

Honoring our past, Inspiring our future...

Welcome & Thank you:

“Good morning” everyone. To our Lewiston Mayor, Michael Collins, members of the Idaho State Board of Education, members of Nez Perce and Coeur d’Alene Tribes, distinguished guests and Lewis-Clark State College leaders past and present, Faculty, Staff, Students and Alumni, Foundation and Community members, Donors and Partners, Friends, Colleagues and Family, thank you, thank you all so very much for being here today.

I also want to express my most sincere thanks to the Investiture planning committee, and Ms. Erika Allen, our Director of Advancement and LCSC Foundation Executive Director who led this work, as well as today’s speakers, performers and all who helped make this event possible.

It is with gratitude, joy, and humility that I address you today. It is an honor and an incredible privilege to serve as Lewis-Clark State College’s 16th President.

Today, consistent with our celebration theme, *Honoring our past, Inspiring our future*, I want to share some of what I am coming to know about this very special college, its history and its future.

LCSC Mission

Lewis-Clark State College is truly an institution that lives its mission, a mission dedicated to “...preparing students to become successful leaders, engaged citizens, and lifelong learners.” It is also an institution whose history has been defined by tenacious resiliency and perseverance, responsiveness and change.

Honoring our Past

Lewiston State Normal School was created by the Idaho Legislature 125 years ago, in **1893**. Absent State appropriated funding, but supported through a 10 acre donation from the City of Lewiston, and assisted through federal land-grant proceeds, Lewiston State Normal School’s first building, James W. Reid Centennial Hall, originally known simply as the Administration Building, still stands today, having survived a devastating fire in 1917, as **the oldest building still in use in Idaho’s higher education system**.

Reflecting its teacher-education roots, nurse training program and expanded 4-year degree programs embracing the liberal arts and sciences, Lewis-Clark’s 5th president, Glenn Todd, lobbied for a name change; and, in **1947** *Lewiston State Normal School* became *Northern Idaho College of Education*. Then, despite academic success and regional importance, with the outbreak of the Korean War, declining enrollments, and fears of state budget shortfalls, the Legislature closed Northern Idaho College of Education in 1951.

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Four years later, in **1955**, in response to unabated teacher shortages and persistent community interest and legislative pressure, Northern Idaho College of Education was reopened as *Lewis-Clark Normal School* (a branch campus of the University of Idaho). By the early 1960's, reflecting an education program range and scope spanning, what was then called Vocational –Technical education, to associates and bachelors degree programs, Lewis-Clark Normal School regained independent status.

In **1971** the Idaho Legislature once again approved a change to the *Normal School's* identity, this time to the name we bear today, *Lewis-Clark State College*. Interestingly, this change marked the end of the Normal School era - Lewis-Clark was the last U.S. college to bear the Normal School label – a label derived from a focus on practical hands-on training for new teachers. This final and lasting name-based evolution, then and now, reflects our mission and diverse academic programming and stature, as an institution serving students in the liberal arts, sciences, education, nursing and professional studies, through 2- and 4-year degree programs, as well as Career Technical education.

As Lewis-Clark State College's journey reveals, like the students it has and continues to serve...some, traditional 18-22 year old full-time students living on campus, others attending class by day and working nights, non-traditional single-parents juggling academics, family and work, veterans using the GI Bill to assist with the transition back to civilian life, and many, **like me**, first generation college students entering territory unknown and unfamiliar to pursue empowered tomorrows; Lewis-Clark State College's 125 year journey has been marked by **grit**, steadfast **perseverance**, **tenacity**, and ever-evolving and **adapting** responsiveness.

As we look to our future, **the constant we can count on is change**. In that vein, I want to share with you an excerpt from Keith Petersen's *Educating the American West, 100 years at Lewis-Clark State College*. Specifically, the following is text from a contract Lewiston State Normal School's teacher-graduates encountered in 1923.

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Miss _____ agrees:

- Not to get married. This contract becomes null and void immediately if the teacher marries.
- Not to keep company with men.
- Not to leave town at any time without the permission of the chairman or Board of Trustees.
- Not to smoke cigarettes.
- Not to drink beer, wine or whisky.
- Not to ride in a carriage or automobile with any man except her brothers or father.
- Not to dress in bright colors.
- Not to dye her hair.
- To wear two petticoats.**
- Not to wear dresses more than two inches above the ankles; and
- Not to use face powder, mascara, or paint the lips.

I stand with you today, sans even 1 petticoat, a living embodiment of change.

Inspiring our Future

Higher education is about so much more than information consumption, benchmark badges, certificates, or even degrees. **Higher education is about learning to learn.** It is about valuing and cherishing growth, change and critical thinking. It is about **transforming information into insight.** And now, more than ever we need to proclaim higher education's value, and boldly assert our role and our responsibility to serve the public good; to be **incubators of, and for better tomorrows.**

These are not new ideas, certainly not to Lewis-Clark State College. In his 1925 inaugural address, Lewiston State Normal School's President, John E. Turner, said: "Schools are not merely for courses of study...They are to teach young people the value of character, and to develop them along the lines of a nobler manhood and womanhood. They are for more. They are to **arouse in young people a love of knowing; the disposition to try to know, and the ability to do, when they know....**"

Grounded in a student-centered Mission, and scaffolded by Core Themes focused on **opportunity, success and partnership**, Lewis-Clark State College is dedicated to *expanding access to higher education and lifelong learning; ensuring attainment of educational goals*

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through excellent instruction in a supportive learning environment, and engaging with educational institutions, the business sector, and the community for the benefit of students and the region.

Opportunity: In 1936, *Lewiston State Normal School*, President John Turner said: “An Institution which cannot fully and definitely define itself and its purpose is not likely to continue indefinitely to receive public support and should not expect it.”

Consistent with this theme, we will continue to define ourselves by maintaining our unique education space and place as Idaho’s most affordable 4-year school – providing an opportunity unique among Idaho’s institutions, **offering a private school education experience at a public school price.** We will maintain a solid academic core, delivering courses of study for Career Technical certificate, and 2- and 4-year degree-seeking students. **We will do our part – in fact, we will do more than our part, contributing to Idaho’s ambitious state goal “...that 60% of Idahoans age 25-34 will have a degree or certificate...!”**

We are re-energizing options and opportunities for non-traditional, adult and part-time students; and will continue to serve and enrich our community and region through adult and community education, workforce training and education outreach. **We are a multi-dimensional school with a clear sense of self.** A school deeply rooted in, and connected to our region; and fully committed to serving the education needs of students from a broad range of backgrounds, interests and abilities.

Success: In 1916, John Dewey wrote *Democracy in Education*. His central thesis focused on the importance of education as a means of equipping citizens with the knowledge, skills and dispositional aptitudes to make informed, intelligent choices and decisions; thereby contributing to the public good. Now, most especially, education needs to be about empowering individuals with abilities and inclinations to think critically, adapt, evolve, and learn how to learn.

According to Dr. Lee Vickers, President of Lewis-Clark State College from 1978 to 1994, “To prepare for the future, is to anticipate change. The 21st century work place will require life-long education and retraining...[and, he went on to say]...Developing the ability to think critically is absolutely essential...”

Now, as then, these sentiments ring true.

Rooted in quality academic programs, taught and supported by exceptional faculty and staff, Lewis-Clark State College ***Connects Learning to Life and College to Career*** providing education opportunities to build knowledge and skills through student Apprenticeships, Internships, Practica, workstudy and Work Scholar experiences.

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The Work Scholar program, supported by the Idaho Legislature and unique to Lewis-Clark State College, is a shining example. This program has grown from 11 students in 2015, to over 45 students this fall; and through which, to date, 91% of program participants have either found work in their career field or moved on to attend graduate school!

Likewise, Lewis-Clark's Hell's Canyon Institute and annual research symposia connect research to life, providing opportunities for undergraduate students to partner with faculty engaging field work and conducting and presenting discipline-relevant research.

Lewis-Clark State College is wholly dedicated to **educating citizen leaders** empowered and emboldened to engage meaningfully in democracy; AND be "**responsive to businesses,**" preparing a first-rate workforce equipped to thrive in an increasingly global world of work, characterized by rapid change.

Partnerships: Since its inception, Lewis-Clark State College has been deeply rooted in, and firmly connected to its community, region and people.

A 1951 editorial in the Lewiston Tribune expressed this value-added connection: "...It [the College] brought laughter and youth and the thrill of learning, along with payrolls and concerts, drama and sports. It brought friendships and understanding, achievement and growth. **It was the center of looking forward...**"

There are no stronger or clearer examples of living in partnership, and our commitment to Idaho's education goal to "**...strengthen collaborations between education and business/industry partners...**" then Lewis-Clark State College's longstanding connection to regional Tribes, and our current career technical education project.

According to Marion Shinn, Lewis-Clark's first vocational education director, and one of our most cherished alums, federal funding support for LC's Sam Glenn Vocational Complex "...might never have come had it not been for the [partnership with the] Nez Perce." In return, LC made mainstream vocational courses accessible to Nez Perce people, and expanded both academic and student services to more specifically support Native American students, their interests and native cultures.

Likewise, knitted together through a **tri-partnership agreement with the City of Lewiston and Lewiston School District**, with support from the Idaho Legislature, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, local and regional business, industry and individual donors, the new Career & Technical Education Center, scheduled to be operational fall 2020, will benefit students, businesses and our community for generations to come.

Lewis-Clark State College also serves as a cultural heart and hub for our community and region. Through academic and co-curricular programming, inclusivity, multi-cultural and international education, events, speakers, music, theater, the arts, enrichment classes, adult

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education, workforce training and outreach programming, not to mention LC's incredible legacy of athletic successes, including hundreds of All American student-athletes and Academic All Americans, 20 National Championship team titles (19 in Baseball), and numerous individual and team conference champions, **we, Lewis-Clark State College, contribute to our region's high quality living and are indeed *the center of looking forward.***

Summary:

These are challenging and auspicious times in higher education. Weekly, if not daily we encounter a broader narrative calling into question the value and cost of higher education. Nation-wide a critical shift has taken place. A shift wherein post-secondary education is too often viewed as a private commodity, emphasizing earning power for some, as opposed to a public good for all.

Undeniably, higher education is an economic driver. LC's jobs-related regional economic impact is estimated in excess of \$35 million dollars annually. For individuals, median life-time earnings reflect that Associate's degree holders earn close to half-a-million dollars more than someone with a high school diploma. Likewise, lifetime earnings for bachelor's degree holders are in excess of a million dollars more.

More importantly however, higher education, rooted in **opportunity, success and partnership**, fosters and empowers knowledge, skills and dispositional aptitudes conducive to **life-long learning**, and growth; options, opportunities and **endless possibilities**. And as such, truly serves as a personal, public and global good.

Lewis-Clark State College, defined by and through its tenacity, perseverance and adaptive resilience; and, in no small measure, because of an unfailing dedication to trying and trying again, rising and rising again, by its leaders, its faculty, staff, students, alumni and the community, stands today on a foundation that is strong. **It is however, a foundation we will build upon, not rest upon.**

And so, I close now with a pledge and an *ask.*

A few weeks into my arrival on campus, a colleague asked, "...what are the hardest and best things about being a college president?" I replied, "...the most challenging things are the weight of responsibility and all the things I need to learn. The best are the incredible **possibilities** and all the things I GET to learn. And so, *I pledge to you*, to us, to wake-up every day energized by and committed to the **pursuit of possibilities**; and to champion our student-centered/student-driven mission, working tirelessly and fiercely on our behalf....ever grateful for, and striving to be worthy of the trust you have placed in me.

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And now, *the ask*: In the years to come I will need your help. It will take each of us and all of us working together to prepare **leaders, engaged citizens** and **lifelong learners**. I am counting on you, and I am counting on us, and our uncompromising commitment to making Lewis-Clark State College stronger and ever-better; so that we fulfill our mission, our role and our responsibility to serve the greater good; and by doing so continue making positive and lasting differences in the lives of our students, our community, our state, region, nation and world.

Qe' ciyew'yew' and Lim-lemtsch, Gracias, and Thank you. Thank you for the privilege of serving.