



**LARAMIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Joe Schaffer

MEMORANDUM

To: LCCC Foundation Board of Directors

Cc: LCCC Board of Trustees
Lisa Murphy, AVP of Advancement

From: Dr. Joe Schaffer, President

Date: June 29, 2016

Subject: FY17 Update to 2015-2018 LCCC Development Priorities

Pursuant to section 6.0, sub-section 6.1 – Funding Priorities, of the operating agreement between Laramie County Community College (LCCC) and the Laramie County Community College Foundation (LCCCF), it is my responsibility to provide the LCCCF Board of Directors a written statement of LCCC's current development priorities. In consultation with the LCCC Board of Trustees, the LCCCF Development Committee, LCCCF and LCCC staff, it has been determined that, while an annual distribution of updated development priorities is essential, many of these priorities will require more than one year to fully achieve. Therefore, please accept this as an updated priority list for the College's fiscal year 17.

Priority #1: Naming of College Spaces - Student/University Center (Pathfinder Building) and Flex-Tech Building

LCCC is nearing completion of the Student/University Center (**Pathfinder Building**) and Flex-Tech Building and as a priority we would like to have these buildings named prior to their completion. In addition, there are numerous other spaces, both existing and planned for future (see #4 below), on campus that provide great opportunity for naming tributes. The College's Naming of College Spaces Policy 5.5 and Procedure 5.5P provides guidance and flexibility. Naming opportunities should help generate private gifts for key priorities of the institution with a focus on those listed within this document.

Priority #2: Strengthen LCCC Athletics through Private Giving

This priority is a continuation from FY14, FY15, and FY16. The College, through the division of Athletics and Recreation, remains focused on working with LCCCF to increase the levels of private funding that come into the College to help support LCCC athletics. These efforts should focus on three primary areas:

- 1) strengthening the LCCC booster club by expanding its membership and the club's overall financial standing in regards to its support for athletic operations;
- 2) generating privately-funded athletic scholarships to augment the current institutionally-funded athletics scholarship program; and
- 3) raising funds for a planned renovation of the LCCC Recreation and Athletics (RAC) Building (see #4 below).

Note: The Foundation's Executive Committee decided to give a third of the proceeds from the easement negotiations for the BOPU project in the amount of \$35,000 to the women's basketball program. In addition, another \$12,500 has been received in donations for women's basketball, bringing the total amount funded by the Foundation to \$50,000 so far. This is to be applauded.

Priority #3: Capital Construction Projects on the LCCC Campus

One of the College's strategic plan goals is to transform the physical environment at the College. A component of that is embodied within our *Building Forward* plan, which focuses predominantly on new facilities. Another significant component is the renovation and improvement of our existing infrastructure. In the coming years, the College will have needs to secure public *and* private gifts for these activities, and the Foundation can play a critical role in both. From the private giving side, there are both directed-gift opportunities, as well as unrestricted-gift opportunities. For the latter, the Foundation could identify naming tribute opportunities for existing campus spaces that would come with generous gifts to be used for yet to be determined capital renovations. To the former, the following are projects the College is planning for the near term that could be aided directly by private giving:

- 1) ***Ludden Library and Learning Commons Renovation and Expansion*** – In the 2016 Legislative Budget Session, LCCC has received a tentative appropriation of \$2.5 million for this project. These funds will likely not be available till July of 2017. As a provision of the legislation, the College must raise and match at least \$2.5 million before State funds would be released. The project is still estimated to cost \$7.9 million, and unless we can raise more than \$2.5 million, it will likely have to be reduced in scope. At this juncture, I believe the Foundation has secured \$700,000 towards this project. LCCC is asking the Foundation to help us with identifying potential donors to the project and raise the additional funds for this project to move forward.
- 2) ***RAC Renovation and Expansion*** – This project is likely to progress after the completion of the Flex-Tech Building and University/Student Center (Pathfinder Building) are completed. The renovation and expansion is estimated to cost approximately \$7 million and would have to be funded entirely by private or local monies. Because the project has changed significantly over the past year, LCCC has sought and received updated legislative authority for this project. We anticipate at least half of the funding for this project coming from College revenues. However, we would ask the Foundation in close partnership with the College's Director of Athletics and Campus Recreation to raise private funds for this project to move forward.
- 3) ***Fine and Performing Arts Building*** – This project is estimated at \$25 million as designed, is a primary project in the College's *Building Forward* plan, and thus is seen as a priority. Funding for it would come from State appropriation (estimated about \$12.5 million) and the remainder from local funds. We have not been successful in securing State funds; however, we will attempt to do so again in the 2017 Legislature General Session. Because specific funding approaches and targets are dependent on legislative action in early 2017, major fundraising efforts are not foreseen till after that time. However, the College is committed to this project and would ask the Foundation to help set the stage by working with potential donors, the community, and the Legislature to see it progress.

Priority #4: Endowed Faculty Positions

Stable funding for the College's operations has been one of the largest concerns of the seven community colleges in Wyoming. With the variability in State appropriations, as well as fluctuation in local valuation that drives local funding, the College seeks other options for assisting with key operations. This may present a good opportunity to explore the potential of endowed faculty positions at LCCC. These positions come with extreme pride, both for the donor whose name would grace the position, but also for the faculty member who would hold the endowed position. Given some State match money will be available in the coming year, and the potential for a few large gifts also exists, securing the first endowed faculty position at the College would be a worthwhile and achievable goal.

Priority #5: Donor and Community Relations

This will remain a priority for the College, and I recognize it is an ongoing effort and focus of the Foundation. I would highly encourage the College and Foundation to continue exploring new opportunities or vehicles in which we could (1) cultivate new relationships with prospective donors, (2) strengthen budding relationships with donors who are still relatively young in their engagement with the LCCCF, (3) help take donors with mature relationships with the LCCCF to higher levels of engagement and giving, and (4) further strengthen relationships with our elected officials, primarily our State legislators. We will continue to encourage the creation of a formal prospect and a donor tracking mechanism that will help us measure the number of current and potential LCCCF donors and their growth in giving over the duration of their relationship with us.

Conclusion

In summary, these priorities have been established with a timeframe of 2015 through 2018, and we are now through the half-way point. While the priorities for FY17 are a refinement of those multi-year priorities, and although there are some changes, it should be consistent with what the College has asked from the Foundation in previous years. Overall, I believe these reflect the most relevant areas where philanthropy can help move LCCC into the future, and most importantly, strengthen our ability to engage, educate, and ultimately change the lives of our students.

Sometime in the near future, the Board of Trustees, and I, would appreciate an update from the Foundation on progress made towards accomplishing these priorities. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff, I thank each of you for your support of Laramie County Community College's priorities. I know your support of and commitment to LCCC is of the utmost importance in accomplishing these.