



**LARAMIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

PROJECT PROPOSAL

REINSTATEMENT OF WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TO LCCC ATHLETICS

LARAMIE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FEBRUARY 3, 2016

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1. Executive Summary

The time has come for Laramie County Community College to add women's basketball. Currently, LCCC is the only College in Region IX that does not have a women's basketball program. Prior to 1992, LCCC had women's basketball, but when the other athletic programs were brought back in 2002, this program was not brought back with the other programs. Reinstating women's basketball attracts new students while reaching out to diverse populations, and creating new opportunities for women. Student athletes are ambassadors for the College, and as a group have out-performed the campus average in GPA attainment and persistence (Average GPA this fall of student athletes is 2.97 and for all degree seeking students it is 2.57). The student athletes at LCCC graduate at a higher rate than the campus average (last year 85% of our sophomore athletes graduated). Playing a collegiate sport improves a student's opportunities for transfer, and allows some students who might otherwise not attend college the opportunity to attend and improve their future life opportunities.

The reinstatement of women's basketball will make LCCC a more visible institution locally, regionally and nationally. In a 2012-2013 student survey, LCCC students responded to the question of "what sport to add?" Their response was overwhelming for women's basketball. By creating this program, LCCC will be able to provide the opportunity for 18 women to participate. This will create local excitement for female athletes to pursue collegiate competition in basketball that has not been available for more than 20 years. LCCC athletics prides itself on recruiting local athletes for each team, and all programs have concentrated on recruitment locally whenever possible. Having women's basketball provides more opportunities for service area athletes to stay here to compete.

The program will also offer viability when it comes to scheduling games. Currently men's basketball does not have a travel partner, limiting their ability to play on consecutive nights. Further they do not have the ability to play double headers that could add value to LCCC ticket sales. Having the travel partner for men's and women's basketball balances the region to 8 teams north and 8 teams south, which eases scheduling of season games. Right now all the Region IX women's teams must find 2 additional games when their men play LCCC. Right now LCCC is difficult to schedule because the College does not have game opportunities for both men and women.

Athletic opportunities bring students to the College who otherwise would not attend LCCC. Diversity of the College community can be increased, as well as revenue through the additional FTE created with the 18 additional full-time students. The increase in enrollment would be 18 additional head count and 22.5 FTE as reported to the state (minimum enrollment is 15 hours for athletes).

Creating a women's basketball program at LCCC further builds community support by providing opportunity and showing equity in the number of athletes, and balance in

both the men's and women's athletic opportunities. This new program meets LCCC strategic goals, values and vision while being financially self-supportive and potentially producing a modest income.

2. Project Overview

LCCC's athletic department is actively working to improve connections with the community. One way to build and strengthen these relations is through student opportunities and increased awareness and visibility both on the fields of competition and in the community through community service. All teams take on community service projects every year, with some coaching youth sports, others doing human service, and still others participating in clean up and restorative projects. Women's basketball would add to LCCC's ability to connect with the community through community service as well as through the opportunities to partner with local high school girls' basketball programs and more.

The National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) obligates the College to provide opportunities for student athletes that are equitable among men and women, and LCCC has fallen short in this area. Currently, with the NJCAA sports offered, there are 10 fewer women competing than compared to men (based on 2015-16 rosters), and there are no winter sport opportunities for women. LCCC is the only Wyoming community college that does not offer women's basketball. The fact is, all the Region IX Division I institutions, including Colorado, Montana and Nebraska, that have a men's program also have a women's program.

The Athletics & Campus Recreation department has done an assessment of the financial side of this project to investigate sustainability and funding feasibility, showing a net revenue for the College with the addition of this team. LCCC already has the infrastructure and administrative support to bring on additional sports teams. Capital expenditures are minimal and will be covered through the Foundation. Women's basketball will impact the current gym, multipurpose room and locker room spaces; however, this is common among all the sport programs that provide men's and women's teams, and is similar to the balancing currently done in sharing soccer facilities between the men's and women's teams.

There are currently 15 Region IX women's basketball programs, 7 in the south and 8 in the north. LCCC would be assigned in the "South" conference of Region IX along with the men. The ease of scheduling by mirroring the existing men's program while balancing the women's conference to 8 teams on each side is being highly anticipated by the other colleges in Region IX.

This particular athletic program is consistently being requested by the Cheyenne community. The Director has been meeting and working with donors and constituents who consistently ask "when will we see women's basketball at LCCC?" Last year there

were six Laramie county high school graduates that left the community to attend other institutions and play women's basketball. By keeping local and regional talent here in Cheyenne, LCCC will attract a much larger population of college giving, scholarship endowment opportunities, and program support donors, as well as an additional tie-in to the community.

This program will provide opportunity for 18 additional students who otherwise would not attend LCCC. On average, all athletes will enroll in 15 credits per semester, which equates to 22.5 FTE as reported to the state. Next, the state will be implementing a "performance matrix" in the fall of 2017. This will reward institutions on the number of certificate/diploma graduates and credit transfer students to 4 year universities. Based on last year, this will reflect an average of 85% of LCCC athletes graduating or transferring on to a 4 year institution.

By creating a women's basketball program at LCCC, the College will build community support by showing equity in the opportunities for both men and women in athletics. Adding this team brings 18 new students to LCCC who otherwise would not attend the College, and (as the athletics program has shown consistently) these will be students who stay enrolled full-time, have a higher than average LCCC GPA, and complete their degrees at a higher rate than the College average.

When looking at the priority list of adding additional athletic teams, women's basketball is at the top. This program already has student/community support and interest. The facilities and major equipment are currently in place and coincide with the men's team, and the competition field with the other 15 basketball programs in Region IX is ready for that 16th team to come on board to ease the difficulty in scheduling.

Timeline:

Spring 2016	Preliminary recruitment of athletes by Director of Athletics & Recreation Fund raising for scholarships, coaching staff Project approvals, budgeting process, staff line approvals Tentative game schedule reserved
Summer 2016	If project, staff lines approved, recruit, hire staff Work with athletes for admission to College, housing, etc. Planning and prep for fall start, purchasing uniforms, equipment, publications, promotions, registration with NJCAA Finalize game schedule, game day staffing, scheduling of facilities for practices, games Set up Academic Advising support, ensure all student athletes are prepared for fall classes, study schedules set
Fall 2016	Begin semester, training & practices, academic support routines, etc. Season begins – November/December

3. Strategic Planning

Strategic planning has always concentrated on students and their success. It focuses on goals to increase enrollment and funding while giving opportunity to students; women’s basketball meets all the criteria. It will grow enrollment by 18 additional head count, positively affect overall student GPA, and increase graduation rates with the program itself looking at 85%. This also provides opportunity for area female athletes to stay close to home and participate in collegiate basketball. Last year there were 6 Laramie County women athletes who left the county to play basketball elsewhere because LCCC did not offer it. LCCC would have had a good chance of keeping a majority of those athletes here if it had a program for them. The program will fund itself in its first year, and with additional private funding will create a modest income in subsequent years.

LCCC’s Mission Statement and its Big Goal says it all. ***“...to transform our students’ lives through the power of inspired learning”*** and ***“...our accomplishments will distinguish LCCC from others in the nation, in turn benefiting our communities and bringing pride to the Great State of Wyoming”***. It is the vision and commitment of those dedicated to LCCC students, the college and the community that drives the Athletic and Recreation department into doing just that.... distinguishing LCCC from others while benefiting the Laramie County community and this great State. The Cheyenne campus is located in the state’s capital, the focal point of Wyoming and the nation’s government. It is only natural that this community, as a leader within this state, which includes the community college system, set the expectations and standards for others to dare to accomplish. LCCC wants to be the best in all that it has to offer, from the high quality education, new and updated equipment/facilities, to professional development, while positively impacting student lives. Below demonstrates the goals and strategies met by reinstating women’s basketball.

Goal #	Strategy	Relationship to Project
Goal 1	Ai, Aii Increase Enrollment	This program will bring 18 additional full-time students to campus. Each student will average 15 hours per semester, which equates to 22.5 FTE
Goal 2	Aii, Aiv Strengthening Relationships and Connections	Creating more opportunities thru athletic programs targets local high school students, and builds relationships with area high schools and their communities
Goal 4	Av, Bi, Ci Renovate Existing Facilities	New sport opportunities helps move our facility into the future by renovating our existing building to include additional office space, locker rooms, playing arena, concessions, student success center and campus recreation services

4. Project Summary Budget

An incredible misconception is that athletics will always negatively impact institutional budgets. This is not necessarily true. The fall of 2015, LCCC had 78 student athletes who were enrolled full-time. Athletics staff posed this question to them: “would you have come to school here if your sport was not offered?” The answer from everyone was “no”. That is a head count loss of 78 and 97.5 FTE as reported to the state. The fact is that the addition of women’s basketball will bring in an additional 18 students and 22.5 FTE who would otherwise go somewhere else. The beauty is to provide all the before mentioned positive impacts and the program will fund itself creating no adverse impact to the general fund.

The Deputy Director and Chief Financial Officer of the Community College Commission, Mr. Petry, noted that the addition of 18 students would have a positive financial impact for LCCC. He also mentioned a “performance matrix” that is currently being discussed, and scheduled to take effect in the fall of 2017. This rewards institutions based on “completers” who graduate with a certificate/diploma or who have transferable hours and go on to a 4-year institution. Both these will bring additional monies to the institution. Last year 85% of the sophomore student/athletes graduated from LCCC. There is no doubt that athletes will be “completers” as defined in the performance matrix, and this will increase state funding.

The future of this program will provide increased scholarship dollars for the general fund. One fundraising goal, in cooperation with LCCC Foundation, is to increase direct scholarship dollars of \$50,000 for each of the next 3 years, so that the addition of new programs do not negatively impact the general fund budget. This is \$150,000 of new monies.

5. Proposed Project Leadership/Team

Role	Description	Name/Title
Executive Sponsor	Provide executive support for the project	Judy Hay, Vice President for Student Services
Project Manager	Manages project and project team	Scott Noble, Director of Athletics & Campus Recreation
Coaching staff	Recruit, coach, develop team	New positions – Head Coach and Assistant Coach
LCCC Foundation	Oversees all outside fundraising efforts for the program	Lisa Murphy, Associate Vice President of Institutional Advancement, Ann Nelson, Foundation Corporate Development Director

6. Approvals

REQUIRED APPROVALS	NAME/SIGNATURE	DATE
Approval by Project Sponsor (Cabinet Member)		
Approval by President's Cabinet		
Approval by President (Signature)		



Cheyenne Central High School

5500 Education Drive • Cheyenne, WY 82009

Phone: 307-771-2680 • fax: 307-771-2699

www.central.laramie1.org

Laramie County Community College
Board of Trustees
President's Office
1400 East College Drive
Cheyenne, WY 82007

Chairman Mosher and Board Trustees,

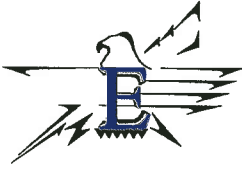
It is without hesitation that I write in support of reinstating women's basketball at Laramie County Community College. As a father of a daughter, a Laramie County resident, and a high school administrator, I believe this proposal makes good sense and is right for Wyoming.

The reinstatement of women's basketball at Laramie County Community College would certainly demonstrate your institutions continued commitment to equality and women's athletics.

Women's basketball has a rich history both in Laramie County and Wyoming. The reinstatement of women's basketball at Laramie County Community College would certainly enhance this proud history. Again, it is without hesitation that I write in support of reinstating women's basketball at Laramie County Community College.

Sincerely,

Fred W. George
Central High Principal



CHEYENNE EAST HIGH SCHOOL

"Home of the Thunderbirds"

Laramie County Community College
Board of Trustees
President's Office
1400 East College Drive
Cheyenne, WY 82007

January 19, 2016

Chairman Mosher and Trustees,

We take great pleasure in writing this letter in support of the reinstatement of women's basketball to LCCC athletics. The solid reputation your college has in the community of Cheyenne will only be enhanced with the addition of a women's basketball program. Cheyenne is a community that supports its high schools and community college. By reinstating women's basketball you are showing your increased support for women in athletics in our community. At this time women's basketball in the state of Wyoming and in Cheyenne is very recognizable and important. Giving women another opportunity to participate at the college level in basketball shows your support for all athletes.

Women's basketball is a sport full of tradition in our country. The state of Wyoming is no different. The Cheyenne community is supportive. It is our hope that you will add women's basketball to the sports currently offered at LCCC. We see it as an invaluable opportunity for students in our region and in our state.

Sincerely,

Sam Mirich
Principal

Jerry Schlabs
Athletic Director

Sam Mirich, Principal
Thomas Kreider, Associate Principal
Fawn Bartlett, Assistant Principal
Tommy Cress, Assistant Principal

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WYOMING ATHLETICS

Dept. 3414 | 1000 E. University Avenue | Laramie, Wyoming 82071

Laramie County Community College
Board of Trustees
President's Office
1400 East College Drive
Cheyenne, WY 82007

January 7, 2016

Chairman Mosher and Trustees,

It is with pleasure that we write this letter to support the reinstatement of women's basketball to LCCC Athletics. With the strong tradition of women's athletics in the state of Wyoming, we believe this has the potential to be a successful venture.

As the project proposal outlines, the timing for this addition seems appropriate. This includes already having a potential travel partner and increasing the ease of scheduling by balancing the Region IX conference with 8 teams in both the north and south divisions. Scheduling can be difficult in this region and decreasing the need to look outside the conference to schedule opponents is important. Additionally, the program looks to have no impact on facilities and major equipment, as this would coincide with the current men's basketball program.

Women's basketball is a source of pride at the University of Wyoming and we believe that it has the potential to be the same at LCCC. Additionally, we are supportive of increasing sport opportunities for the women in our region. We know that women that participate in athletics, especially at the collegiate level, develop better leadership and resiliency skills and have a higher average GPA and greater graduation rate than non-athletes. We believe it is important to foster this development and the mission of LCCC also reflects that. The ability to retain women in the state, while still providing them the opportunity to participate in collegiate athletics is vital.

Women's basketball has a strong tradition at the high school level in the state of Wyoming and adding women's basketball to LCCC would only help to enhance the tradition of strong, successful women. It is for these reasons that we support the addition of women's basketball to the sports currently offered at LCCC.

Sincerely,

Tom Burman
University of Wyoming
Director of Athletics

Joe Legerski
University of Wyoming
Head Women's Basketball Coach

CC: Scott Noble



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SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

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January 19, 2016

LCCC Board of Trustees President's Office
1400 East College Drive
Cheyenne, WY 82007

TO: Members of the LCCC Board of Trustees

Please accept this letter in support of LCCC's request to reinstate the sport of women's basketball.

Cheyenne South High School would welcome the opportunity to support LCCC and its reintroduction of women's basketball. It would provide one more opportunity for women to be represented in the city of Cheyenne and in Laramie County. It would also allow students at South the opportunity to have a chance to further their athletic careers. We believe women's athletics gives individuals a desire to attend college, and with our students provides one more chance to find a way to participate in the college experience. We are just starting out, but believe the students at South would benefit from the introduction of women's basketball and are in strong support of this effort.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to our input.

Phil Thompson,

Principal, Cheyenne South High School

... "a school to be part of; an Education to be Proud of!"

Phil Thompson
Principal

Royce Backman
Associate Principal

Jen Brownhill
Assistant Principal

Louis Sisemore
Assistant Principal



COLORADO STATE

ATHLETICS

January 13, 2016

LCCC Board of Trustees
President's Office
1400 East College Drive
Cheyenne, WY 82007

TO: Members of the LCCC Board of Trustees

Please accept this letter in support of LCCC's request to reinstate the sport of women's basketball. Colorado State University, which currently competes as a member of Division I of the NCAA and the Mountain West Conference, has sponsored this sport since 1974. The NCAA has sponsored championships in women's basketball since 1982. There are currently over 1,100 women's basketball teams in the NCAA, with over 16,000 total participants. In fact, there are more women's basketball teams than teams in any other women's sports in the NCAA. And this is also the case in high school sports, with over 400,000 girls participating across the United States.

The growth of high school and junior/community college women's basketball programs not only creates more opportunities for women but also aids the success of the sport at the NCAA level. In addition, NCAA women's basketball continues to be the leading women's sport in terms of diversity of participants. And as we know, competitive intercollegiate athletics brings students to college who may not otherwise have that opportunity.

Having redistributed our sports offerings many times over the years, we know only too well the myriad issues and concerns that need to be addressed. We appreciate the complexity of the situation and certainly don't have all the answers. However, it does appear to make sense from a facility standpoint, as well as adding balance to your current Region IX programs.

We wish you the best in your decision and future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Christine Susemihl
Senior Associate Athletic Director
& Senior Woman Administrator