



February 12, 2015

Joe Schaffer
President
Laramie County Community College
1400 E. College Drive
Cheyenne, WY 82007

Dear President Schaffer,

This letter is to convey to you our deep appreciation of the support and encouragement you have provided to a special team of faculty from Laramie County Community College. Over the weekend of October 17th to 19th of last year, Ami Wangeline, Zachary P. Roehrs, and Clint Reading traveled to Seattle, WA and participated in a two-day, National Science Foundation-supported workshop led by the Northwest Partnership for Undergraduate Life Science Education (PULSE). The goals of this workshop were to bring in teams of faculty and administrators from institutions across the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming and help them develop a vision for how they can transform the curriculum in their life sciences department(s) to align with the recommendations of the 2011 American Association for the Advancement of Science report, "Vision and Change in Undergraduate Biology Education."

Due to the strength of the team that Laramie County Community College assembled and the high quality of their application materials, your institution was selected as one of the 14 participants. Your team used a Systems Thinking approach and the novel departmental transformation tools produced by the NSF/NIH/HHMI-funded PULSE project to put together a strong plan for transforming their life sciences curriculum through the formation of a strategic plan built on shared departmental goals and vision, and Vision and Change aligned program competencies for students. The team from Laramie County Community College is currently supported through regular contact with a PULSE Coach as they work to implement their strategic plan, and via the connections that they have made with other regional PULSE institutions who are working towards similar curricular transformation goals. At the beginning of May, a representative from your team will be supported by our NSF grant to travel to Vancouver, BC to report on the outcome of their transformation efforts at the Northwest Biology Instructors Organization Annual Conference. The work of all 14 Northwest PULSE institutions will be highlighted by PULSE as examples of best practices in how to transform life science education.

On behalf of the Northwest PULSE Steering Committee, we want to thank you for your continued support of the team from Laramie County Community College over the coming months as they work to transform their educational practices to make them leaders not only regionally, but nationally. We anticipate that curricular change will take much longer than the nine month engagement

with the Northwest PULSE Community of Practice, and we would be happy to work with your institution over the long term to support your commitment to educational success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Davis, Ph.D.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bill Davis, Washington State University

PI-Northwest PULSE

On behalf of the Northwest PULSE Leadership Team

Gita Bangera, Bellevue College

Jenny McFarland, Edmonds Community College

Joann Otto, Western Washington University

Pamela Pape-Lindstrom, Everett Community College

Gary Reiness, Lewis and Clark College