



Eastern Wyoming College  
Strategic Planning 2011-2012

Final Summary Report

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Learning & Effectiveness

Strategic Planning is becoming an integral part of the EWC college processes. In the past ten years, EWC has developed and implemented a number of plans that have benefitted students, staff, programs, and the physical campus. This document gives us a chance to reflect on some of the highlights of our accomplishments for the past year.

Funding for many of these activities and purchases comes from a variety of college budgets including strategic planning funding; professional development funding; grant funding such as Perkins, ABE, and ARRA; regular department budgets; division and departmental budgets; BOCES funding; and other institutional funds.

**Strategic Direction #1: Thoughtfully prepare our organization and our people for changing and dynamic times.**

The college supports professional development for faculty, staff, and trustees by encouraging attendance to professional development activities such as workshops and trainings; conferences and webinars; local, state, and regional meetings; advisory groups; and memberships in professional groups. Some faculty and staff also provided professional development for others such as trainings and workshops; presentations at in-service sessions and conferences; and instruction for credit and noncredit work-related or program-related courses. The standardization and documentation of college practices and processes also falls under strategic direction #1.

Examples of completed action plans for this strategic direction include:

- a meeting in Douglas with outreach coordinators and high school counselors to review testing policies and procedures for standardized testing for ACT, COMPASS, ACT Work Keys, CAAP, and GED;
- attendance at numerous conferences by Board members, staff, faculty, and outreach coordinators;
- purchases of webinars for staff and faculty training;
- enrollment of ten staff members in the credit course, Conversational Spanish;
- in-house staff trainings in Datatel;
- instruction for faculty on use of assessment tools in LancerNet;
- workshops for faculty and staff on SMARTHINKING;
- numerous presentations for faculty and staff at both fall and spring in-services;
- submission and receipt of a grant to form a Wyoming State Collegiate Testing Association;
- an increase in the Learning Skills Lab budget to provide tutor training and certifications for student tutors;
- changes in the purchasing policy and procedures to align with the most current practices; and
- continued monitoring the performance of the college for serving current and future community learning needs.

**Strategic Direction #2 – Promote high quality, accessible learning experiences through responsive programs of distinction aligned with current & future opportunities.**

Action plans under this strategic direction included everything from program equipment purchases, review of curriculum, and adding distance learning courses to increasing number of students and implementing retention initiatives. Completed action plans under this strategic direction included:

- distance learning offerings were expanded in programs such as Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education, and Sociology;
- the Business and Ag programs curriculum were reviewed and updated;
- curriculum, objectives, and syllabi were written for the Certified Nursing Assistant II course;
- a program schedule was developed to meet workforce and business needs more efficiently;
- successful reaccreditation status for the Veterinary Technology Program and the EWC Weld Test Center;
- a more robust offering of activities during the Fall 2011 Orientation for new students;
- the purchase of a passenger van for smaller student groups such as the Livestock Judging team
- various program equipment purchases such as lathes for Machine Tooling, pencil sharpeners for classrooms, a solvent disposal system and locked cabinets for the Art department, various replacement and new equipment for the Science programs and Vet Tech program, and classroom supplies for Cosmetology and Health Tech programs;
- a high end printer was purchased for College Relations which will result in more cost effective printing not only for program-related projects but college wide printing; and
- an iPad cart and ten iPads were purchased for classroom use.

**Strategic Direction #3 – Embrace and invest in technology and modern facilities.**

This strategic direction includes plans that affect technology and facilities. Completed plans under this strategic direction include:

- development of a Technology Master Plan along with the establishment and implementation of a technology fee which is being used to pay salary and benefits for an additional instructional technologist, expand wireless infrastructure on campus and in the

- residence halls, the purchase of a webcasting video camera for athletic events, and purchase of MS Office 2010 licenses for student computer labs and instructor computers;
- renovations on campus structures including the remodel of the science laboratories last summer, window and door replacements, paint and some new carpet throughout the Tebbet building, Activity Center, and faculty link, upgrade lighting fixtures throughout the college, upgrade HVAC controls to digital, replacement of HVAC units in the Mechanical Arts building and the Fitness Center, upgrade the heating boilers in the Activity Center building, and remodel of the main college entrance;
  - clean-up and re-organization of the art studio to create a multi-functional teaching space for both 2-D and 3-D art classes;
  - replacement of computer lab chairs and furniture in Student Center/TV area;
  - purchase and installation of computerized cold storage alarm system in Food Services area;
  - an ID Card System upgrade was purchased;
  - replaced barcode scanners in the library;
  - lockers were purchased for the Academic Testing Center;
  - updated signage for some of our Outreach sites have also been purchased and installed including Moorcroft, Guernsey, and Sundance; and
  - continue working with the consultant group from TSP-MGT Management to update the Master Facility Plan.

As a result of past strategic planning efforts, funding for workstation upgrades has been added to the college budget to provide upgrades for staff, faculty, and student labs throughout the college including outreach on a three-year rotational schedule. This year, 120 desktops and 40 laptops were purchased.

**Strategic Direction #4: Enhance the quality of life for individuals, families, the community and region, and positively influence the economy.**

Mutually beneficial partnerships help the college respond to the needs of students, community members, businesses and industries. The college has partnered with the following:

- Wyoming Department of Corrections to offer several programs to inmates;
- Red Rocks Community College for OSHA and workforce trainings and instructors;
- Wyoming Youth ChalleNge program for college visitation day and to offer credit courses to cadets
- healthcare facilities throughout the service area for offering clinic sites for CNA program;
- hosting an annual school partnership meeting where superintendents, principals, school counselors, EWC outreach coordinators, and EWC personnel can exchange ideas and information;

- facilitated meetings between college faculty and high school concurrent instructors in support of concurrent enrollment; and
- Members of the Board of Trustees, along with other college representatives traveled to the Guernsey and Wheatland Outreach sites to meet with constituents.

**Strategic Direction #5: Recognize and extend our global reach.**

- A Diversity Committee was formed with college-wide membership to identify and carry out initiatives to strengthen EWC’s relationship with diverse demographic and cultural communities in our service area. The committee has proposed and implemented several initiatives such as targeted staff development activities including the Culture Prep activities and in-service presentations on Bridges Out of Poverty; and recognition and displays for diversity awareness months. The development of the “Corner” featured a bulletin board with “Welcome” in many languages, a display case, and a bulletin board, “Where in the World Are You From.”
- College Relations personnel have increased their awareness when taking pictures for articles and publications. The updated Viewbook includes pictures of more diverse groups of students.
- College Relations staff are collaborating with departments, the Vice Presidents, and especially the Outreach Coordinators to develop and create materials to elevate the EWC brand.

**Budgeting**

Strategic Planning budget funding in the amount of \$144,000 supported many of the activities and purchases listed above. In the past year, the college also utilized major maintenance and capital lease funding to continue renovation projects such as the Tebbet Wing renovations, faculty link renovations, and the Student Center renovations. Special funding from the Wyoming Community College Commission was used to update the network infrastructure for the college. Career and Technical Education programs were able to purchase program equipment and attend professional development activities using Perkins funding.

Overall, strategic planning expenditures and planning have served to strengthen the institution and improve areas including Physical Plant, Student Services, Learning, Administrative Services, College Relations, and Institutional Development.