



**EASTERN WYOMING COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
WORK SESSION**

Tuesday, November 11, 2025  
EWC Dolores Kaufman Board Room

**Attendance**

**Present:**

Members: Kurt Sittner, Rick Vonburg, Bob Baumgartner, Katherine Patrick, Randy Adams, Jackie VanMark, and Doug Mercer

**Absent:**

Members:

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Chairman VanMark called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm

**2. Approval of the Work Session Minutes**

Board of Trustees Work Session - Oct 14 2025 - Minutes.pdf

Chairman VanMark called for approval of the Minutes from the October 14, 2025 meeting as presented

*Moved by:* Katherine Patrick

*Seconded by:* Randy Adams

**Motion Carried**

2.1

**3. Reports**

3.1 **Higher Learning Commission 4 Year Assurance Review:**

### **VP Dr. Margaret Farley**

Dr. Farley presented the results of the Higher Learning Commission's four-year assurance review.

- EWC met all criteria except 4B, which requires data-informed improvements in program outcomes and evidence of effectiveness.
- The college demonstrated strong commitment to its mission, inclusive governance, and foundational quality education at all sites.
- EWC showed it was assessing student learning, it didn't demonstrate "closing the loop" by showing evidence of effectiveness of interventions.
- EWC must submit a monitoring report by June 1, 2028, focusing on assessment of student learning outcomes.
- The college will participate in the HLC Assessment Academy to build capacity for assessment practices.
- A comprehensive evaluation and federal compliance review will occur in 2030-2031.

Trustee Mercer expressed concern about maintaining continuity in tracking evidence between now and the next reviews in 2028 and 2031. Dr. Hawes explained that Dr. Farley serves as Accreditation Liaison Officer responsible for tracking compliance reports, with a steering committee structure in place to ensure compliance.

### **3.2 CDL Program and Workforce Services:**

#### **Dean of Workforce and Career Technical Services: Daryl Spitzer**

Mr. Spitzer presented on the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) program's progress and future plans.

- The program has completed training for approximately 136 individuals, including 9 high school students. The CDL program aims to train 90-100 students annually by 2026, including 35 high school completers.
- Currently operating in Goshen, Platte, and Converse counties with 5 trucks, 6 part-time employees, and test ranges in multiple locations.
- The program will add TDL1500 as an elective in all CTE

degrees and is developing a CDL Entrepreneurship Certificate.

- Discussed the purchase of a service truck to reduce maintenance costs and avoid expensive towing fees.
- The program recently purchased a Snap-on computer with software to diagnose and repair truck issues. This will be carried on the new Service truck, it will be especially helpful for engine regenerations out on the road, and offer the ability to reduce outside repair costs significantly.

Advisor Willox asked if roadside fixes are incorporated into the curriculum. Dean Spitzer explained that while basic maintenance is covered in orientation, adding extensive repair training would significantly extend the program length.

### 3.3 **Program Review Process:**

#### **Executive Dean of Academics: Debbie Ochsner**

Dr. Ochsner presented on the program review process and updates to meet HLC requirements.

- EWC needs to demonstrate data-driven programmatic interventions for at least 5 programs.
- The college is updating its Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs) from 7 to 4, making them more measurable and applicable to all credentials.
- The updated program review format will include assessment of student learning at course, program, and institutional levels.
- The process will include collaborative recommendations, along with an intervention and program improvement plan.

All program reviews are due by December 15, 2025, with programmatic changes for the 2026-27 catalog. By January 15, 2026, 13 programs will be selected for monitoring, with at least 5 to be highlighted in the HLC report.

### 3.4 **Overview of Animal Science Trailer:**

#### **Director of Agriculture Development: Martin Winchell**

Director Martin Winchell presented on the development of a

mobile animal science lab.

- The lab is designed for ranch/farm settings to teach skills like AI, ultrasounds, and semen testing.
- EWC is working with Priefert and elite manufacturers to create a custom-designed trailer.
- The project requires \$220,000 from the John P Ellbogen grant for the mechanical parts of the trailer.
- Dr. Hawes clarified that funding comes from multiple sources including WIP funding, the EWC Foundation, and \$250,000 from the John P Ellbogen Trust.

The animal science trailer is expected to be delivered by February 14th, in time for the Sagebrush and Roses event. The trailer will complement the existing agronomy trailer, enhancing EWC's agricultural education capabilities.

#### **4. Introduction:**

##### **VP Patrick Korell**

VP Patrick Korell introduced Catherine Conard as the new Human Resources Director.

- Catherine grew up in the Sugar Valley in Baird Nebraska and has ties to the local community.
- Catherine shared her background, including two undergraduate degrees from the University of Wyoming and an MBA with a human resources concentration.
- Catherine expressed excitement about working with EWC to improve and move forward the human resources department.

The board warmly welcomed Catherine to her new position.

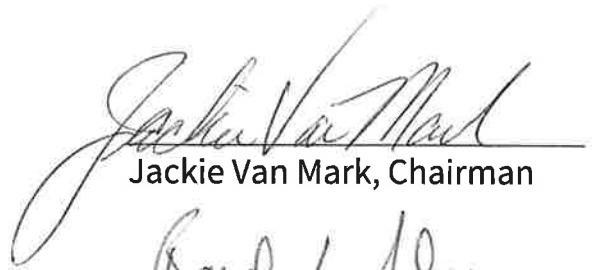
#### **5. Adjournment**

Chairman VanMark called a Motion to Adjourn Meeting at 5:11

*Moved by:* Rick Vonburg

*Seconded by:* Randy Adams

**Motion Carried**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jackie Van Mark", written over a horizontal line.

Jackie Van Mark, Chairman

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Randy Adams", written over a horizontal line.

Randy Adams, Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lynda Dean", written over a horizontal line.

Lynda Dean, Executive  
Assistant