

Election 2018 Q&A

LCCC Board of Trustees (3 open seats)



EDWIN
AVERY



HARMON "BUD"
DAVIS



BRENDA
LYTTLE, INCUMBENT



J.C.
MANALO



CAROL
MERRELL, INCUMBENT



JANINE
THOMPSON

Q: Why are you running for the LCCC Board of Trustees?

I feel that my education, a bachelor's and master's degree in business administration and an advanced degree in theology; my experience as an assistant professor; my service as an executive administrator (developing and executing a distinguished visiting professor program being my greatest responsibility) at a major university; along with my overall experience in my diversified career have prepared me well to offer much valued assistance and wisdom to LCCC.

I have had an interest in higher education, and I feel community colleges are important in providing a portion of the population with a step up to an associate degree (or higher), since Wyoming currently ranks 41st nationally in the portion of the population holding college or advanced degrees. As a retired physician, I have particular knowledge in the health sciences, and believe that those programs should be expanded.

I am running for the LCCC Board of Trustees because I am energized by the progress the college is making. I've been on the board for 12 years, and I want to continue supporting the college as we move forward. I enjoy being the communication bridge between the college and community. The LCCC board is where I can continue to make a difference in the lives of our families and the future of our businesses.

I am running for the LCCC Board of Trustees because I believe I can contribute to the financial aspects of the college due to my experience as a district manager for AT&T, where we took care of the back end, meaning the profit and loss margins, plus my bachelor's degree in management financial of institutions from De La Salle University. I represent the hardworking citizens of the county, and I offer a fresh perspective.

I am running for the LCCC Board of Trustees because I believe in the mission, vision and values of the college. I think that I have made a positive contribution to LCCC and have been an effective trustee. I believe that a good outcome is achieved through teamwork and cooperation. A trustee, in my opinion, needs to take an active role in the college and attend as many activities and functions as possible.

As an LCCC alumna, adjunct teacher of 12 years and local business owner of 1st Accounting Solutions, I will be an asset to LCCC. I believe that a college education is intimately tied to the vitality of our community. I can make a difference in the future of the college. I will bring fresh ideas, and I will communicate and listen to students, faculty, staff and the community to fully appreciate their concerns and needs.

Q: What will be your top priorities as an LCCC trustee?

Continued growth of LCCC, utilizing some of the experiences that I gained at Johnson & Wales University, where growth endeavors were very successful. Also, another priority would be to work with the Legislature relative to soliciting funds. These contacts must be with obvious preparation, i.e. requests with community, academic and, hopefully, some key legislative support.

I want to serve as a strong member, offering advice and direction to the administration, making my decisions based on information and insisting that the necessary information is available prior to making any decision.

My top priorities as a trustee will be to support the building progress at the college and to encourage LCCC to be a leader in diversification of Wyoming's economy. As we grow at LCCC, we can provide a quality education to a wider range of students and within a larger scope of subjects. Education is key to supporting families and taking southeast Wyoming into the future.

I am promoting that if a student completes their associate degree, they should have the option to pursue employment in their field or transfer all their credits into a four-year institution. LCCC should coordinate with four-year institutions so transfer credits will be accepted. I would like the college to provide more recognition to faculty members and students.

My first priority is attending to board business, which means being informed about what is happening on campus, such as finances, building projects, student progress, social issues and the campus climate in general. Other priorities as a trustee are to continue being present on the campus and in the community, and to meet and encourage our students.

One of my priorities is to promote increased enrollment by enhancing community awareness and participation, and by providing needed facilities, such as adequate on-campus housing. I would also like to see more employment-focused degrees in vocational technology, health sciences, business and other fields that will help provide a trained workforce. Keeping the cost of attendance affordable should also be a priority. LCCC's tuition is very competitive nationally, and we need to keep it that way.

Q: What will you do to improve student transitions to and from LCCC?

I would improve student transitions to and from LCCC by utilizing the major Advising Center that is already established at LCCC.

I believe the college should offer a free course for students transitioning to LCCC that covers expectations, requirements and study skills needed. Transitioning from LCCC will require a strong guidance counseling department for those continuing their education and a strong workforce development program for those entering the workforce.

To improve student transitions to and from LCCC, I will support academic collaboration with both Laramie County school districts and the University of Wyoming. I also support concurrent enrollment at our high schools and working with UW on credit transfer success between the colleges.

I would like to implement (a system in which), when a student is selecting a certain course, the said course will identify which institutions it will transfer into.

I will continue to support our Guided Pathways model, and LCCC's goals and strategic plan through 2020, which focuses on student success.

I will encourage the strengthening of LCCC's relationships with key partners, such as Wyoming's high schools, the University of Wyoming and other educational institutions. We can continue to improve students' ability to transfer credit hours to and from other schools, so those course credits are not lost in the transition.

Q: What will you do to increase the success rate of students who must take developmental (remedial) courses upon enrolling at LCCC?

Establish an academic personal relationship with a qualified family member or a qualified friend outside of the school and an instructor or qualified staff member within the school to assist and encourage this particular group of students. Also, enter LCCC's robust tutoring program.

I believe one way for requiring remedial courses is to offer sophomore mentors and tutors. Such a program would be voluntary on the part of the sophomore.

Student advising is crucial to the success rate of students at LCCC. To increase success for students taking developmental courses, I will support advising based on the individual student. I also support Guided Pathways to ensure that educational goals are met and that students are led toward success.

Normal courses are finished in one semester; however, a remedial course could be scheduled for two semesters, thereby allowing the students more time to finish the courses, but still getting credit that would transfer to a higher institution, as well as count toward their associate degree.

I will support and encourage remedial courses for students who need them in math and English. Each student has an adviser, who will guide them on their journey through remediation and future success.

National statistics show "college-ready" students are more likely to earn a degree than "developmental" students. However, community colleges can help all students achieve success by helping them gain improved skills and better employability. To do that, we must obtain an understanding of what each student needs to achieve those results.

Q: In light of the state's fiscal situation, how should the college prepare for possible future budget cuts?

Screen available current grants, consider LCCC Foundation support, Golden Eagle Club, community fundraisers and an LCCC Major Gift Program.

It is only prudent that the college should prepare for future budget cuts in view of the state's current fiscal status and the probability of continued downturns in severance tax income.

As a consistently serving board member who has reviewed and approved multiple budgets, we are always preparing for possible budget cuts. I will continue making sure the LCCC budget is focused on effective practices, successful courses and quality faculty. I will support our college president's insightful and efficient budget planning.

Evaluate each program for efficiency and inefficiency. I support self-funding and loans. I would also get local businesses to contribute, especially the businesses that benefit from the students that are graduating from the college, in addition to endowments from donors. This will not burden taxpayers.

Our president, the Board of Trustees, senior leadership and the Finance and Facilities Committee keep close track of LCCC's spending. The board approves the budget materials each month. LCCC will continue to be frugal and remain financially responsible.

The possibility of future state budget cuts means the college must prepare to be financially self-sustaining through its own revenue sources. To do that, the college must be fiscally responsible and prudently manage its costs. Fostering continued community financial support is vitally important if future state budget cuts occur.

Q: Do you agree with the planned future construction at LCCC? Would you change anything?

The only construction projects that I am aware of are the recent state loan for the new dormitory and the mill levy for the Fine Arts Building, which I support. If elected, I will make it a priority to find out about any other planned building projects. In fact, I plan to find out about any other pending LCCC plans.

I agree with our expanding dormitory space and the current Fine Arts Building improvement plan. Eventually, the athletic facilities will need to be improved. I believe that improving the athletic facilities could lead to economic benefits to Laramie County through being able to add Region IX tournaments and rental fees from other groups who could use the facility.

I strongly agree with and support future construction at LCCC. That's how we encourage students, support faculty and staff, and keep our educational house in order. We need to face the future with strength. We have changed our original plans for the current proposed building renovation several times. I would not change it any further. I will support community input as we make plans for our next project.

In general, I would agree, as long as it does not burden the citizens through additional taxes. Joint projects between the city, county, local businesses and the college should be promoted.

I agree with the planned future construction at LCCC. I was on the board when we implemented the Building Forward 2012-2020 facilities plan. Our Student Center and Flex Tech buildings are in operation. We are planning to build a 352-bed dorm – with adequate parking for students – with state loan monies. The Fine Arts Building remodel and the auditorium will greatly enhance our campus and be an asset in our community. I wouldn't change anything.

To maintain and enhance LCCC as a competitive institution for higher education, we must invest in the future. The Fine Arts Building is in dire need of repairs, and the Legislature has recognized the value of continued growth and development. LCCC received \$7 million. The new residence hall will increase enrollment. The Recreational and Athletic Complex improvements need further evaluation to discuss design, cost, value and associated revenue.