

have been working with them this past fall to better achieve the Strategic Plan goal of “Finding large partners for which CWC can be their go-provider of training and education.” With their help, we are now working on two major projects. One involves providing CTE training to the member companies of the Energy Providers Coalition for Education (EPCE). We presented possible degrees to members of the EPCE board this month. Many thanks to Dr. Wells and Dean Yeates. The second project involves the development of an Industrial Innovation & Training Center with online and mobile components. This will be explained at the Trustees Dialogue Dinner. The vision is explained in the white paper [Light Industrial Workforce Development in Rural America](#). We have gained substantial verbal support from regional representatives of the EDA, USDA-Rural Development, and the Department of Labor (DOL). We presented our vision most recently to Wyoming Workforce Services on January 15.

Beyond the work with ASG/DGA, we continue to make forward progress with partnerships with NOLS and others. For NOLS, STEM and Health Sciences Dean Jennifer Kellner is working to create semester-long CWC certificates that NOLS students can pursue. This is what we call Phase II. Phase I involved the establishment of articulation of credit for existing NOLS courses.

Other projects that continue to expand involve Silicon Couloir in Jackson. We are discussing a variety of possible joint ventures involving business start-up courses and conference delivery. We are also having discussions with Jackson Wonder Institute regarding the development of local CTE instruction.

Academic Affairs (VP for Academic Affairs Kathy Wells)

There is no Academic Affairs report this month.

Student Affairs (VP for Student Affairs Cory Daly)

There is no Student Affairs report this month.

January Athletics Board Report

Both Central Wyoming men’s and women’s basketball teams wrapped up their non-conference schedules in the month of December, and each team had their last games before sending their athletes home for Christmas break on the weekend of the 13 & 14. Prior to that, in Salt Lake City on December 4 & 5 the men’s team laced up their shoes against the No. 3 and No. 6 ranked NJCAA division one teams in the country: Snow College and Salt Lake Community College. Central Wyoming had already faced both of these opponents in November, and the results of December’s matchups mirrored that of their previous encounters. CWC lost to Snow 112-48, and then dropped their third loss in a row against SLCC, 74-55. Head Coach Pat Rafferty was eager to get his team to rebound (both literally and figuratively) the following weekend against a pair of Region IX-South opponents after facing some of the best teams in the country.

After a week of rest, practice and lifting weights, the Rustlers made the long bus ride down to Sterling, Colorado to play in a classic hosted by Northeastern Junior College. There they faced North Platte Community College on December 13 and Otero College on December 14. And CWC saw an improvement in the results from those two games. They hung with North

Platte until the very last minute, but despite double-digit points from Julian Ormond, Jordan Peel, Dominic McLawrence, and Casper-native Isaac Patik, the Knights stole a 70-63 win away right from under their noses. But their sheer determination and grit finally paid off in their last game of December. Jordan Peel and Isaac Patik both willed their team to a win against Otero College the next day. Peel went for 23 points and Patik had a game-high 25, and the Rustlers got back in the win column with a double-digit win, 83-68.

Central Wyoming College's women's basketball team almost had identical schedules and results as the men's team in December. They faced SLCC, Colorado Northwestern CC and Snow College in Utah on December 5, 6 and 7. SLCC and Snow's women's basketball teams are also nationally ranked, much like their men's teams, and have also faced the Rustlers multiple times this year already. CWC went 0-3 in that tournament, with the final results of each game being 93-61, 72-63 and 91-46 (respectively).

Desperate to right the boat before beginning the Region IX conference in January, the Rustlers had two more opportunities at home to secure a couple of wins and hit the two-week-long break from school feeling good about how they're playing. And they'd be able to test the waters against two Region IX-South opponents as well: McCook College and Otero College. Friday night's game against McCook CC was an absolute nail-biter that came down to the wire, but thanks to clutch free throws from Esperanza Vergara and Maren Baker, they were able to hold on long enough and remain victorious, 60-58. Riding high from their emotional win the previous night, Central Wyoming emptied the fuel tank in Saturday afternoon's matchup against Otero. Katie Walker sank four three-pointers which amounted her season-high point output (25), and CWC outplayed Otero to stack their second win in a row from a 76-66 final score. Natalia Ballin earned Region IX Women's Basketball Player of the Week recognition for her performances in both of these games, where she averaged 21 PPG and 6.5 APG as the spark plug of the Rustler's offense.

The men's basketball team will have the first games following Christmas break, facing Snow College at home in Rustler Gymnasium on January 11 at 2 pm, and then both the men's and women's teams will host Western Wyoming Community College on January 16 at 5:30 and 7:30 pm.