



TO: Eastern Wyoming College Student Families

FROM: Dr. Rex J. Cogdill – Vice President for Student Services *RJC*

DATE: August 15, 2016

RE: Alcohol Use & Abuse / Campus Security Information

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We are excited that you will have a student attending Eastern Wyoming College in the upcoming semester. Thank you for selecting EWC!! We are proud of the programs we have built at our college and are committed to making the college experience one that will benefit all students as they work toward their personal, educational and career goals.

We will do our best to provide each student with a quality learning environment but need your help in order to give them the best opportunity possible for success. This memo asks that you engage your student in conversation about two issues they will need to deal with in college that are of vital importance to him or her.

The first pertains to **student use and abuse of alcohol** which is a problem common to all colleges and universities across the country. Of particular concern is the prevalence of binge drinking (defined as consuming 5 or more drinks during a single occasion for men; 4 for women) among college students. Binge drinking can lead to alcohol poisoning which has resulted in the deaths of 157 college-aged people (ages 18 – 23) between 1999 and 2005. In 2008, alcohol poisoning led to the death of an Eastern Wyoming College student who died at on off-campus apartment. This death was very hard for the student's family, and the students and staff of EWC.

A March 30, 2011 article published in "Inside Higher Education" stated the following: "**Alongside time spent studying outside of class, alcohol consumption is the most significant predictor of a student's grade point average.** It has more impact than working, watching television, online social networking – even attending class." In addition, one statistic cited states that as many as 70% of all sexual assaults involve alcohol being imbibed by the perpetrator and/or victim.

Attached is a brochure from The Century Council that can facilitate the discussion between you and your student about their use of alcohol while in college. Please take some time to read this and follow-up on its recommendations. You will be glad you did!

The second issue deals with **your student's safety and security** while attending college. Federal law requires that every college and university disclose information about crime on and around their campuses to students, employees and prospective students. The EWC crime statistics may be found on the college's website by clicking on "Consumer Information" at the bottom of the page and then Clery/Campus Crime Statistics Act – Crime Log or go to <http://ewc.wy.edu/consumer-information/>. We encourage you to seek out and visit with your student about other ways they can be safe at college.

Thank you for helping us prepare your student for a successful term at Eastern Wyoming College! Please feel free to call me at (307) 532-8257 if you have any questions regarding campus safety at Eastern Wyoming College.