

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 20, 2020

Issuing Organization: Wyoming Community College Commission

Contact: Dr. Ben Moritz - Deputy Director

Contact Info: ben.moritz@wyo.gov, (307) 777-6290

Title: Campbell County Gillette College Community College District Application Approved by WCCC

Cheyenne, WY

The Wyoming Community College Commission (WCCC) has approved Campbell County's application to create a new community college district. The Campbell County Commissioners submitted their completed application on August 31, 2020, triggering an application review process to be completed within 90 days. According to Wyoming Statute and WCCC rules, the WCCC was tasked with collecting extensive economic and demographic data and projections, hold multiple public hearings to gather statewide input from citizens, and develop a thorough third-party needs assessment. The WCCC contracted with the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), which was assisted by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) to produce the assessment.

The WCCC held a special meeting on November 20, 2020, in the State Capitol Complex and via virtual modality to review the relevant information, hear additional public comment, and reach a decision on the Campbell County application. The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the application, which will be forwarded to the State Legislature, which must vote to approve or disapprove the creation of an eighth community college district. If approved by the Legislature, Campbell County must then hold a ballot measure vote to approve an additional 4 mill property tax as well as elect the initial Board of Trustees.

If the new community college district is approved by all required parties, Gillette College will begin the process of accreditation through the Higher Learning Commission. This process can take 4-7 years. While the college district is in the process of seeking accreditation as an independent community college, the new college district must partner with an existing Wyoming community college to offer academic, student, and financial aid services. The new proposed district is currently part of the Northern Wyoming Community College District service area, along with Sheridan and Johnson Counties.



All documents, including the Campbell County application for the creation of a community college district, other required documents, public comments, and the WICHE Needs Assessment Survey are publicly available on the WCCC website.