

# Monday Message

April 22, 2024



Dear all

As you are likely aware, internal and external campus groups have been engaging conversations associated with evolving Lewis-Clark State College's naming moniker from college to university. This idea has been driven by academic interests as a broad-based campus community initiative. To learn more about the status of the journey we've been on, read on...

## History

LC State has a long history of identity evolution and associated name changes. Established in 1893 as a state normal school, LC's naming moniker has moved through time from Lewiston State Normal School (1893), to Northern Idaho College of Education (1947), to Lewis-Clark Normal School (1955), and to Lewis-Clark State College (1971). Today, as a comprehensive regional institution, LC State embodies and distinguishes itself more accurately as a university than a college. All of LC State's 13 institutional peers, as approved by the State Board of Education, have moved away from the moniker "college." Additionally, among Idaho's public institutions, the four community colleges utilize the label "college" while those offering baccalaureate degrees are called "universities" (this is one reason why we continue to be mistaken for a community college in Idaho).

## Conversations

Because of considerations like those above, in the fall of 2023, Academic Affairs convened a group of faculty to consider and discuss the pros and cons associated with evolving our moniker from college to university. Faculty Senate leadership discussed the idea in November, and meetings were held in December and January engaging faculty representatives from all divisions (Faculty Senate was represented by Dr. Peter Remien during these meetings). As an outcome of these meetings, attendees were asked to discuss the idea with their colleagues, and Dr. Royal Toy and Communications & Marketing Director Mr. Logan Fowler were tasked with conducting constituent-based focus groups to engage a thoughtful process of deliberation and attempt to reach a broad range of stakeholder groups. These meetings and conversations took place as follows:

- Dec. 12 – Faculty (faculty-led focus group) – Informative discussion, group members tasked with researching over winter break and then reconvening to share what they learned.
- Jan. 17 – Faculty (faculty-led focus group) – Pros and cons shared, concerns and questions addressed. Group voted unanimously to move forward because potential benefits "significantly outweighed" perceived negatives. Focus group plan launched.
- Feb. 20 – Student Government (focus group)
- March 11 – Athletics (coaches focus group)
- March 12 – Athletics (Warrior Athletic Association focus group)
- March 21 – Staff (PSO focus group)
- March 21 – Staff (CSO focus group)
- April 2 – [Focus Group Report](#) submitted to President Pemberton
- April 4 – Division emails (e.g., social sciences)
- April 11 – Faculty Senate (presentation by Dr. Royal Toy and Mr. Logan Fowler)
- April 16 – LC State Foundation Board (focus group presentation)
- April 19 – LC State Alumni Board (focus group presentation)

## More Conversations

In addition to the above, division-level meetings, discussions and conversations transpired as follows:

- PLMSS – Had a division meeting discussion on Jan. 18 and reported no objections.
- HUM -- Had two division meeting discussions on this topic on Feb. 27 and March 19, reporting overall support.

- SS – Discussed this topic at a division meeting on April 3 and had some continued discussion over group email threads.
- BUCS – Dr. Nina Peterson is a member of the faculty focus group and has solicited information from BUCS faculty for several weeks. The idea was formally presented for discussion at the division meeting held April 16.
- NHS – Nursing faculty Michelle Pearson-Smith and Ella-Mae Keatts are members of the faculty focus group. They engaged informal conversations with division faculty and the idea was formally shared at the NHS division meeting held April 12 by the senate representative.
- TEAM – Dr. Royal Toy is a member of the faculty focus group and has solicited information from TEAM faculty for several weeks. The idea was formally presented for discussion at the division meeting held April 16.
- BTS – Faculty participated in integrated division meetings as noted above. Additionally, BTS faculty Ms. Natalie Holman is a member of the faculty focus group and engaged CTE/BTS faculty in conversations and noted that no concerns were expressed.
- T&I – Mr. Charles Bell (CTE faculty and faculty focus group member) had discussions (i.e., informal conversations and small groups) among T&I faculty. These conversations took place across the months of December and January. During this time Mr. Bell spoke with nearly all of the T&I faculty, and noted that while some questions/comments were received, T&I faculty did not express strong opinions one way or another, perceiving that the impact on them would likely be negligible.

Throughout the above, faculty were invited to share feedback with their faculty focus group representatives and/or Dr. Royal Toy.

### External Conversations

Given the early momentum evidenced, in February I informally floated the idea during a number of one-on-one meetings with legislators while in Boise. Legislators I spoke with were curious and asked good questions but did not express negativity. As a further step in the process, on April 1, Provost Chilson and I brought the idea forward to the Policy, Planning and Governmental Affairs subcommittee of the State Board of Education. A change to LC State's name would require not only State Board of Education approval, but approval of the Idaho Legislature during the 2025 legislative session to amend our name as listed in state statute. Because of this, some external conversations must be started early in this process.

### What is next? The conversation continues

At this point, you may be wondering where we go from here...

1. We ask that you review the [rationale document](#) and embedded preliminary [focus group report](#).
2. We ask that you share your thoughts via this [commentary invitation](#).
3. Assuming consensus remains positive, next steps involve presentation to the SBOE executive committee (May) and then full board (June). If supported by the SBOE, these meetings would be followed by a legislative proposal (akin to the 2020 legislative statute change enacted to allow LC State to offer graduate courses/programs) put forward by the SBOE to be routed for consideration and approval through the 2025 legislative process/session.

I want to extend my appreciation to all who have participated in the various conversations, discussions, meetings, etc. and the thoughtful process engaged. I also want to give special thanks to the original faculty focus group members, and Dr. Royal Toy and Mr. Logan Fowler who co-led the many subsequent focus group sessions. This has been and is a wonderful example of collective campus-community engagement. I will be proud to represent our collective will and advocate on behalf of this important initiative. Stay tuned for updates via the Monday Message as the process moves forward.

Cynthia Pemberton, Ed.D.  
President

P.S. Thanks again to all who worked to make Art Under the Elms and Family Weekend such a wonderful success! Go Warriors!

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## Events

Keep up on events and activities through the new [Campus Calendar](#).

- **April 24 – CAH Open House** – Kristi Brown has been named the director of the Center for Arts & History (CAH) and reception to welcome and connect her with the campus and community is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, from 4-6 p.m. The reception will be held at CAH, located at 415 Main Street in Lewiston.
- **April 26-28 – Home Athletic Events** – The LC State women's and men's tennis teams will play Treasure Valley Community College on Friday at the Tennis Center. The Warrior baseball team will host a four-game series against Bushnell University on Saturday and Sunday. For more info visit [www.lcwarriors.com](http://www.lcwarriors.com).
- **April 30 – Tuesday @ Two** – President Pemberton will host Tuesday @ Two on April 30 at 2 p.m. at the Schweitzer Career & Technical Education Center, Room 302. Stop by and join the conversation.
- **May 1-3 – Research Symposium** – LC State students and faculty will present their classroom and independent research projects during the Annual Research Symposium on Wednesday and Thursday on campus and Friday in Coeur d'Alene. All presentations are free and open to the public. More details to come.
- **May 10 – Commencement** – LC State's commencement ceremonies will be held on Friday, May 10, at the P1FCU Activity Center. Visit [www.lcsc.edu/graduation](http://www.lcsc.edu/graduation) to learn more.
  - **Message from the Office of the Provost:** Commencement is a significant milestone in the academic journeys of our students and gives us a wonderful opportunity to celebrate their dedication, perseverance and achievements. To show our support, **faculty are required to attend both ceremonies**. The first ceremony will include students in the School of Professional & Graduate Studies, and the second will include students in the Schools of Liberal Arts & Sciences and Career & Technical Education. All faculty need to line up on the ramp on the north side of the P1FCU Activity Center by 9:20 a.m. for the first ceremony and by 1:20 p.m. for the second ceremony. Lunch will be provided to faculty between ceremonies and can be picked up at Doks (across from the entrance to the SUB/CSL) around 11:30 a.m. You are welcome to enjoy lunch with your colleagues or bring it to your office as you complete any pending grading before lining up for the second ceremony.

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## Announcements

- **Controller:** Mylynda Hoch has been named the new controller and will start Monday, Apr. 22. Mylynda has a bachelor's in business administration and is a certified public accountant. Mylynda has over 30 years of public and non-profit accounting experience. She has extensive experience with audits, budgeting, financial forecasting and planning, systems development, and process improvement. It is our pleasure to welcome her to LC State.
- **Open Enrollment:** Open Enrollment for Medical/Dental/Flexible Spending Accounts begins today and runs through May 10. Steps to take:
  - Decide on the coverage you want.
    - If you want to change from what you currently have, you will need to do so in the Open Enrollment application in Luma.
    - If you are not making any medical and dental plan changes, nor enrolling in the FSA, there is no action you need to take.
  - Decide if you want to participate in the Health Care FSA, Day Care FSA, or Limited Health Care FSA. Three different types of FSAs are offered for FY25.
    - If you want to participate, you must enroll/reenroll each year.
      - Your FSA contributions will be taken from your paychecks July through June.

- Note the Limited Purpose Health Care FSA is specifically offered for those employees enrolled in the High Deductible plan WITH HSA.
  - Decide if you want to participate in the HSA.
    - If you want to newly participate in the HSA, you must be enrolled for the High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP), select the “HDHP with HSA” option in the enrollment process. You can set up your contribution at the same time or at any point during the year.
      - Your HSA contributions will be taken from your paychecks July through June.
  - Review the Luma Open Enrollment step-by-step guide and instructions.
    - [2024 Open Enrollment Demonstration](#)
  - [2024 Open Enrollment QRG](#)
- **Prescription Drug Take-Back Day:** Bring your unused or expired prescription medication to our collection area in the LC State Library parking lot on Wednesday, April 24, between 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Do not remove labels but be sure to cross out personal information. There will be total anonymity with no questions asked. Liquids, inhalers, needles or syringes cannot be accepted. Please email [counseling@lsc.edu](mailto:counseling@lsc.edu) if you have questions.
- **Summer Hours:** Summer hours will be in effect May 13-Aug. 2. See intranet for details. The holiday schedule has also been updated and is on the intranet.
- **Volunteer for Dream It. Do it.:** Volunteers are needed for the Dream It. Do It. conference on May 14. The event brings area 10th and 11th graders to campus to learn about potential career opportunities. For more information contact [Stephanie Lathrop](#) or [Abigail Pernsteiner](#), and [sign up here to volunteer](#).
- **Volunteer for the World Series:** The 2024 Avista NAIA World Series is May 24-31 and volunteers are needed to take tickets, sell programs, help in the concession stands, and serve as ushers. With supervisor approval, LC State employees can volunteer for up to eight hours, for a maximum of two shifts, during designated work hours, or a supervisor can approve comp time if shifts are worked after hours. For more information visit [www.naiaworldseries.com/volunteer](http://www.naiaworldseries.com/volunteer).
- **Song for the Week:** “[I Can See Clearly Now](#)” by Johnny Nash

