

# THE TALON

**BUILDING FORWARD...**

*Your chance to invest in  
Laramie County's Future*

Story on page 10



**GEN. CHUCK WING:**

**Dedicated to his country, his family and to LCCC**

Story on page 8

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◀ Tyler Colley is one of 15 students in the newly resurrected welding program at LCCC. "I like that we are getting lots of hands-on experience with a teacher who worked in the field," he said.

Sam Graham, welding instructor, said this first year he will work the kinks out of the program; however, his students will earn a certificate by the end of the spring 2014 semester and will be on track to earn an associate of applied science degree by the end of the second year with skills in such areas as arc welding, blueprint reading and shop safety.



## VOLUME TWENTYONE

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### GREETINGS FROM LARAMIE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE!

To me, there is no better work than that done within the walls of a community college. Our very purpose is both inspiring and compelling. Ultimately we exist because of the commitment our communities, state, and nation have made for the chance at a life enriched through higher education. Your commitment and, yes, investment in our work is critical in developing successful individuals, a thriving economy, and a vibrant community.

Our publication is familiar to most of you. For those of you familiar and those new to *The Talon*, we believe it provides a profound opportunity to share with our community of students, supporters, benefactors and advocates exactly how well your investment in LCCC is paying off. Within the following pages, you will discover many of the inspirational stories you have come to appreciate in *The Talon* magazine. We'll also keep you updated on some of the happenings here at LCCC. In addition, we want to share a new "campus highlights" report that illustrates some of our most proud accomplishments within specific areas unique to our mission as a community college.

This past year roughly marked the beginning of transformational change at LCCC. The staunch commitment of our faculty and staff, our community, has positioned us for the future. We embrace the notion of accountability. We will do this internally through a deliberate focus on the success of our students, our contributions to the community, the wise use of precious resources, and an emphasis on continuous improvement. In short, we are building forward.

But we need your help. Today, a college education is more important than ever for our students. To better serve them in achieving their educational goals, LCCC faces some significant hurdles. Nothing is more critical at this juncture than our need for additional instructional and student support space here on the Cheyenne campus. I would encourage you to read through our information in this edition of *The Talon* pertaining to our Building Forward campaign. And if you are moved by the need and opportunity this campaign addresses, I would encourage you to support the campaign.

It is an exciting time to be part of the LCCC community, and, like our students, we have high aspirations of the things we will accomplish in the future. You have my personal commitment that in the future we will lead the way in serving our students, our community, and the great state of Wyoming. We do – and will continue to – transform the lives of our students through the power of inspired learning!

Sincerely,

Joe Schaffer, Ed.D  
President



LARAMIE COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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# CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

In a year of change and growth at Laramie County Community College, there was plenty of good news to share.

by Joe Schaffer, LCCC President

Laramie County Community College has a rich history of benefiting the communities we serve. We do this by living the mission of the comprehensive community college, and in so many ways we excel at meeting this mission. The following highlighted areas have shown incredible improvement and have posted excellent results; and we at LCCC are just plain proud of the things that have been accomplished. I know you will share in our pride when you see the impact LCCC is having on our students and community.

## Student Participation and Achievement

At LCCC we monitor both inputs and outputs of our institution; in other words, incoming students who enroll at the College and those who leave us having achieved their goals.

- Enrollment has increased 44 percent over the past decade, and our actual headcount increased 22 percent from FY12 to FY13.
- Our retention rate from fall to fall for our full-time students is well above the national average for community colleges.
- Last year, we awarded the most degrees and certificates in the College's history, which is 61 percent more than were awarded just ten years ago.

## Academic Preparation

LCCC plays a critical role in helping prepare individuals for success in college coursework through early college (concurrent and dual enrollment), developmental and adult basic education.

- Our GED attainment rate is significantly greater than that of the Wyoming average from all GED

programs, with the highest attainment rates in all of Wyoming.

- Ninety-six percent of the high school students who participate in dual and concurrent enrollment at LCCC go on and enroll in college after graduating from high school.
- The success of students in our developmental writing courses continues to rise. As Arshi Riswani-Nisley, instructor in Developmental English, noted:

*"The faculty are redesigning our curriculum to help improve our students' academic success. By offering an integrated reading and writing curriculum in an eight-week accelerated format, we can decrease the amount of time students spend in non-credit classes. These changes should help our students move from basic skills into college level classes in as little as one semester."*

## Transfer Preparations

A historical strength of LCCC has been our ability to successfully prepare students for transfer to a four-year college or university in pursuit of a bachelor's degree.

- Both enrollment in transfer programs and award of transfer degrees – Associate of Arts and Associate of Science – are above our five-year historical averages.
- LCCC has a successful track record when it comes to students transferring to four-year programs. In fact, more than 57 percent of graduates in psychology and education programs successfully transfer to colleges and universities.

## Workforce Development

Through applied programming, our students successfully attain associate of applied science degrees and certificates leading to life-sustaining careers.



Enrollment in these programs has remained strong at LCCC, and the number of credentials awarded is above our five-year average.

- In the fields requiring specific licensure or certification, our graduates continued to experience nearly perfect pass rates on their exams, with 92 percent passing last year – a rate significantly higher than the national average.
- We have added new programs, such as welding and process technology, to meet the needs of community businesses to find skilled employees. These programs in high-demand industries offer students an opportunity to enter the workforce immediately upon achieving their certificates. HollyFrontier vice president and refinery manager Kevin Burke shared with us:

*“There are kids out there who want to get into a job. They want to get out there and start getting that paycheck right away, and they don’t want to go over to Laramie or down to CSU; they want to get out into the industry right now.”*

## Community Development


As the community’s college, we support social and economic development through outreach, lifelong learning and active partnerships. And we do this quite well.

- Last year alone, we served 155 different businesses and organizations through customized training and courses relevant to their daily operations.
- We had nearly 5,000 enrollments in our customized training programs and non-credit life enrichment courses.
- Our cultural events are some of the strongest in the area, with the help of the Foundation’s ten endowed programs and two annually funded



programs, as well as featured performances and exhibits from our performing and visual art programs.

- This year, the Certified Public Manager program will have 3.5 times the number of students starting the program than previous years. With articulation agreements at the University of Wyoming and University of Nebraska-Omaha, the condensed program is a practical, applied version of a master’s in public administration.

These highlights illustrate just some of the many good things happening at LCCC. We also recognize there is work we have yet to do, and opportunities we have yet to grasp. Much of our work in the coming years will be doing just that: focusing our time, talent, and resources on improving our performance as an institution and the success of our students, as well as ultimately helping improve our community. Of course we simply cannot forget the names and faces behind our work. For each area we improve, there are students who achieve their educational goals and go on to a better life. When we help our students, we are helping shape our society and economy. In the end, that is really why we are here. 



# OFF THE BEATEN PATH

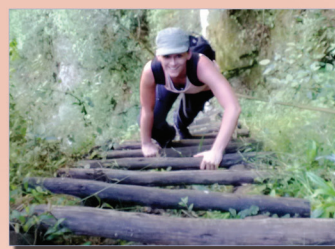
## Peruvian adventure holds valuable life lesson

by Ty Stockton

"Be grateful for what you've got," says Ashlee Langston-Struempf. "Not everybody has the freedom and opportunities that we do (in the United States)."

That was the take-home message she learned in Juan-Antonio Bernabéu's Intensive Spanish Abroad class last summer. Bernabéu took seven students in SPAN 1071 and SPAN 2070 to Peru, where they were immersed in the Spanish language and Peruvian culture for nearly three weeks.

"My Spanish before the trip was most definitely conversational," Langston-Struempf says. "Many of my close friends are native speakers, and some speak very little English. In Peru, I spent a few weeks among some very educated people and learned a new side of Spanish. They spoke proper Spanish and taught me some key grammar points. I do have more confidence talking to other native Spanish speakers now."





Ashtyn Kilpatrick echoes Langston-Struempf's sentiments. "Before the trip, I thought I had a fairly decent grasp of Spanish, but once I got there and started trying to communicate in Spanish on a day-to-day basis with my host family, I found that I did not know as much as I had thought," she says. "I definitely have more confidence speaking Spanish now; using the language in everyday conversation helped me to become more confident, because I had to learn how to communicate clearly and effectively and also clearly understand what was being said to me."

But the trip was about much more than the language. Bernabéu makes sure to include as many opportunities to learn about the culture of foreign places as he can fit into the trips – whether they be archaeological sites, less-publicized natural wonders, or working directly with the people who call those places home.

"We did a service learning project with some kindergarteners," Kilpatrick says. "Some days we read to the kids, helped them with crafts, or helped teach them songs, both in English and Spanish. We also helped the kids get cleaned up for lunch and helped clean up the classroom after lunch and crafts, which was no easy feat. The work was very rewarding, but was also very difficult at times." She adds that in addition to speaking Spanish, many of the children also spoke Quechua, which added to the difficulty, but also made the successes more rewarding.

"I really learned a lot about their home lives," adds Langston-Struempf.

Bernabeu says the service learning projects, while difficult, are often the highlight of the class.

"It touches the students," he says. "They get to make a difference in the lives of these people, and it touches them."

It touches the Peruvian children, too. Bernabeu says he doesn't return to the same towns each year when he takes his classes to Peru, but he eventually works his way back. When he does, children he met years ago will run up to him, recognize him, and hug him.

"You can't get that feeling any other way," he says.

Bernabeu's students don't spend all their time with the children, though.


"We visit Macchu Picchu and other ruins," he says. They see these sights in order to get a better handle on the Peruvian culture, but in the presence of these incredible structures, awe and wonder sometimes take over and leave even the instructor speechless.

"Macchu Picchu was incredible," Langston-Struempf says. "Some of the ruins were larger than others, but they all showed a tremendous stone-working ability. The way the naturally formed rocks had been worked and reshaped was incredible."

Whether the class was touring ancient ruins, speaking with store owners in Cusco, or teaching kindergarteners in the Santa Rosa schools for impoverished children about hygiene and healthy choices, though, Langston-Struempf says the class taught her more than she ever dreamed she'd learn.


"Being born in the United States gives you an advantage in life," she says. "We have access to higher education, we are taught that our voice counts politically, and our day-to-day struggles don't generally include finding clean water, food and general necessities. Here in the United States, we have an expectation of stable living environments that not everyone in the world does."

Bernabeu is working now on his next Intensive Spanish Abroad class. This next summer, he intends to travel with his students to his native Spain.

For more information about this class, please email Bernabeu at [JBernabe@lccc.wy.edu](mailto:JBernabe@lccc.wy.edu). 







“Discipline is the soul of an army.  
It makes small numbers formidable;  
procures success to the weak, and esteem to all.”  
— George Washington

# Soul of an Army

by Melonie Jones

Winning the Revolutionary War required more than blood, guts and empty bravado; and once our first president George Washington realized he would need discipline, as well as strong leadership, to prepare his ragtag army of farmers and colonists for clashing with the English military forces, success was inevitable. For it is discipline – obedience, restraint, training and a strong work ethic – that is necessary to accomplish the end goal: a nation in control of its own destiny.

For one recent graduate of Laramie County Community College, with discipline she became an army of one.

Paula Luther's story begins in the tiny town of Bair Station, Penn., where she currently lives with her family. She was home-schooled along with her older sister, starting with math and reading at the age of three. She was involved with her local 4-H, participating with the rabbit and small animal club, the wildlife watchers club, the model horse club, the square dance club and the shooting club, and served as an officer in many of these clubs. Paula also is an accomplished square dancer, competing in the statewide Pennsylvania Farm Show with her friends.

This humble, down-home beginning is what prepared Paula for the rigors of her chosen path to college – a degree in computer information systems, specifically in web page authoring – completed in just two years and all online from half a nation away at Laramie County Community College.

College classes delivered via the World Wide Web are convenient, allowing the student to learn the course material at her own pace at a favorable time wherever a secure Internet connection is available; however, the student must possess skills in self-motivation, time management and dedication – discipline.

Paula embodies all these skills. From an early age, her homeschooling prepared her for the commitment her online classes required. Not wanting to leave her

family, friends and duties as a 4-H club leader and her dance group, she investigated the opportunities of acquiring a higher education all online from her tiny hometown of Bair Station. In her search she discovered LCCC and connected with the staff and faculty in Cheyenne, a place she had never envisioned ever visiting. And so, armed with an LCCC Golden Eagle scholarship and a love for web authoring, she enrolled, contacted her new faculty adviser, and proceeded to achieve her goals of a degree and a future career building web pages for a living, all while still enjoying her life in Pennsylvania.

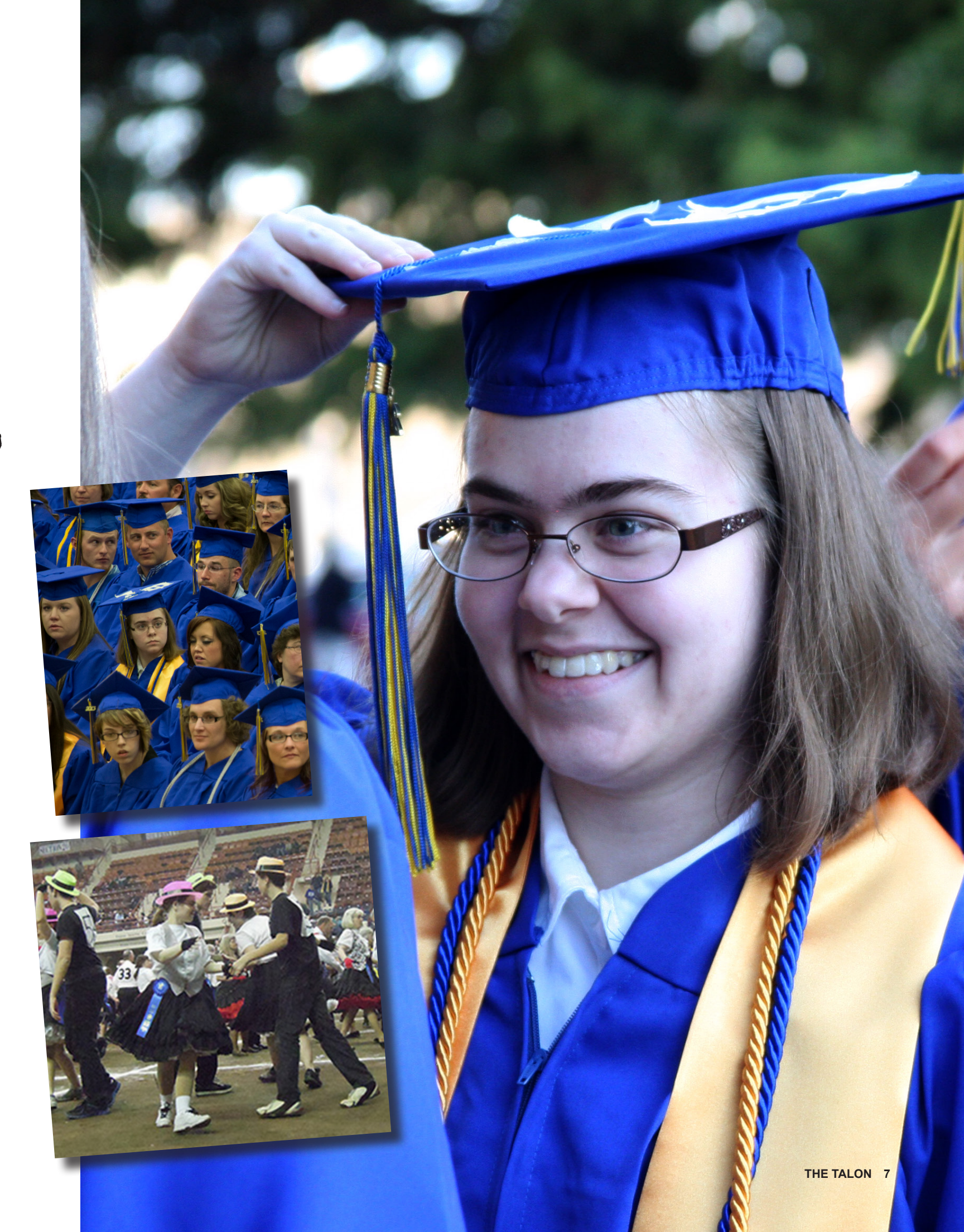
Her instructor and advisor, Kari Brown-Herbst explained that Paula was diligent and motivated in her studies. “Being so geographically separated from the campus Paula didn’t have the luxury of being able to ‘drop by’ to try and find folks who could answer her questions. She needed to be her own best advocate.”

Paula said that while she sometimes wished she could have had the whole campus experience, she was able to continue her volunteering leadership role with 4-H, stay in Bair Station and continue doing the activities she loved with her friends. “I loved LCCC. The classes were interesting, the faculty was extremely helpful and friendly, and I felt as though I was part of college life even though I was two time zones away.”

And the culmination of her experience at LCCC happened this past May when Paula and her parents made the trip from Pennsylvania to Cheyenne so she could walk across the stage and receive her degree from President Joe Schaffer in person.

LCCC graduate Paula Luther personifies the spirit of perseverance, and – despite her busy life 1,500 miles away – with drive, determination and a whole wagonload of discipline, she proved goals can be achieved, and her army of one will now march forth in control of her own destiny and conquer her world! ♦







# Family In Many Forms

*General Charles "Chuck" Wing gives a commanding commitment to LCCC*

by Troy Rumpf



"You were right, Dad."

Simple words, but ones every parent would love to hear more often.

They came from the mouth of Keith Wing, youngest son of Major General Charles J. Wing, known as "Chuck" by just about everyone who meets him. Chuck and his wife Jo Dell had talked with Keith about going to Laramie County Community College directly out of high school, rather than jumping right into a four-year university. Keith declined and headed off to college that fall.

It didn't go well. Facing obstacles, Keith decided to return to Cheyenne. As his parents could foresee, he thrived at LCCC, which led to a successful stint at the University of Wyoming, which ultimately sent him to a highly successful career as an engineer in Washington.

"Keith has told me that now he knows he needed to start at a community college," Wing remembers. "To this day, he swears that he never would have made it without the semesters at LCCC."

## An Officer and A Gentleman

Chuck Wing was born in South Dakota but raised in Newcastle, Wyo. Retired now, he and Jo Dell spend a great deal of time with the family, which includes 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. But to know Gen. Wing, it helps to understand what brought him to this point.

He enlisted in the Wyoming Army National Guard more than 60 years ago and entered the U.S. Army in 1954. After serving in Germany and later Texas, he rejoined the Wyoming National Guard as an Army aviator. He then served as commander of a field artillery battalion and subsequently an artillery group. He later served as Assistant Adjutant General Army and as Commander, State Area Command.

Mike Sullivan, governor of Wyoming from 1987 to 1995, appointed him as Adjutant General for the Wyoming National Guard in his first year in office. With Wing's reputation firmly in place locally and across the state, the popular governor never vacillated on his choice.

"It was a major decision in a new administration, and I never regretted that decision," Sullivan said. "Chuck Wing served me, the Guard and the people of the state of Wyoming with distinction and unquestionable character. Chuck is someone who loves people and has always been a leader. His intellect, energy, enthusiasm, integrity and love of Wyoming and his family have combined to make Chuck an outstanding and valued citizen."

Chuck earned his bachelor's, master's, and a doctorate of education from the University of Wyoming. An educator in Laramie County School District No. 1 for 25 years, he served as teacher, counselor, principal and assistant superintendent for personnel. In fact, he also was the executive secretary for the Wyoming Community College Commission in the early 1970s. In that time, he had a chance to see the changing landscape and growth of LCCC.

He takes a moment to glance around LCCC's new dining room, taking in all the changes that have happened on campus in more than 45 years. "I remember when the community didn't have these facilities," he muses. "The classes were downtown for a few years, in the basement of a church even. Now, it's grown into the largest community college in the state."

## All In The Family

Family is really what helps set Chuck apart, especially when considering the fact that his family reaches beyond the traditional definition of the word. His family comes in many forms: Jo Dell, his wife of 58 years, and their four children, eleven grandchildren,



and one great-grandchild. His family also is the military community, of which he proudly served this country in many capacities. Finally, there is his LCCC family.

His dedication to the college is telling in many ways. To begin, all four of his children attended LCCC before moving on to incredibly successful and varied careers. Each of the Wing children attended for different reasons and with different expectations. LCCC meant something special to each of them; they all took away something from LCCC that was unique and appropriate to their individual experience.

- Stephanie, the firstborn, obtained an associate degree in office occupations. She worked in the private and public sector, and even ran her own business for a number of years. After working for some time in Colorado, she has returned to Cheyenne and works with Laramie County School District No. 1.
- Brent attended LCCC on athletic scholarship, playing basketball as a Golden Eagle. He then received a degree in accounting from UW, and eventually relocated to Great Falls, Mont., where for the past 15 years he has owned and operated Healthcare Financial Services. In a highly specialized industry, according to Wing he is able to use what he learned at LCCC to help keep him ahead of the game.
- Dina, following in her father's footsteps, also walked the path of an educational career. She recently finished her 22nd year as an elementary school teacher. She began in Douglas, Wyo., and has spent most of her career in Cheyenne including Cole and Jessup elementary schools. She took coursework at LCCC and was able to finish her degree at UW.
- As mentioned earlier, Keith started at UW but returned to Cheyenne to take classes at LCCC. "He was so impressed with the instructors and the size of classes," Wing recalls. Since then, Keith graduated from the University of Wyoming in architectural/structural engineering. For the past 15 years, he has served as a flight test engineer at Boeing in Seattle.

On top of all that, both of Chuck's sons followed in his military footsteps: Brent served in the Wyoming Army National Guard for six years, and Keith spent six years in the Wyoming Air National Guard.

## Stand and Deliver

To honor Chuck, the Wyoming National Guard Family Program set up the Major General Charles J. Wing Family Scholarship which supports students attending LCCC. The original scholarship was started through the Family Support Service upon his retirement in 1995 and later moved to LCCC to take advantage of the matching funds.

"Chuck exemplifies 'community' more than just about anyone I know," Brenda Laird said. Laird serves as the director of scholarships and annual giving for the LCCC Foundation.

He's been a supporter of education from the beginning – to this day he still talks about the importance of education and the community college's role in helping



all who wish to get an education.

Laird notes that Chuck understands the community college's mission which is to bring affordable education to all, and his family has been proof of that. The scholarship was endowed because

of the Wyoming National Guard's appreciation for General Wing and the knowledge of how Wing wanted to help those who could not afford college, whether they be civilians or members of the military.

Funds to support the scholarship have come from numerous people wanting to share in Wing's ideal and what he represents. These people honor him by helping to give opportunities for these students.

"Chuck has never quit fighting for education, especially for members of the National Guard," Laird

said, sharing a sentiment that many in the community also feel has been one of his strengths.

When it comes to helping find funds to support the scholarship,

Laird said the task is made all the easier simply for what Chuck has brought to Cheyenne. "Chuck is so well connected in the community, so tender with the college and its students," Laird said. "I talk to so many people who just smile and share stories as soon as they hear his name."

Wherever Chuck goes, he's got family. Whether it's the military, the schools and colleges, or his own flesh and blood, there always seems to be someone willing to say something positive about him and what he's done for LCCC, the community and the state.

But he's not one to keep the spotlight on him. He'd much rather spend his time talking about the work of others.

"What a tremendous asset LCCC is," Chuck said, "not only for Cheyenne but for the surrounding areas and the state. With both traditional education and vocational education, there are some wonderful opportunities right here."

He pauses here, taking a moment to contemplate in a way that only someone with a rich history and broad experience can.

"As far as I'm concerned, LCCC is the last of the great bargains in education." ❖

*If you'd like to donate to this or any other scholarship fund, please contact Brenda Laird at 307.778.1372 or [blaird@lcccfoundation.edu](mailto:blaird@lcccfoundation.edu)*

*Laramie County Community College*

# BUILDING FORWARD



*The upcoming bond election is a chance to invest in Laramie County's future*

By Lisa Murphy  
LCCC Foundation

Laramie County Community College is Building Forward. We're serving more students than ever before, in more programs than we've ever offered, but the demand continues to increase.

For any business, an increase in demand is welcome. The challenge comes in figuring out how to serve all those new customers, and the same is true at LCCC.

Each student requires a certain amount of space. They need desks, classrooms, study spaces, and places to relax. And with the fast-paced nature of the modern world, they need a logical, one-stop location where they can enroll in classes, pay their tuition, plan for the next semester, get their financial aid, and register for graduation.

However, the college is out of space. Each year, more students come through our doors and begin the journey to higher incomes and better jobs. When LCCC updated its master plan, a space audit found that the college had already outgrown its facilities. Currently, LCCC needs an additional 40,000 square feet just to meet the needs of its current students. If the campus grows a mere 10 percent over the next decade, it will require an additional 155,000 square feet – and it is projected to grow much more than 10 percent in that time.





## A good time to build

For several years, we've been making do with what we've had. We've moved classes and office spaces around, turned storage spaces into offices, and maximized our available space. And for a while, that worked. But as the college continues to grow, we no longer have places to put people, and the daily business required to serve the students is becoming more inefficient.

For instance, when students come to register, they have to enroll at one desk, move to another to complete their financial aid packages, walk to a third to register for classes, and visit a fourth – across campus – to pay their bills. Advisers who can help the students choose the right classes for their chosen field of study are located in another area of campus. This is daunting for new students and irritating for returning students, and it's horribly inefficient for the college staff members who have to compile the records of each of those students.

Furthermore, local industries have approached us and asked if we could offer classes that would help build a workforce to staff the well-paying jobs that are available right here in Laramie County. Those employers are ready to hire, but there are few workers in our community with the skills necessary to fill those jobs. These industries have told us they would give our students an opportunity if we can equip them with the knowledge necessary. But we don't have room to offer those programs.

That's why voters in Laramie County are being asked to vote in a bond election on Nov. 5. The only question on the ballot will be a two-mill levy to raise up to \$25 million for the construction of two new buildings on the LCCC campus. If the vote succeeds, property owners in Laramie County will pay for roughly half the cost of the two buildings. Private donations, grants, and capital construction funds will be requested from the State of Wyoming to pay the other half.

And now is the perfect time to make this investment in our county. Interest rates are near historic lows, meaning that the increase will amount to less than \$1.60 per month in property taxes for every \$100,000 in taxable value.

## An investment in Laramie County

But Laramie County will get a big return on that investment. The Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce estimates that 65 percent of jobs in our state require more than a high school education, and that percentage will continue to go up. That means well over half our jobs need at least an associate degree or a training certificate – and LCCC offers both.

If we can make it easier for students to enroll in college, and if we have more space to offer those academic degrees and workforce training certificates, we'll be better poised to help the people of Laramie County get these higher-paying, secure, full-time jobs. The more people we educate in our community, the more we can spread out the tax burden. As more people are paying taxes, the county can offer more services like better roads and education, because fewer people will be needing financial assistance from the county and state. In addition, studies show that as a community's cumulative education increases, crime rates decrease.

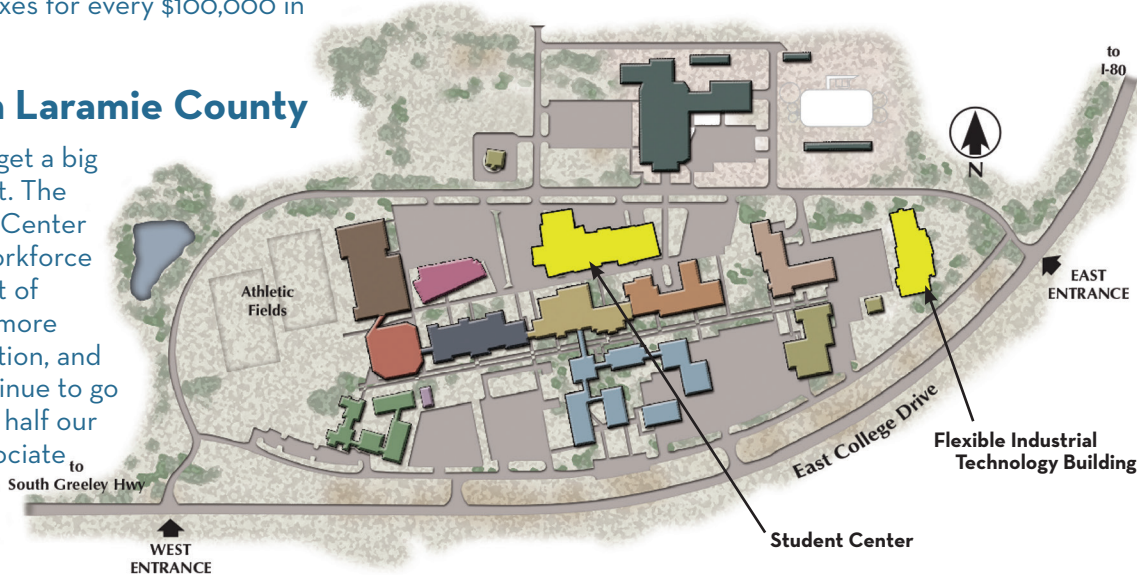
The bottom line is that as more of our county residents earn degrees and certificates, they increase their value to employers and earn more money. They spend that money in our community, benefiting us all.

## We can do better

We're doing a good job of educating our residents now. Our wind energy program is internationally acclaimed, and our nursing and surgical technology students pass the national boards at a rate much higher than the national average. Our auto/diesel students find employment often before graduating, and many other programs earn national awards. But we can do better. And we want to serve the students we currently don't have room for.

But we can't do better in our current facilities. That's why we want to build a student services, instruction and university center, as well as a flexible industrial technology building.

The former will be a 90,000 square foot building to grasp opportunities to resolve many challenges LCCC is facing. In simple terms, the core purpose of the facility is to provide structured support to students and provide help at every step of the college process, from the first thought of college to what comes after a student finishes. What comes after may be the workforce or transfer to bachelor and graduate degrees





at a university. Key highlights of this building – what it will house and what it will facilitate – include:

- Facilitating a better “front door” experience by establishing a true entrance, or gateway into LCCC with easily accessed services;
- Housing a new, comprehensive and innovative approach to student advisement;
- A more prominent presence of the University of Wyoming to better support transferring students, students working on bachelor and graduate degrees in Cheyenne, and the community in general;
- Specialized instructional spaces such as online and tele-video classrooms, science laboratories, and computer and technology centers;
- Integrated and intuitive student services in a centralized, “one-stop shop” where students can access everything from admissions, financial aid, advising, and counseling, to testing, book store, bill payment, and career services; and
- A large multipurpose community conference, events, assembly, and instructional center.

The other building focuses on the opportunities for students to move quickly into high-demand jobs in Laramie County. The 49,500 square foot flexible industrial technology building will provide direly needed specialized instructional space focused on high-tech, industrial technologies in areas such as:

- Welding and metals fabrication;
- Diesel and automotive technology;
- Process technology and industrial site safety; and
- Potential new areas such as manufacturing technology.

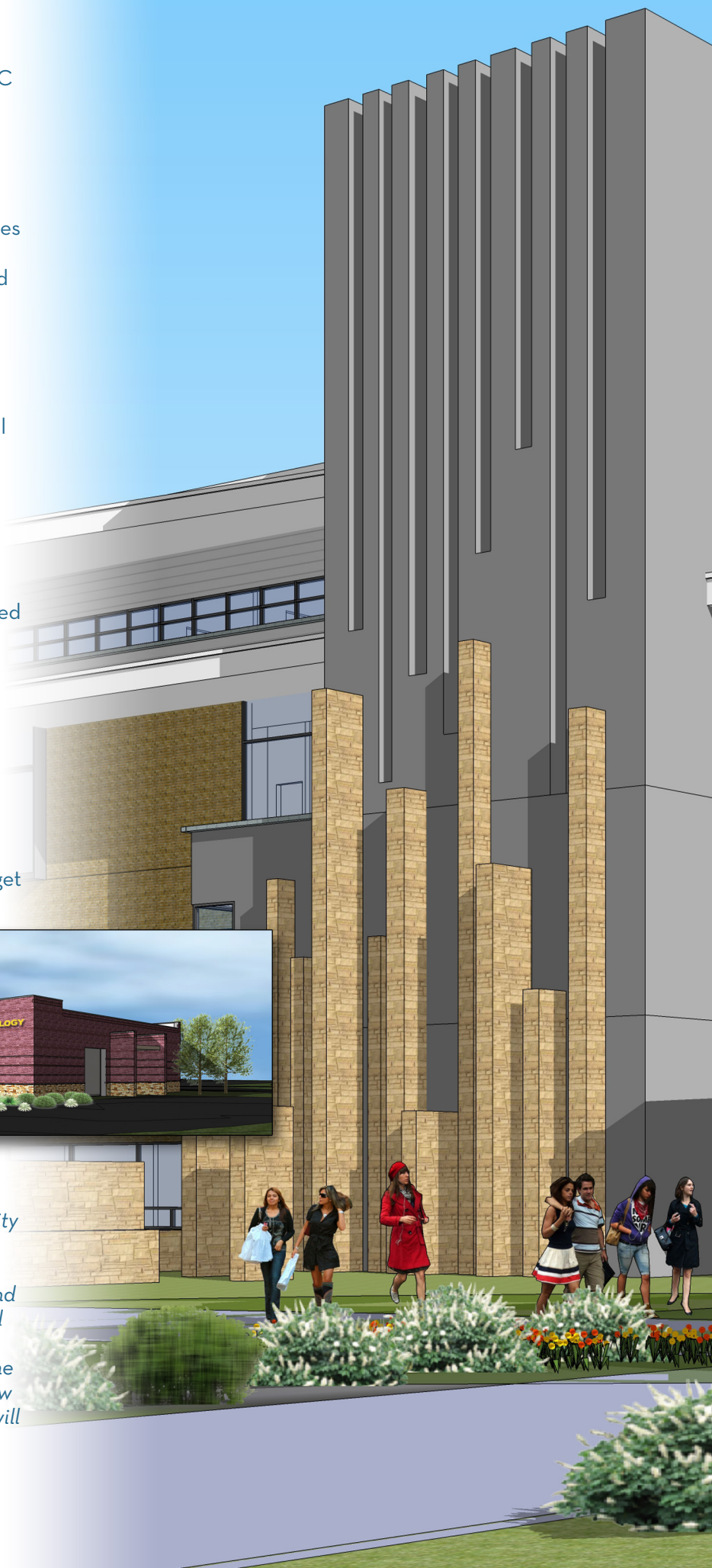
For more information on the buildings needed at Laramie County Community College, please visit [BuildLCCC.com](http://BuildLCCC.com) or call 778.1285. And please don't forget to vote on Nov. 5. ♦



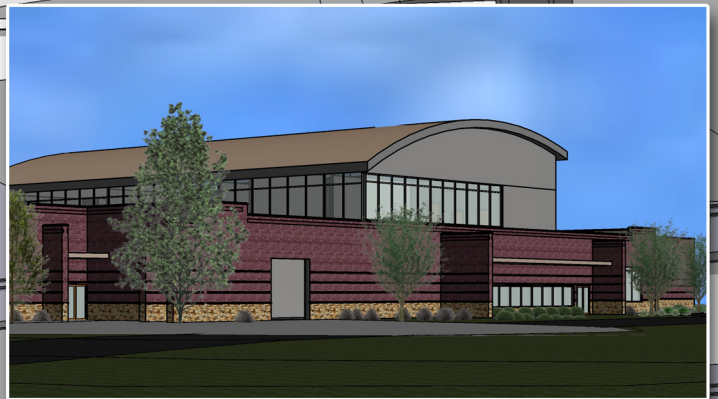
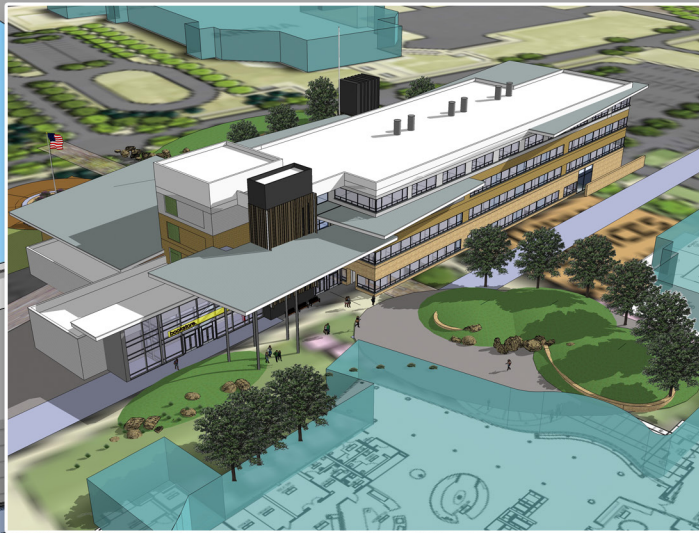
## Building Forward ... Into the Future

*The proposed student services, instruction and university center and flexible industrial technology buildings are only the first steps of the Laramie County Community College Master Plan. The college continues to grow, and with that growth comes a need for new and specialized instructional spaces.*

*In the years to come, LCCC plans to build a new fine and performing arts center, expand its housing with new residence halls, and possibly a recreation center that will be open to the public.*







**student center**





# THE OF OUR BACKBONE INSTITUTION

## *An inside look at LCCC President's Cabinet*

by Melonie Jones

While Laramie County Community College endeavors to “Build Forward” through the upcoming special election in November and physically construct new buildings on campus, various events and restructuring already have been occurring behind the scenes for the past year.

Just as a chain is only as strong as its weakest link, President Joe Schaffer realized how important this backbone of the college would be in the coming months and years to ensure the success of creating a college shining at the forefront in the Western region. This intangible infrastructure, the leadership and determination of the people at the helm of the college, will be just as important as the brick and mortar surrounding them.

One of the most important components to this restructuring of the college began with the President's Cabinet — the organization consisting of the vice presidents of Academic Affairs, Administration and Finance, Student Services, Human Resources, Institutional Advancement (Public Relations and Foundation), Institutional Effectiveness (Information Technology, Grants and Research) and the Albany County Campus.

“Leadership isn't everything in an effective organization, but vision is. Having an executive leadership team that shares and can convey a compelling vision to the College is one of our most important first steps toward excellence,” President Schaffer said.

“I wanted an executive team and structure that would be tenacious in their

pursuit of organizational excellence. That team is formed, and we are well on our way,” he added.

The Cabinet considers ideas and proposals for the betterment of the college and is responsible for:

- discussion of issues affecting LCCC, including but not limited to policies and procedures;
- recommendations of action for the board of trustees;
- agenda proposals for board meetings;
- crisis management;
- budget planning;
- filling of vacant positions;
- communication with outside agencies.

Dr. Jose Fierro, Vice President of Academic Affairs and one of the newest members on the cabinet, said the main objective is to build relations within the campus and with the Laramie and Albany County communities, to focus and understand the current demands of the region and align those needs with the institution.

“Once we are able to change current practices, there is no reason why LCCC can't become the No. 1 community college in the region within the next five years,” he predicted.

And with student success as a main objective, with completion rates on the rise, LCCC is “Building Forward” to benchmark with community colleges on a national level. ❖





## Dr. Jose Fierro

Vice President of Academic Affairs

**Hometown:** Madison, Wisconsin and Bogota, Colombia

**Alma Mater and degrees:** DVM, Universidad de Ciencias Aplicadas y Ambientales; MS, Nova Southeastern University; Ph.D, Northcentral University

**Hobbies and interests:** Swimming, biking, and running (triathlon), traveling, reading

**Why do you LOVE to work at LCCC:**  
"The friendliness of the people and the opportunity to be part of a great team of professionals with similar interests."



## Dr. Judy Hay

Vice President of Academic Affairs

**Hometown:** Born in Salmon, Idaho and raised in Missoula, Montana

**Alma Mater and degrees:** BS Education, Montana State University; Special Education endorsement/minor, University of Montana; M Ed Adult and Higher Education, Montana State University

**Hobbies and interests:** All things outdoors! Skiing (water, snow), hiking, backpacking, bicycling, kayaking, rafting, etc. Volunteering in human service areas: working with troubled youth, adults with disabilities, homeless, Habitat for Humanity, and food pantries.

**Why do you LOVE to work at LCCC:**  
"I love working at LCCC because of the people. Both the employees and the students here have been wonderful to work with. The students have shown me what leaders they can be when given the chance and how excited they are to be here."



## Lisa Murphy

Associate Vice President of Institutional Advancement

**Hometown:** Born in American Falls, Idaho, and raised in Cheyenne, Wyoming

**Alma Mater and degrees:** BA Colorado State University; MA University of Wyoming; Leadership Wyoming, 2006

**Hobbies and interests:** Horseback riding, her three dogs, scrapbooking her adventures and travels; Cheyenne Frontier Days volunteer and CFD Board of Directors, Visit Cheyenne Board

**Why do you LOVE to work at LCCC:**  
"I have had the privilege of working at LCCC for the past eight years, and I LOVE the opportunity to contribute to the lives of others. At LCCC there are so many people who dedicate themselves to make the lives of our students better."



## Carol Hoglund

Vice President of Administration and Finance Services

**Hometown:** Windsor, Colorado

**Alma Mater and degrees:** MS Colorado State University

**Hobbies and interests:** Sewing, shopping on ebay

**Why do you LOVE to work at LCCC:**  
"The people! They are so helpful and great to work with. They genuinely want students to succeed."



## Peggie Kresl-Hotz

Director, Human Resources

**Hometown:** Born in Fort Benning, Georgia, raised in Parker, Colorado, lived in Cheyenne since 1993

**Alma Mater and degrees:** BS and MA, University of South Dakota

**Hobbies and interests:** Family, fishing, camping, hunting, horses and the great outdoors

**Why do you LOVE to work at LCCC:**  
"There are a lot of very good people here who care deeply about our students and who work tirelessly to enhance their lives. I believe the work I do to support these great folks is very rewarding!"



## Dr. Kim Bender

Associate Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness

**Hometown:** New Salem, North Dakota

**Alma Mater and degrees:** MA and PhD, University of Oklahoma

**Hobbies and interests:** The study of U.S. History, tennis and backpacking



## Kathleen Urban

Interim, Associate Vice President, Albany County Campus

**Hometown:** Ruston, Louisiana

**Alma Mater and degrees:** BA American Studies, University of Wyoming; MA American Studies, University of Maryland, College Park; J.D. Law, George Washington University, National Law Center, Washington, D.C.

**Hobbies and interests:** Reading, singing, hanging out with cats (actual felines), travel, hiking, yoga

**Why do you LOVE to work at LCCC:**  
"I love the students, the people; there is never a dull moment!"



# The Poet the Teacher

by Troy Rumpf

For students past and present who turned away from reading and literature for fear of being wrong or not “getting it,” then you’ll wish that you had an instructor like Kristin Abraham.

“Most students of literature have been taught in the past that there is one correct interpretation, and if that is different from what the teacher or textbook says, the students are told they are incorrect,” Abraham shared. “Creative and critical thinking can be stifled, and it also can potentially ruin some students’ enjoyment of reading.”

Abraham, who teaches composition and creative writing at LCCC, is the author of the recently published book of poetry, *The Disappearing Cowboy Trick* (Horse Less Press). While she has been published previously, this is her first full-length book.

The journey for Abraham and the book was years in the making. “The poems in *The Disappearing Cowboy Trick* are part of a nearly ten-year effort to explore cowboy language and lifestyle,” she said. “While writing the poems, I also became interested in Depression-era magicians and the carnival lifestyle as well as Mormon beliefs and practices. Each of these topics found its way into many of the poems in the book.”

Originally from Michigan, Abraham earned a Master of Fine Arts in poetry writing from West Virginia University. After serving as an assistant professor at a private college in Michigan, she then accepted a similar position at a university in Iowa.

Then, following a summer writing residency at Ucross in northern Wyoming, Abraham fell in love with the state and actively sought a teaching position in the high plains.

“To put it plainly, I chose LCCC because I wanted to teach in a place where my colleagues and I are collaboratively and respectfully working toward the same goal: the students.”

Poetry can be daunting to some readers, but Abraham sees it differently and in a way that reaches into her teaching style.

“I share with students that sometimes authors don’t even know what they mean by a certain line or phrase,” she said. “Sometimes, authors only intend a particular emotional response even if their language doesn’t make sense. This can take a lot of pressure off of a reader.”

She follows this philosophy even with her own work, including *The Disappearing Cowboy Trick*.

“There is never one meaning I intend for readers to decipher after they read one of my pieces.”

While difficult to categorize, Abraham’s poetry can be considered lyric-narrative poetry, which experiments with traditional storytelling language while subverting readers’ expectations about traditional narratives. She feels that her goal is to produce for the reader an emotional landscape, “punched-in-the-gut” visceral response; she leaves the rest of the experience open to reader interpretation.

Ever the writer and not one to back away from a challenging subject, Abraham just completed a new poetry chapbook called *Swallow Your Archetype*. The poems in this collection are a part of a larger series that explores contemporary American female archetypes with a series of poems that attempt to investigate self-hatred that some women and girls internalize.

Previously, Abraham published two poetry chapbooks: *Little Red Riding Hood Missed the Bus* (Subito Press, 2008) and *Orange Reminds You of Listening* (Elixir Press, 2006). Her work has appeared in numerous publications, including *Best New Poets 2005*, *American Letters & Commentary*, *Columbia Poetry Review*, and *LIT*, among others. She is also the founding editor of *Spittoon Press* and poetry editor of *Spittoon*, an online literary journal. ❖



# *Little Miss Skeleton in Her Closet*

Years later, in the town's only lake, the lantern's ray sifts the green water and flickers at its own farthest yellow arm, cloudy with silt trailing into and out of this light—as if saying *follow me, here is where you'll find it*, coaxing toward pitch and muck: the rusted-out car gone over the bridge, with its bride and the hole in her head, veil trailing, fish-nibbled, into the gloam; golf balls shot from the banks, arrows zinged in carp season; old burlap packed with litters of puppy bones; wagon wheels; antlers; rust-crusted coffee pots. It was supposed to be content, how we had always thought of this water, surveyed across the still surface, so close to cracking, sick of playing pretend all the time in our heads.

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# BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION

by Lisa Trimble

Change creates an uneasy feeling for many, but for the Laramie County Community College Foundation, change has been exciting over the past year. Change has meant new staff members, a new location on campus and becoming part of a new division at LCCC.

In July of last year when the Foundation became part of the new division of Institutional Advancement, through an agreement between the Foundation Board of Directors and the College's Board of Trustees, it was relocated to be closer to the public relations office in an office space that allowed for staff growth.

Not only did the Foundation find a new home in July, they were also appointed a new director: Lisa Murphy. Lisa was assigned to the position on an interim basis until April, when she was officially hired for the position. Lisa has been with LCCC since 2005, serving as the Director of Public Relations.

Lisa now serves as the Associate Vice President of Institutional Advancement, overseeing the Foundation Office, the Public Relations Department, and the new Director of Public Relations, Ty Stockton. Lisa said, "Developing this division has been a wonderful challenge and has benefited both departments. I am truly blessed to have this opportunity to work with talented staff and so many people who want to make a difference in the lives of our students."

Prior to her previous position at LCCC, Lisa served as the Public Affairs Manager at the Wyoming Department of Transportation. Cheyenne is her home, and Lisa is a former Miss Rodeo Wyoming. She took classes at LCCC when she was completing both her undergraduate and graduate degrees. She currently serves on the Visit Cheyenne and Cheyenne Frontier Days Board of Directors.

This new structure for the Foundation Office did not just include a new director, but also included hiring a new Director of Corporate Development to manage the corporate gifts and relationships the Foundation

Office has with the community and the region. In April, Tucker Stover was hired to fill this position. Tucker, his wife Leann and their one-year-old son Tristan moved to Cheyenne from the Denver area where he worked for Starwood Hotels as a Corporate Development Officer.

Tucker said, "I've joined a great team at the LCCC Foundation. What excited me about the position was that we have the chance to create opportunities for students to meet their educational goals and career aspirations with our hard work. Cheyenne has an amazing business community committed to helping our students."

Tucker has taken an active role in getting to know the Cheyenne community by working with Dr. Joe Schaffer, Murphy and Brenda Laird, the Foundation's Director of Scholarships and Annual Giving, to meet current corporate donors; he has recently joined Cheyenne's noon Rotary Club and is in the current Leadership Cheyenne Class.

Additionally, the foundation office recently hired Diane Germond to serve as the accounting specialist. Diane joins the office with 27 years of experience in academic accounting and previously held the position of Senior Accountant at Weber State in Ogden, Utah. Diane and her husband Craig are excited to establish roots in Cheyenne, as this is where they have always wanted to retire.

While many of the faces and the location of the office have changed, the purpose of the LCCC Foundation has remained the same — to make a positive impact on the students attending LCCC by assisting donors in meeting their goals of providing financial support to our students and the programs that enhance their educational experience. The doors of the foundation are open to assist and welcome you. Please stop by the new office location in the Fine Arts building to visit the Foundation staff, learn more about how you can support LCCC students or to simply introduce yourself to the new staff members. ❖



“What excited me about the position was that we have the chance to create opportunities for students to meet their educational goals and career aspirations with our hard work. Cheyenne has an amazing business community committed to helping our students.”

– **Tucker Stover,**  
**Director of**  
**Corporate**  
**Development**



Foundation accounting specialist, Diane Germond gives a thumbs-up after early voting for the LCCC special bond election on September 26 at the Laramie County Courthouse.



Lisa Murphy and Tucker Stover tour with our partner, Dyno Nobel.

Lisa Murphy, Associate Vice President of Institutional Advancement, and Tucker Stover, Director of Corporate Development, with current student, Connagher Stumpff, Criminal Psychology Sophomore, in the Residence Hall on campus, explaining what the bond election is and how to register to vote in Laramie County.







# LIVING THE DREAM



## From the University of Louisville to LCCC

by Josh Thein

College life is supposed to be filled with studying, learning and growing. Debatable to some and nonnegotiable to others, athletics is an important piece of the college experience. Athletics at Laramie County Community College is still very much in its infancy, after being reborn in 2002. The program isn't even a teenager yet. It has grown and established itself, but is still trying to figure out what it will become.

The college leadership has committed to giving it some mentorship and guidance by hiring a full-time director of athletics and campus recreation, the first such position in the young program's existence. In the past, the athletics director's duties had always been attached to a coaching position, thus dividing attention and creating a heavy workload.

"Our previous model of a part-time head coach and part-time athletic director left out the recreation part and made it very difficult for a coach to focus on anything but coaching during the competitive season," Vice President of Student Services and supervisor to this new position, Judy Hay said. "This way we have full focus, all of the time, for both essential areas."

Enter Pete Cautilli, the LCCC Golden Eagles' first ever full-time director of athletics and campus recreation. The first thing he has in common with this position is that this is his first time in a position like this too. But that doesn't mean he joins the college with minimal experience. He has 26 years in the business of collegiate athletics, with specific strengths in administration, business, fiscal management, marketing, facilities and teaching. He has a strong résumé working with different athletic departments including: Dartmouth, Bucknell, Idaho State, Colorado State, Saint Louis and Louisville. If you know about collegiate athletics or even just watch March Madness, most of these schools probably sound familiar to you. Most notably is the University of Louisville, where Cautilli spent 11 years working in various associate athletic director roles.

"I enjoyed every place I worked," Cautilli said. "But at the same time it got to the point where I wondered, do I really want to keep doing this?"

After spending his entire life in athletics, he took a step back for a year to reevaluate if this was the direction he wanted to take his career and life. He had been bitten by the sports bug early, and it was a part of his upbringing. Baseball, football and basketball were the sports he focused on. His basketball skills took him through college at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania. While Cautilli said he would have loved to ride that career beyond college, he also noted he saw the writing on the wall and that a career in playing basketball wasn't in the cards.

In his senior year, he got a taste of the other side of playing – coaching. He took on an assistant coaching job with the women's basketball team, and when the head coach fell ill for a game, the 22-year-old Pete became Coach Cautilli for a single game. Yes, he won that game. Yes, he will let you know that he is an undefeated basketball coach, 1-0. This experience and his general passion for sports steered him to get a master's degree in sports administration.

During that year after leaving Louisville, he realized that he hadn't achieved the goal he set out to accomplish when he started down this career path. He had worked for many programs and had been a part of successes and failures along the way.

He was riding high with a program at Louisville where major success and national championships were routinely expected. To many, that would be living the dream job.

"I've just been fortunate to be a part of the business and to enjoy the things that I have done," Cautilli said. But his real dream was something else. "I always aspired to be an athletic director at some point in my career, especially early, that was my goal. I thought this really might be an ideal situation."

At LCCC he has been given that shot. The programs here, men's and women's soccer, volleyball, basketball,





equestrian and rodeo already have found their way to regular success with winning records, Region IX championships, national tournament appearances and all-around competitive play. But that hasn't really been the measuring stick for success. For the college, the real bragging is that the student-athletes are putting up big numbers in the classrooms. The cumulative GPAs for the past few years have been around 3.0, which even exceeds the average of the college as a whole.

"I want to develop winners, not just on the court or on the field or in the arena, but also in the classroom and in life," Cautilli said.

With that formula for success already in place, the top priority for Cautilli isn't to just grow and build, but to create stability and strengthen the programs currently in place.

He recognizes that there is a desire to improve facilities and add sports but will work on that over time and make sure it is done the right way. He noted that at Louisville, the president's mantra was, "we are one university." This is an idea that Cautilli brought with him. He wants to work in the best interest of the college and work as a single unit pushing forward to accomplish the goals of LCCC.

Being a *community* college, Cautilli wants to find ways to get the community more involved in LCCC athletics. He wants to build the fan base and build more booster support.

"I want to engage the community," he said. "Really bring LCCC to the community and the community to LCCC."

One idea in the works is a partnership with Storey Gym, scheduling a few Golden Eagles volleyball and basketball games to be played in the known local spot just outside of downtown, bringing some games to a larger venue for increased spectatorship, and truly getting into the community.

Hay said that the main goals she has set for him are to build strong partnerships on campus with all the academic and service areas to ensure the athletes are well integrated, and to build stronger relationships within the local athletic community to bring more local flavor and support to LCCC.

"Pete has some great ideas for connecting our athletics and recreation department and people with the community," Hay said. "I am excited to see his work come to life this fall."

Athletics and recreation are important pieces of the college life to Cautilli. He said that it teaches student-athletes discipline and structure in balancing academics and athletics. Those concepts cross over to the students who get involved in intramurals and other organized campus recreation activities.

"That preparedness that you get really goes a long way in life," he said. "It teaches you a lot of values about life. It'll teach you how to handle winning and how to handle losing. As you go on in life, you're going to have successes and you're going to have failures."

This concept nourishes the character of an individual, which creates successful students who in turn become better citizens and community members. At the community college level, Cautilli said it is extra important to give these students a shot, because they may have life circumstances preventing them from jumping straight to a Division 1 level. At LCCC they can get a shot.

"They get an opportunity to prove to themselves and to others that they can continue to play and continue their academics and be successful," he said. "I look at it as a good opportunity for student athletes to find their niche and to help them grow."

Cautilli and the student-athletes here are given a chance at LCCC to chase their life goals and find success.

"So when they leave here they feel they had a great experience academically and athletically and are able to continue on," Cautilli said. "They leave feeling they really developed and had a good winning spirit and time here." ♦



## SUPER 7

Great athletes? Indeed.  
Outstanding students?  
Absolutely.

The National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) recently announced this year's Athletes of Distinction, including the Academic Student-Athlete Awards.

This year, seven students from Laramie County Community College were honored for their efforts in the classroom as "Athletes of Distinction" by the NJCAA. According to the NJCAA, LCCC had more students recognized than any other such college in the state.

The students who received awards for Superior Academic Achievement, with a grade point average of 3.80-3.99, are Mackenzie Foster, volleyball; McKenzie Long, volleyball; Kelsey Ross, volleyball; Christopher Ruff, soccer; and Jemma Woods, volleyball.

Two students were honored with awards for Exemplary Academic Achievement, which recognizes those with a grade point average of 3.60-3.79: Stefan Becker, basketball; and Shayleen Crank, women's soccer.

To be considered for these awards, students must have completed three full-time semesters and a minimum of

45 semester credit hours of college level work. All college level course work is used in the calculation, in addition to participating in at least one season at the varsity level at the college from which they are nominated.





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## LARAMIE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



### *Alumni & Friends*

As a graduate and friend of Laramie County Community College,  
we invite you to become an active member in our  
*Alumni & Friends* program. Please visit [lcccfoundation.edu](http://lcccfoundation.edu) —  
take a moment to update your alumni record and tell us where you are now.  
In appreciation for your time, you will receive a FREE gift for updating your record!

As an active member of the *LCCC Alumni & Friends* program, you will:

- **Receive updates on campus events, reunions, activities and programs;**
- **Become part of our online alumni database and reconnect with old friends;**
- **Provide personal updates for the “Class Notes” online and in the *Talon Magazine*;**
- **Have the opportunity to win more FREE gifts.**

To update your record, please visit

**[lcccfoundation.edu](http://lcccfoundation.edu)** or call 307.778.1285.

*Thank you, and Go Eagles!*

Main Campus (Cheyenne)

307.778.1357

Albany County Campus (Laramie)

307.721.5138

Eastern Laramie County Outreach Center (Pine Bluffs)

307.245.3595

F.E. Warren Air Force Base Outreach Center (Cheyenne)

307.773.2113

**Spring registration  
begins Nov. 12.**

Register online at [lccc.wy.edu](http://lccc.wy.edu).