

TO: Eastern Wyoming College Student Families
FROM: Dr. Lesley Travers, President
DATE: December 3, 2018
RE: Alcohol Use and Abuse / Campus Security Information

We are excited that you have a student attending Eastern Wyoming College in the upcoming semester. Thank you for selecting EWC! We are proud of the programs we have at this college and are committed to ensuring that your student and their college experience will be beneficial as they work toward their personal, educational and ultimately their career goals.

We do our best to provide each student with a quality learning environment but ask for your assistance to give our students the best opportunity for success. Please 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.

Harmful and underage drinking has become a ritual that students often see as part of the college experience. Many students come to college with established drinking habits and the college environment can add to those issues. According to national statistics, almost 60% of college students ages 18-22 drank alcohol in the last month; and almost 2 out of 3 engaged in binge drinking during that same timeframe. About 1 in 4 college students report academic consequences from drinking, including missing class, falling behind in classes, doing poorly and receiving lower grades overall. In a national survey of college students, binge drinkers who consumed alcohol at least 3 times per week were about 6 times more likely to perform poorly on a test or a project and 5 times more likely to have missed a class.

An often-overlooked preventive factor involves the continuing influence of parents. Research shows that students who choose not to drink often do so because their parents discussed alcohol use and its consequences. For more information on prevention and interventions for college drinking please visit www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov/CollegeAIM. The greatest chance for creating a safe campus comes from a combination of individual and environmental-level interventions that work together to maximize positive effects. Strong leadership from a college president combined with strong community and campus involvement can help address harmful student drinking.

The second issue is in regards to 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 EWC main page and Clery/Campus Crime Statistic Act- Crime Log or go to <http://ewc.wy.edu/consumer-information/>. We encourage you to seek out and visit with your student about ways to stay safe at college. Thank you for supporting us with your student for a successful term at Eastern Wyoming College. Please feel free to call me at (307) 532-8303 if you have questions regarding campus safety at Eastern Wyoming College..