3.56	3.54	3.243	3.472	3.52	3.53
Volleyball	3.2	3.25	3.41	3.156	3.34	3.81
Men's Basketball	3.13	2.86	2.769	2.536	2.94	2.75
Rodeo	2.92	2.88	2.817	2.878	2.885	3.075
Men's Soccer	2.89	3.01	2.705	2.831	2.98	2.86
Esports	x	x	1.524	2.917	2.69	2.62
	3.07	3.14	2.81	3.032	3.09	3.08





## **This past year:**

- 29 of our student athletes made the NJCAA All Academic Teams
- This is based on their GPA for the entire academic year
  - Six had a GPA between 3.6 – 3.79
  - 10 had a GPA between 3.8-3.99
  - 13 had a perfect 4.0 GPA!



- Head volleyball coach Zach Shaver's team was recognized by the AVCA (American Volleyball Coaches Association) for their team GPA of 3.57
- Only 22 of the 100 NJCAA schools received this award!
- Needed at least 3.3 GPA for the year to be considered.







## **Student Athletes Still Enrolled, Completed, and/or Transferred to a 4-year School:**

Fall 2020 or Spring 2021:	38 student athletes (63%)
Fall 2021 or Spring 2022:	47 student athletes (59%)
Fall 2022 or Spring 2023:	65 student athletes (68%)
Grand total over this time:	150 student athletes (64%)
2019 Cohort of all LCCC students:	(57%)

*\*The coaches & Athletic Department have a significant impact on our student athletes success!*



## Pillar #2: Competitive Success

### Volleyball:

- Won two games at the Region IX tournament
- Head coach didn't start until July







## Men's Soccer:

- First year head coach came to within one game of making it to nationals
- Beat Casper 17-16 in a shootout to get to the Region IX Championship game





## Women's Soccer:

- Won Region IX & the District tournament
- making it to nationals
- Head coach took over a few days before athletes got to campus







## Rodeo:

- Fall- Women won Shawn Dubie, men placed third
- Took six to CNFR (*took five in 2022*)



## Women's Basketball:

- Made it to the semi-finals of the Region IX tournament
- Had a final record of 23-8
- First ever 20-win season in LCCC history!







## Men's Basketball:

- Made it to the semi-finals of the Region IX tournament



## 2021-22 Call of Duty: Warzone National Champions



- Esports:
- Posted LCCC's fourth team National Championship
  - Second National Championship in Esports in only their second year!



## 2022-23 Call of Duty: Warzone National Champions







## Competitive Success Specifics:

A: Roundball teams finishing in the top four Region IX, with the goal of winning the regional championship each year.

- Both men's and women's soccer have been in the Region IX semifinals or better every year since 2020
- Men's basketball has finished in the semifinals the last two years, did not in 2020
- Women's basketball has reached the semifinals the last two years, did not in 2020
- Volleyball made it into the top four of Region IX for the first time since 2019



B: Rodeo teams qualifying for the CNFR, and having individual CNFR qualifiers each year.

- We have not had a full team qualify since the 80's
- Individually, we have had 14 reach the College National Finals since 2020- Five in 2022, six in 2023
- We have had a member in the top ten in the nation two of those years



## C: LCCC student athletes successfully moving to next level of competition.

- Men's basketball has had 12 since the spring of 2021
  - Five were from last year alone
- Women's basketball has had nine since the spring of 2021
  - Four were from last year alone
- Men's Soccer has had 16
- Women's Soccer has had 18
- Volleyball has had three; one of which was from last year



## C: LCCC student athletes successfully moving to next level of competition (continued).

- Rodeo is a four-year option-most stay here for their degree program.
  - According to our coach, 11 have moved to a four-year school or gone pro
- Esports is too soon to have a number as many of them are still here and competing for multiple leagues while they are here competing for us.
- The NJCAAe and the NCRA are not under the same umbrella as the NJCAA and athletes aren't required to stay amateur while competing for the colleges.



## D: Frequent representation at the national tournaments.

### Since fall 2020:

- Women's Soccer: Two
- Men's Soccer: Two
- Rodeo has had a representative in all three years
- Esports has qualified for the postseason in multiple events each year in the spring and fall
  - Two national championships in this time
- Volleyball, Men's Basketball, and Women's Basketball have not made it in that time All three programs were within 1-2 games last year





E: Having LCCC teams nationally ranked each year.

- Men's and Women's Soccer: Every year
- Volleyball: Currently in the rankings- 1<sup>st</sup> time since 2019
- Women's Basketball: Received votes for the 1st time in school history last year
- Rodeo: Does not do a team ranking system, but points. Our teams have been in the top 20 the past two seasons
- Esports: Does not do a team ranking system
- Men's Basketball: Have not been ranked in this time



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 the season.

- Women's Soccer: Started 0-7 last year, made it to the national tourney
- Rodeo: Payton Feyder qualified for the CNFR her first time with a late run in her final three rodeos in the spring of 2022 to qualify
  - Bernard Girard held onto his spot last year by picking up points in the final rodeo at UW
- Men's Soccer: slow start last year & ended up playing for the Region IX title
- Volleyball: Currently in the rankings- 1<sup>st</sup> time since 2019



## **Pillar #3: Campus Relationships**

A: Teams and athletes actively participating in campus events outside of athletics.

- Women's basketball helping students move-in to the residence halls during the first week of school
- Women's soccer attended a focus group lunch with the Unlocking Opportunity coaches



# Campus Relationships

B:Student athlete involvement in campus clubs outside of athletics, aspiring to hold leadership positions within these groups.

- Virtually all of our international student athletes being interested in the revival of our campus International Club
- Representatives from all of our teams applying to become RA's in the dorms
- Would like to work with Campus Life to look for opportunities for student athletes to be involved with other programs on campus



# Campus Relationships

C: Proactive outreach on campus by athletics staff, coaches, and teams to promote engagement in Golden Eagle Athletic events.

- Routine Travel Letters sent to faculty regarding student athletes being absent
- Student athletes writing a handwritten note to their instructors inviting them to attend a home contest
- Having a “Staff Appreciation” game each season to invite faculty & their families to join us at a home contest





## **Pillar #4: Community Relationships**

A: Athletic team involvement in consistent, significant community service activities. Involved in the following activities:

- Kicks 4 Kidz charity
- Pink Ribbon Run (set up & event)
- U4 Youth Soccer Camp
- YMCA Valentines Day Dance (Spring 23')
- Elementary Sports Kickoff Party w/ Boys & Girls Club
- Officiating flag football
- Assist with elementary school sports
- Girls on the Run- assisting with their 5K



# Community Relationships

B: Proactive outreach to the community by the athletic staff, coaches, and teams to promote engagement in Golden Eagle Athletic events.

- Coaches and student athletes have gone to the community to drop off posters and schedules
- Entire department has gone out to invite community members to events such as our first annual Cornhole tournament in August



# Community Relationships

C: Creating opportunities for community members to build relationships with Golden Eagle Athletics' teams, coaches, and athletes.

- Speaking at Kiwanis, Rotary, AARP
- Inviting community groups (Boys & Girls Club, LCSD1 triads) to home contests for free
- Bringing as many student athletes possible to community events so they can interact with everyone involved



# **STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**



- 1. Develop and implement sport-specific strategic and operational plans.**
- 2. Increase the community's awareness and engagement in Golden Eagle Athletics.**
- 3. Strengthen LCCC Golden Eagle Athletics through private giving.**
- 4. Transform LCCC's Athletics Facilities.**
- 5. Wise exploration of areas for potential expansion of Golden Eagle Athletics offerings.**



# Strategic Priority #1:

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

- Cooperative assessment before, during, and after each season to see where we are and where we are going
- Proactive communication regarding scheduling and travel between programs and athletic administration





## Strategic Priority #2:

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

- GEC desire to provide assistance in getting “our product” out to the Cheyenne community
- The athletic department going door-to-door to drop off schedules, posters, and invites, to athletic department games and free community events



## Strategic Priority #3:

### **Strengthen LCCC Golden Eagle Athletics through private giving**

- With the GEC initiative to be meet the Cheyenne community, comes the ability to build relationships that can help assist us in this
- The GEC has already surpassed the amount raised for scholarships that it had raised in the entire year
- This allows us to help our programs continue to be more competitive among others within our region

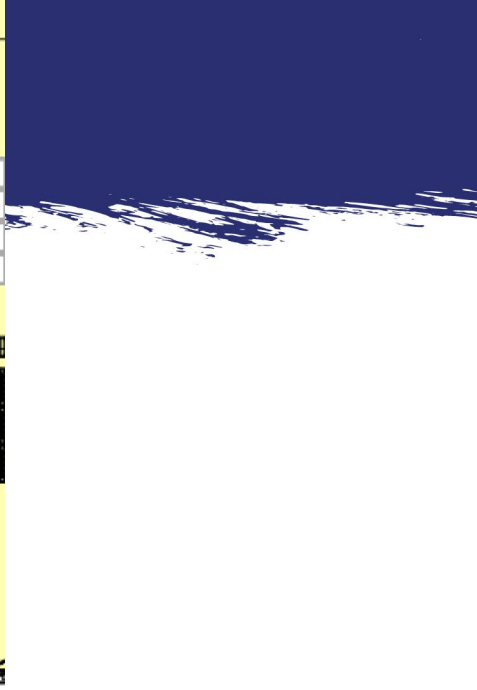
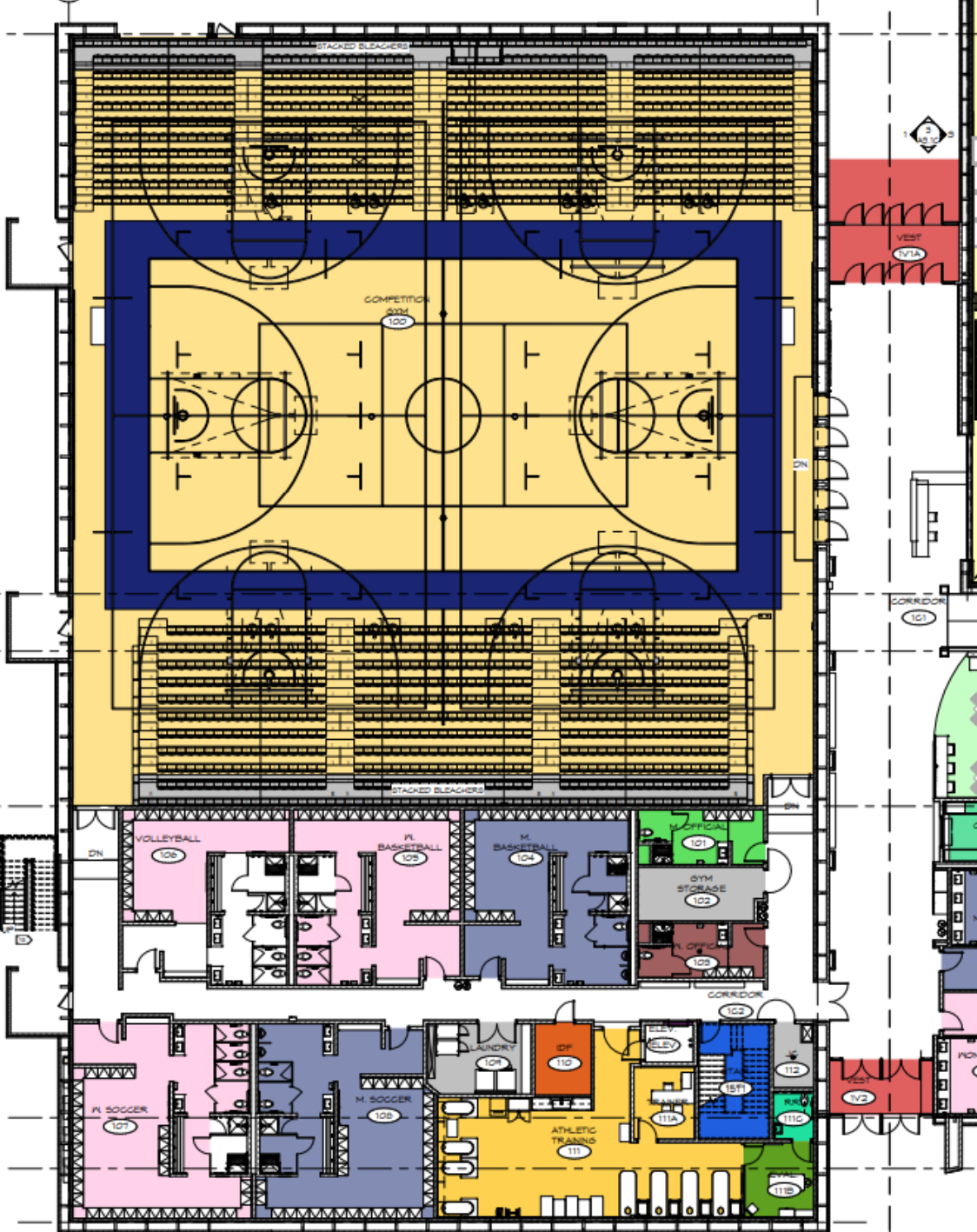


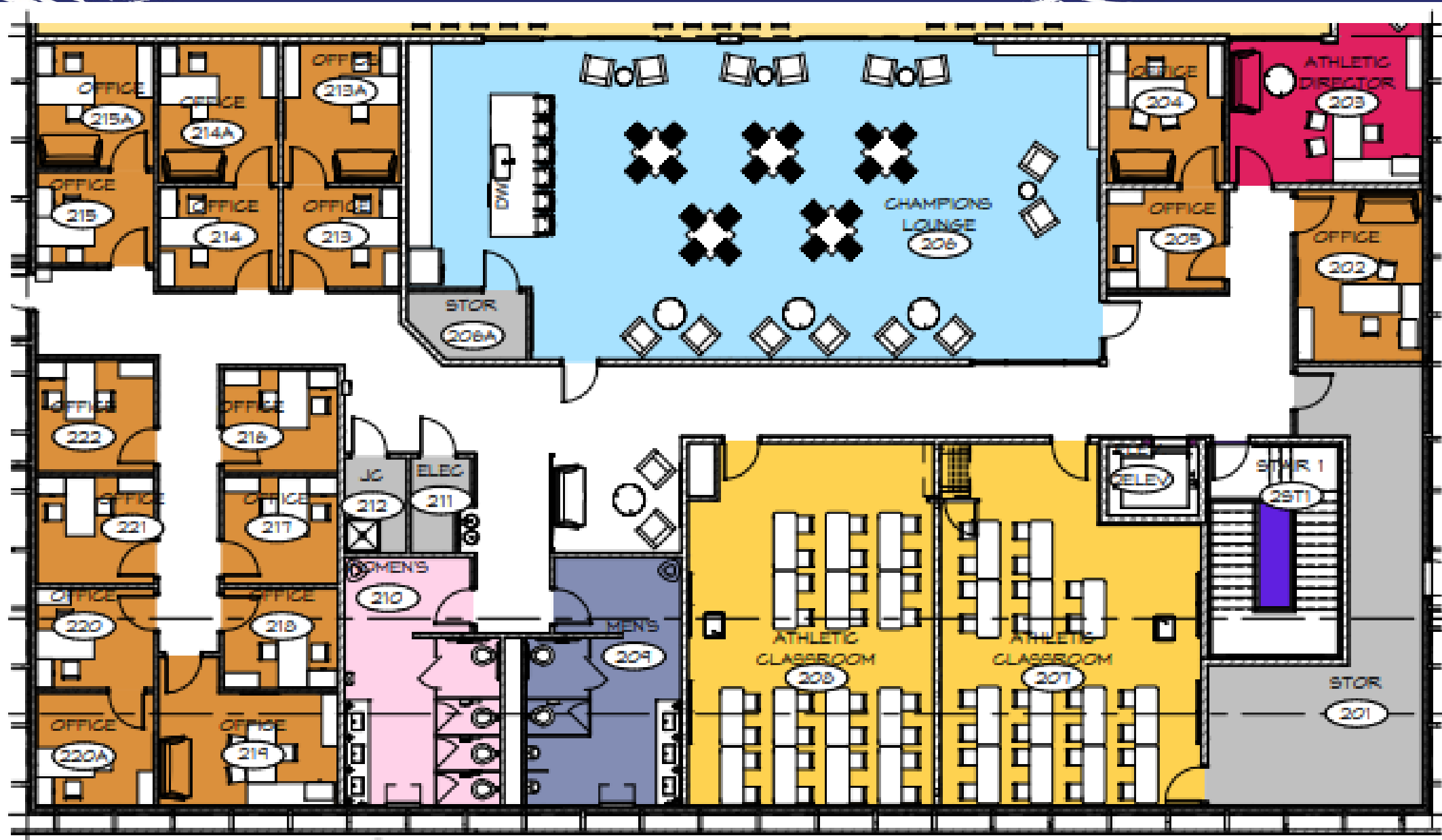
# Strategic Priority #4:

Transform LCCC's  
Athletics Facilities











## Strategic Priority #5:

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

What do we add next?

...Trick question!





## Strategic Priority #5:

### Moving forward:

1. Let's get in the new RAC
  - Well on our way to doing that
2. Solidify what we already have
  - Programs
  - Student athletes
  - Assistant coaches
3. THEN let's look at adding what would be good for our school, community, and state



# **LCCC GOLDEN EAGLE** **ATHLETICS BENCHMARK** **INSTITUTIONS**



- Casper College
- College of Southern Idaho
- Hutchinson Community College
- Iowa Western Community College
- Salt Lake Community College
- Tyler Junior College



## BENCHMARK INSTITUTIONS:

Iowa Western CC	3663	24	
College of Southern Idaho	3455	11	
Hutchinson CC	3233	13	
Salt Lake CC	21033	12	
Tyler Junior College	9525	12	
Casper College	2700	6	
	43609	78	
			AVG.
AVG. ENROLMENT:	7268	13	SPORTS





*Thank You!*  
*questions?*

*See you in the Blue  
RAC! →→→*



LCCC GOLDEN EAGLES  
**ATHLETICS**  
RECREATION & ATHLETIC COMPLEX



# *Athletic Department*

## **Personnel and Teams**



## Vince Gibson- Assistant Athletic Director

- Former Head Men's Soccer Coach at LCCC for 14 years
- In charge of compliance, eligibility, workers, game day set up, and **EVERYTHING ELSE!!!**







# **Head Volleyball Coach:**

- Zach Shaver named head coach
- 22 years of NCAA DI, DII & NJCAA experience
- Last 9 years at Yavapai College (153-93 record)
- 3 Region, 2 District & 1 ACCAC Championships
- 2 National Tournament Appearances



## Update:

- 2022 team was 3-8 at this point last year
- The team was 12-2 last week- at the exact same point in the season!
- Currently ranked #20 in the nation







## ***New Head Women's Soccer Coach:***



- Jorge "Lugo" Arenas named head coach & started in January 2023
- Cheyenne native
- LCCC graduate
- Eight years collegiate coaching experience



## Update:

- Currently 2-3-1
- All games were against top 10 teams in the country (#2, #4, & #9)





# **New Head Men's Soccer Coach**

- Fernando Perez named head coach
- Served as the Interim Head coach 2022-2023 season
- LCCC graduate
- Came within 1 game of taking team to nationals





## Update:

- Currently 1-5
- Two of the three losses are to top 5 teams in the country







# ***New Esports Coach:***

John Kershaw

- Very passionate in what he does
- Stepping in to a role where we have back-to-back national championships in Call of Duty- Warzone
- Has a good vision of how he would like to grow the program





# **2022-23 Esports season update:**

- What could be better than winning a national championship?
- WINNING ANOTHER ONE!!!
- Dimitrios Chronopoulos and Andrew Santhuff repeated as the 2023 NJCAA Esports champions in "Call of Duty Warzone 2"





## **Interim Head Rodeo Coach:**

- Dean Finerty named interim head coach
- Served as assistant Rodeo coach for the past five years







# **2022-23 Rodeo Season Update:**

- In the fall: Women's team won the home rodeo - Men's team placed third
- Spring season: We qualified six that will competed at the CRMR in Casper this past June





# **Head Men's Basketball Coach:**

DeWayne Saulsberry

- Third year as the head coach
- Served as assistant men's basketball coach for 14 years







## *Men's Basketball Season Update:*

- 17-12 overall
- 5-4 in our conference
- Made it to the Region IX semi-final







## **Head Women's Basketball Coach:**

Ayana McWilliams

- Third year as the head coach
- Led team to a school record 23 wins!





## ***Women's Basketball Season Update:***

- 23-8 overall
- 6-4 in our conference
- Made it to the Region IX semi-final





# *Athletic Trainer*

Sarah Charron

- Joined LCCC in this role in September 2021
- Works with our student athletes and coaches to keep everyone on the field of play as much as possible
- LCCC graduate!







# **Sports Information Manager**

Caleb Burrgraaf

- 12 years in sports journalism before joining LCCC over a year ago
- Passion for athletics- keeps LCCC athletics social media and information up to date
- Provides a live stream with as much as possible
- Weekly podcast highlighting recent accomplishments and milestones





# **Student-Athlete Success Coach**

Tyler Garrison

- Started working with the Athletic Department and our student athletes at the start of the 2023-24 school year
- Helps us have one point of contact making communication better between the student athletes, coaches, faculty, and the athletic department as a whole

