EASTERN WYOMING COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WORK SESSION

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

EWC Dolores Kaufman Board Room

Attendance

Present:

Members:Kurt Sittner, Rick Vonburg, Bob Baumgartner, Katherine Patrick, Jackie VanMark, and Julie Newman

Absent:

Members: Jim Willox and Doug Mercer

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair VanMark called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

2. Reports

2.1 **President Dr. Jeffry Hawes**

Dr. Hawes reviewed the updated 2026–2030 Strategic Goals document, confirming the original data remains unchanged following survey feedback from the Board of Trustees and EWC Foundation Board.

- The strategy contains ~12 total goals structured across three core pillars: Student Success, Community, and College Operations. Five priority measures were highlighted (two growth, two viability, and one compliance).
- A data framework and dashboard will be built for annual reviews, with formal revisits at biannual board retreats. The presentation will be shared at the upcoming fall 2026 semester in-service.

Dr. Hawes presented survey findings covering pillar alignment, risk assessment (prepared by CPA Cheryl Heath), and KPI evaluations across both governing boards.

- Both bodies prioritized human capital, employee attraction/retention, and people-centered investments over physical facilities.
- The Foundation leans toward a culture of innovation, whereas the Board favors operational efficiency, influenced by recent HCM2 compliance experiences.
- Leadership recommends scheduling a joint Board-Foundation retreat to address strategic communication gaps and improve alignment.

2.2 **Director of Research, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness**

Dr. Andrew Lincowski:

Dr. Lincowski outlined efforts to secure a 4-year, $1 million National Science Foundation (NSF) grant focused on AI education.

- EWC is working with former NSF program officers. A two-page abstract is scheduled for submission by the end of the week, with full grant application submission targeted for January.
- The effort aligns with EWC's new Technological Fluency Institutional Learning Outcome (ILO) and seeks to position EWC as a statewide hub for faculty AI training. Wyoming's EPSCoR state status may enhance funding competitiveness.

Dr. Lincowski presented NCCBP comparative benchmarking data:

- Gateway Math Momentum: 37% first-year completion (near top national quartile).
- Persistence: Fall-to-spring persistence is strong at 78% (top quartile), while fall-to-fall persistence is 56% (31st percentile), marking a key area for targeted outreach and improvement.
- Class Size & CTE: Class sizes average 13.2 students (3rd percentile nationally), but CTE degree (8th percentile) and certificate (13th percentile) completions perform exceptionally well relative to overall institution size.
- Financial Reserves: EWC stands at the 95th percentile nationally for its primary reserve ratio, confirming robust financial health.
- Enrollment Update: Current Fall enrollment is tracking 10% above the same period last year—leading all Wyoming community colleges in growth. Growth is driven by improved advising, SmartPlan software, earlier registration, added recruiters, and pipeline initiatives.
- Growth Opportunities: Expanded dual enrollment offerings (supported by $10M/year in new state funding) present significant future growth potential.

3. Adjournment

Chair VanMark called for a motion to adjourn.

Moved by: Rick Vonburg; seconded by: Julie Newman

Motion Carried

Jackie Van Mark, Chairman

Robert Baumgartner, Secretary

Lynda Dean, Executive Assistant