



TO: College Community

FROM: Mr. Charlie Krebs, Board Chair

RE: CWC President Search Progress Report (Progress Report #7)

DATE: April 29, 2014

I'm pleased to report that tonight, in a special meeting of the CWC Board of Trustees, the CWC Board unanimously selected Dr. Cristobal "Cris" Valdez, currently the president at Edison Community College in Ohio, as CWC's next president to replace Dr. Jo Anne McFarland, who is retiring July 1, 2014. The board approved a three-year contract for Dr. Valdez through June 30, 2017, beginning July 14, 2014, for an annual salary of \$170,500. The contract also includes a \$6,000 annual car allowance and a \$12,000 annual housing allowance, as well as a moving allowance.

The CWC Board was very happy with the high quality of the three finalists, making our decision an extremely difficult one. With the decision now made, I hope that you will join the board in welcoming Dr. Valdez, currently the president at Edison Community College, to Central Wyoming College as our next president.

I want to express, also, the board's respect and admiration for our internal candidate, Dr. Jason Wood, who, although unsuccessful in his bid for CWC president, enjoys strong support from the college community and serves the college admirably as our Executive Vice President for Student and Academic Services and as a member of the college's administrative team. We hope that he and others at the college will continue their outstanding and innovative work at CWC in achieving a higher level of access and success for our students. We hope, too, that the college community will respect the selection process and the final decision of the board.

I would be remiss in not thanking, once again, our hardworking 19-member presidential search committee for their long hours and faithful attention to the search process. We also appreciate the attendance of many faculty and staff members at the public forums for the three presidential finalists. We especially appreciate the feedback comments from those who attended the forums.

This will be a big transition for the college, as CWC President-Elect, Dr. Cris Valdez, replaces retiring president Dr. Jo Anne McFarland who has been at the helm of CWC since 1989 and a member of the college staff for more than 40 years. Dr. Valdez is well qualified to take the helm at CWC. He began his college education at University of Montana, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in social work. He earned a master's of social work (MSW) at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Wash., and he completed an Ed.D. in Community

College Leadership from Oregon State University in Corvallis. Under Valdez' leadership, Edison Community College secured in excess of \$1.5 million in grant funding and dramatically increased the foundation's assets including a \$2 million gift, the largest in the history of the college. His wife, Robin, and his four children, Antonio, Ali, Aaron, and Andi, will join him in Riverton on August 1. Please make him and his family welcome.