



## Introduction

### A Message from the President

Casper College is one of seven community colleges and one university in Wyoming that provides access to comprehensive higher education resources that strengthens, supports, and enriches communities across the state. It is our mission to provide dynamic lifelong learning environments through higher education, workforce development, innovative partnerships, and civic and global engagement that leads to responsible citizenship and economic, social, and cultural prosperity.

As a symbol of quality, Casper College is proud of its accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) since 1960, ensuring stakeholders that it is dedicated to meeting and exceeding standards, and to continually strive to improve and adapt to the ever-changing needs of the community and the contemporary demands placed on our graduates. Furthermore, the institution has achieved and maintained specialized accreditation with 15 accreditation agencies from health sciences, to the arts and social sciences.

From its inception in 1945, Casper College has grown from a small number of offerings at the Natrona County High School to a beautiful 200-acre campus that serves thousands of students each year from Wyoming, the region, and the international community.

This year, the opening of a new state-of-the-art visual arts building represents a significant upgrade for the college, our students, and our community. The Tobin Visual Arts Center offers 31,825 square feet of expanded classroom and art studio spaces with significant upgrades in equipment, technology, safety, exhibition space, and capabilities that far exceed the previous facility. The building helps to support six degree options in visual arts as well as general education offerings. Casper College is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

The Casper College board of trustees authorized the call and redemption of the Series 2009 general obligation bonds in June 2022. The bonds were initially issued to finance the Walter H. Nolte Gateway Center construction, completed in 2011. The transaction reduced the college's debt service by \$2.4 million. The redemption in June was in addition to refinancing the 2010 revenue and the 2010B general obligation bonds completed in the prior year. This refinancing reduced the college's total debt service by \$6.7 million.

This year we are celebrating Casper College's recognition as the country's Most Military Friendly Small Community College for 2022-23 by opening the new Veteran Resource Center at Casper College. The college is a GI Bill Yellow Ribbon Program School, a Peer Advisors for Veteran Education (PAVE) partner institution, and has a campus chapter of the Student Veterans of America. We recently implemented the Got Your Six text hotline which allows military-affiliated students to reach out to other military-affiliated students via text message. It is a pleasure and honor to see our college as a recognized national leader in this area.

In terms of service to the State, Casper College is an integral part of the Wyoming Innovation Partnership (WIP), which is part of the State of Wyoming Governor's plan to bolster economic development. Through collaboration and partnerships with the other community colleges, the university, and industry, we strive to meet the economic and workforce needs of the state as well as look to the future with the creation of new and innovative industries.

Since the HLC site visit in 2018, the college was put to the test during the Covid pandemic. Ever committed to providing the best possible instruction, the college extended the March 2020 spring break by one additional week, which enabled all instructors to reimagine and launch their courses solely online. The supreme efforts of the Digital Learning Center, which worked tirelessly to provide assistance to instructors as they crafted their



online courses, led to much success, including enrollment stability. Unlike many sister institutions, face-to-face and hybrid instruction resumed fully in the fall semester of 2020. To mitigate the complexities of the virus and its challenges for an open campus, a Covid Coordinator was employed to serve as a conduit for communication between faculty and students. The coordinator worked closely with Student Life and Housing to schedule meal deliveries for those students in isolation, and the Library provided laptops for those students who needed them to engage in their classes. The counseling department created tele-counseling options for students who were concerned about the impact of the pandemic on their lives and their education. With funding from the CARES Act and HEERF, the college invested in upgrading technology, including improvements in cleanable furnishings, audio/visual projection, and OWLs for effective online communication. The instantaneous shift in instructional method challenged many faculty to examine their pedagogy in a new way, and as a result the institution seems more malleable and has a greater sense of community. These accomplishments are qualities that should propel Casper College well into the future.