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Our Mission

NWCCD welcomes all learners, empowers student success, encourages and strengthens community development.

NORTHERN WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES & SHERIDAN COLLEGE FOUNDATION BOARD

Friday, January 24, 2020

NWCCD Trustees Present

Walt Wragge, Chair
Bob Leibrich, Vice Chair
Debra Wendtland, Treasurer
Shelley Wilson Kinnison, Secretary
Norleen Healy
Bruce Hoffman

Advisory Board Representatives Present

Sheridan College Foundation Board Members Present

Bill Rohrbaugh, President
Everett McGlothlin, Secretary
Patrick Barker, Treasurer
Michelle Meehan
Yvonne Gatley
Bob Berger
Nick Pierson
Val Burgess
Susie Clinch
David Hubert

Administration Present

Dr. Walt Tribbley, President
Janell Oberlander, VP Gillette College
Wendy Smith, Associate Vice President, PIO
Jen Crouse, Interim VPSA & SC Foundation Executive Director

Others Present

Dee Davis, Sheridan College Foundation Office Manager
Bobbi Mitzel, Alumni & Communications Coordinator
Pat Blair, Media

Recorder

Andrea Morgan

NWCCD Trustees Absent

Gary Koltiska

Advisory Board Representatives Absent

Cindy Kremers, Chair – Johnson County Advisory Board
Tracy Wasserburger, Chair – GC Advisory Board

Sheridan College Foundation Board Members Absent

Matt Ebzery, Vice President
Susan Miller

Administration Absent

Cheryl Heath, Vice President for Administration & CFO
Estella Castillo-Garrison, VP Academic Affairs
Heidi Gross, GC Foundation Executive Director

Welcome – Meeting called to order at 11:11am. Dr. Walt Tribley asked for everyone in the room to introduce themselves.

Update/Discussion – President Walt Tribley

On February 13, 2020, Dr. Tribley will propose our plan for the development of a four year degree to the Wyoming Community College Commission. The District will be seeking authorization from the Commission to develop this degree. The degree will be in management and leadership with two tracks; one in general business and one in industrial technology. Assuming all goes well with the Commission, the next step would be developing curriculum and seeking accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission.

Wyoming Works essentially supports adult/returning students. Legislators are talking about this program and funding it at a higher level next year.

A “Weekend Welding Certificate” program will be offered in Gillette and Sheridan (flyer provided). All students are welcome to apply, but the program caters to working, adult students. The program is on Fridays and Saturdays for one full year to receive a certificate in welding. The certificate is trade-specific, but those who complete the certificate program can go on to complete a degree. Industry professionals in the area are very excited about this program.

The NWCCD Board of Trustees have been engaged in work related to Spear-O Wigwam. We have a buyer and have accepted an offer. The District addressed the few minor issues found in the inspection of the property. We are now waiting for the U.S. Forest Service to complete their permitting process so the buyer may operate.

Sheridan Economic and Educational Development Authority (SEEDA), is a joint powers authority charged directly with the economic development of Sheridan. The District has a formal role and a responsibility on this committee. The District is also responsible for education. There are times when these two responsibilities work seamlessly, creating jobs for our students. Then, there are times like now, where to drive economic development, we may consider selling a property we were just gifted. A company has been in contact with us through SEEDA to purchase the property. There have been formal interactions through President Tribley. We may be willing to sell the property, protecting our program for several years, which allows the District to find a match for state money to build a purpose-built building for education. Right now, the Joint Appropriations Committee is considering a 5 million dollar hold for this purpose. The JAC is also considering \$350,000.00 for the Advanced Academic Center, a project-based learning building in Gillette.

Health Sciences Building Update – In order to match the 6.7 million dollars from the state of Wyoming for this project, the District received 1.7 million from the Perkins Foundation and applied for a \$5 million grant from the EDA. We are not going to receive the 5 million we requested. We anticipate receiving 1.5 million. That means, we need to find 3.5 million. These funds are for design.

Questions:

Do you expect any pushback from the University of Wyoming related to NWCCD offering a four year degree?

The leadership for the University of Wyoming seems to understand that this is not a competition. It has less to do with the economic impact and more to do with the historic role and importance of the flagship university in the state. Together, we will take care of the people.

How will adding the four year degree affect our budget?

We will have to use our resources creatively and wisely, shifting existing faculty roles. We will likely offer cross listed courses.

Do we really need the 13.4 million before we can commit to the health sciences building?

President Tribley thinks we have to have the 6.7 million match accounted for before the District can begin spending the 6.7 million from the state.

How is Wyoming Works being communicated to people in our community, the people who need it the most?

Dr. Tribley asked Wendy Smith, Associate Vice President for Strategic Communication and Public Relations to address this question. Our most efficient and effective way for the District to get the word out is through people who are already working in our District on the federal grant program, America's Promise. These people already have relationships with Workforce Development, employers, and students one-on-one. A small amount has also been spent on digital marketing. But, most of our students have been found person to person. This evening, there is an educational session happening with enrollment services personnel on hand to immediately enroll those interested.

Adjourn Joint Board Work Session at 11:38 a.m.

Lunch 11:38 a.m. – 12:52 p.m.

Reconvene for NWCCD Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

Chair Walt Wragge called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 12:52 p.m. Roll was taken. Quorum present.

WACCT Awards Process Update


The WACCT Transforming Lives Committee (TLC) was tasked with gathering feedback from board members from each of the Wyoming community colleges on the WACCT Awards Ceremony selection process. Chair Wragge brought a questionnaire and distributed it to the trustees for discussion to bring back to the committee.

Shelley Wilson Kinnison asked for clarification on the awards, a general description. Chair Wragge described the awards process. For several years, people have suggested that the state award ceremony focus more on the students. The colleges can still recognize professionals at their institutions and forward them for regional and national recognition, but at the state awards ceremony, WACCT will only recognize students.

The NWCCD Trustees generally support each college using the pre-existing selection process to choose nominees. They do not support tying the process to the Phi Theta Kappa selection process to ensure receiving a broader pool of applicants. That way, even students that do not have a perfect grade point average can still be recognized. The Trustees think one student from each college should be recognized at the state level. The Trustees do not believe that there should be a standardized nomination process across the state. Each college can apply their own standard.

Meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;


Michelle Wilson Kinnison
NWCCD Board of Trustees, Secretary


 Walter Wragge
NWCCD Board of Trustees, Chair