

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-009

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING WYOMING GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATION LEGISLATION PERTAINING TO COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPERATION OF AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY TRADE SCHOOL GRANT OR LOAN AND COMMITMENT TO EXPLORE LOCAL FUNDING OPTIONS FOR LCCC TO ACQUIRE AND OPERATE WYOTECH.

WHEREAS, WyoTech is an automotive technology trade school which provides repair and technical career training in auto, diesel, motorcycle, collision refinishing & marine industries.

WHEREAS, WyoTech has been in operation in Laramie, Albany County, Wyoming since June 1966. In November, 2017, the parent company of WyoTech, Zenith Education Group, announced the closure of the Laramie campus of WyoTech effective June 2018.

WHEREAS, with the closure of WyoTech, the City of Laramie, Wyoming (City) and Albany County, Wyoming (County) will lose a 200,000 square foot facility, over 70 full-time positions, over 500 students and the economic and workforce impact those provide.

WHEREAS, Laramie County Community College (LCCC) has been in existence for over 50 years and provides career and technical education programs in Laramie County, Wyoming and has expanded its services to Albany County through its Laramie campus.

WHEREAS, due to LCCC successes in Albany County and the experience of LCCC with technical training and education, LCCC is positioned to help the City of Laramie and Albany County to preserve the invaluable educational and economic opportunities that WyoTech has provided for so many years.

WHEREAS, LCCC is interested in acquiring the Laramie WyoTech campus along with its resources and to reshape it to fit within the organizational structure of LCCC and the Wyoming Community College education model.

WHEREAS, LCCC prepared a prospectus that sets forth the details about this potential venture and explores options and considerations for LCCC. As detailed in the prospectus, State and/or local funding will be needed to acquire and maintain the WyoTech property and to transition the campus and its resources to the regionally accredited curricular model of LCCC.

WHEREAS, LCCC is seeking a significant portion of funding from the State for LCCC's assumption of WyoTech's Laramie operations and facilities.

WHEREAS, Wyoming Legislature is currently considering the general appropriation bill for the biennium including fiscal years 2019-2020 that provides for the appropriation of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) from the legislative stabilization reserve account to the office of the Governor for the purpose of a grant to a Wyoming Community College District to operate as an automotive technology trade school subject to the district showing receipt.

WHEREAS, any future that LCCC has with WyoTech is contingent upon having formal commitments to secure all sources of funding. Local funding commitment by County and City may include bonding, taxing or other funding on a near-term election for both the ongoing operations and proportionate share of the cost to acquire the WyoTech instructional buildings and/or committing to securing these funds through identifiable and viable mechanisms.

WHEREAS, the 2016 economic impact report by Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. reflects that for every dollar taxpayers invested in Wyoming community colleges, those taxpayers received \$1.40 return in added State revenues and public-sector savings over the course of the working lives of community college graduates or a 3.6% annual return.

WHEREAS, County desires for LCCC to acquire the Laramie WyoTech campus to prevent the economic and workforce impact by WyoTech's closing.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, WYOMING RESOLVES:

Section 1. That the foregoing recitals are incorporated in and made a part of this resolution by this reference.

Section 2. That, the County supports the passage of General Government Appropriations bill for the biennium including fiscal years 2019-2020 that would include a five million dollar (\$5,000,000) appropriation for community college operation of automotive technology trade school grant or loan.

Section 3. That, the County commits to exploring local funding options for both the ongoing operations and proportionate share of the cost to acquire the WyoTech instructional buildings.

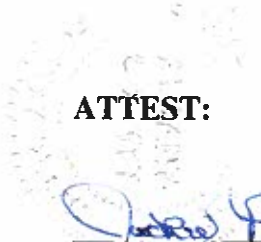
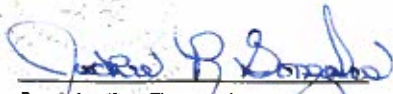
PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED, this 23rd day of February 2018.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ALBANY COUNTY, WYOMING**



Tim Chesnut, Chairperson

ATTEST:



Jackie R. Gonzales
Albany County Clerk