

MATTHEW H. MEAD
GOVERNOR



2323 Carey Avenue
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

Office of the Governor



May 31, 2016

Dr. Jim Rose, Executive Director
Wyoming Community College Commission
2300 Capitol Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Dr. Rose,

When the Legislature adjourned this past March, it was fair to believe a balanced budget had been achieved. Unfortunately, revenues are trailing the projections upon which the budget is based. There is an estimated \$110 million shortfall for fiscal year 2016.

As the 2017-2018 biennium approaches, it is clear there will be a biennial deficit for the General Fund standard budget. Immediate action is required and every agency must reduce their General Fund standard budget. The Community College Commission budget will be reduced by \$20.193 million. Each college will need to reduce budgets according to the formula provided. The Commission will reduce its agency budget.

These budget reductions come at a time when most colleges are also seeing a decline in local revenues. I am mindful that the State of Wyoming relies on community colleges to assist workers displaced by changes in the state's energy industry. The reduced revenues are a challenge, but I am confident that we will manage through this difficult time as we have managed difficult times in the past.

The Legislative Stabilization Reserve Account (LSRA or rainy day fund) is not available without legislative action. The Legislature used the LSRA to address approximately \$108 million in needs this past session. Measures, including use of the \$221 million, passed by the Legislature do not prevent the need for immediate reductions in General Fund budgets.

Each college, through their Boards of Trustees should identify those budget reductions most appropriate for a given college. Thank you to the Community College Commission, and to the Trustees of each college working on these difficult decisions.

Sincerely,



Matthew H. Mead
Governor

Dr. Rose
May 31, 2016
RE: Budget reductions
Page 2

MHM:dh

cc: Sandra Meyer, Commission Chair, Community College Commission
Darren Divine, President, Casper College
Cristobal Valdez, President, Central Wyoming College
Richard Patterson, President, Eastern Wyoming College
Joe Schaffer, President, Laramie County Community College
Paul Young, President, Northern Wyoming Community College District
Stefani Hicswa, President, Northwest Community College
Karla Leach, President, Western Wyoming Community College