

May 21, 2020

To: Timothy Kaumo, Mayor, City of Rock Spring, Wyoming
From: Western Wyoming Community College

Dear Mayor Kaumo,

Western Wyoming Community College is writing this letter requesting permission to conduct a commencement ceremony vehicle procession "parade" in Rock Springs on June 27, 2020. Due to COVID-19, and under the direction of county and state health officials, Western made the decision to move our 2020 commencement ceremony from a traditional face-to-face event on May 15, 2020 to a virtual event on Saturday, June 27, 2020. The virtual event will take place at 1:00pm that day and will be broadcast via Western's YouTube channel. It will also be broadcast via Western's Mustang Radio Station, 91.3 FM. Graduates and their immediate families will have the opportunity to park their decorated vehicles in every other parking spot in the east parking lots of the campus to listen to the broadcast, honk their horns for their graduate, and take pictures in front of the Mustang letters and statue while practicing social distancing.

In accordance with the college's first approved COVID-19 variance request from May 18, 2020 – July 5, 2020, visitors to the campus that day will not be allowed entrance into the college buildings and will be encouraged to wear face coverings and social distance if they choose to exit their vehicle for photo opportunities.

On June, 27, 2020, at approximately 2:00pm, at the conclusion of the virtual event, graduates will have the opportunity to participate in the vehicle procession. Although it is difficult to predict the actual turnout for the event, the college is expecting no more than 150 to 200 vehicles to participate in the procession. The procession will be led by emergency vehicles, followed by a clearly marked college vehicle driven by Dr. Kim Dale, WWCC President. The graduates in their own private vehicles will then follow, and the last vehicle will be a clearly marked Western vehicle so it is easily known when the procession ends. While in the procession, all vehicles participating will turn on their emergency flashers, drive no more than 10 miles per hour, and keep one car spacing between each vehicle. It is anticipated that the procession will last no more than one hour and conclude at approximately 3:00pm.

At the beginning of the procession, all vehicles will exit the southeast parking lot (in front of Rushmore Gymnasium) in an orderly fashion and turn right, heading south onto College Drive. The procession will then proceed south past the hospital down to Dewar Drive and turn right and head west. It will then turn right on Gateway Blvd. and proceed north up to College Drive. It will then turn right on College Drive, head southeast, and return back to the northeast parking lot of the college. At that point, the procession will end and graduate vehicles can disperse.

The proposed route only includes right-hand turns at major intersections, and avoids the need for closing any roads or intersections, and reduces the need for extensive traffic

control to be put into place. While on Dewar Drive and Gateway Blvd., the procession will remain in the right-hand lane to allow regular traffic flow in the left-hand lane, especially in heavy traffic areas along Dewar Drive, as well as between the intersection of Dewar Drive & Gateway Blvd., and the entrances into the Wal-Mart parking lot.

To assist with minor traffic control, members of Western's Protective Services staff will be stationed at the corner of Skyline Drive and College Drive, as well as at the corner of Skyline Drive and Gateway Blvd., to conduct traffic control during the procession.

Although there is a possibility that college employees, friends, family, and community members celebrating the graduates may station themselves anywhere on the procession route to cheer on the graduates, all will be encouraged to station themselves on Gateway Blvd. between Skyline Drive and College Drive. This will enable the least inconvenience to the motoring public and the least disturbances to the residential areas that the procession will pass.

Please see Exhibit A which is a detailed map of the proposed route of the procession.

A representative from the Western Wyoming Community College administration will be present at the City Council meeting where this proposal will be discussed. That administrator will be available to answer any questions that members of the council may have.

Thank you for your consideration in this request. The college appreciates the support of the city, and of all emergency agencies, in making this commencement celebration memorable and as interactive, yet safe, as possible for our graduates and their families.

Sincerely,

Western Wyoming Community College

Exhibit A:

