



President's Report October 2017

About 18 years ago I found myself at the annual hunting camp of my friend Bruce, who was at the time the Under-Sheriff for Park County, Wyoming. Both Bruce and I are originally from Minnesota so, when I moved to Wyoming he took it upon himself to orient me to Wyoming culture, at the center of which was elk hunting. I had never hunted for anything bigger than a pheasant before so my "orientation" proved to be a steep learning curve. Nevertheless, having successfully shot a cow elk in my first season, Bruce felt I was ready to join him and his buddies at his hunting camp for my second hunting season. By "buddies," I soon found out, Bruce meant a gathering of about 10 law enforcement officers, most of whom were also from Minnesota. Among them was Jim.

Jim was maybe 10 years older than I was, a retired officer of the Minneapolis Police Force, and a great storyteller. We hit it off almost immediately and were soon sharing our stories of life in Minnesota: fishing, farming, hunting and, of course, the weather. But, when Jim began to tell his stories about providing police coverage for anti-war protests on the University of Minnesota Campus, it was more than his great storytelling that made me feel as if I had been there too..... because I had been.

Jim sat there quietly as I shared with him that I had been one of those protesters and that it was highly likely that he and I had been on the UofM campus on the same day, on opposite side of the protest lines. When I finished, Jim remained silent and I wondered if this would be the quick end to budding friendship. But then he said "those were different times" and then he and I went on to share more stories and a great hunting weekend..... and I felt included.

Inclusion. A foundational part of our Mission, one of our five Values and one of the seven Strategic Initiatives in our Strategic Plan. Obviously, Inclusion is important to us at LBCC.... but it's also hard. Inclusion is easy when we all see things the same way, say things the same way, walk down the same road the same way.... but we don't. Instead, we bring – we embody – differences in history, culture, beliefs, economics, race, gender, sexual orientation, and hundreds of other differences that tend to separate us into camps, place us on opposite sides of issues, and on the opposite sides of protest lines..... like Jim and me.

Nonetheless, Jim and I saw each other across those lines and included each other in each other's lives. Perhaps it was the vantage point that comes from being a decade or two away from and older than we were at our first "meeting," but what we realized in our second meeting at that hunting camp was that there were good patriotic Americans – and good people - on both sides of those protest lines.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

I, along with many scholars, suspect that the writers of the Declaration of Independence did not fully appreciate all that would come to be understood in these words, but few would suggest that they would be anything other than pleased with the expanding and absolute understanding of Inclusion that the word "all" has come to mean for us as Americans... and for us here at LBCC.

"To engage in an education that enables all of us . . ."

Whether we wave a peace sign or an American flag, whether we stand or kneel or lock arms in solidarity, whether we know God's name as Jesus, Yahweh, Allah or some other name, whether we are Native American, European American, Latino American, Black American or some other American, whether we are gay or straight or something else, and whether we are liberal or conservative or something else, there is nothing in these differences that make us anything other than good people who have a right to and a place in our country, our community, and here at LBCC. This is what Inclusion means.... ***"all of us."***

Progress Report on Strategic Objectives for 2017-18

- ***Continue to develop and/or modify existing policies and practices so that they represent intentional actions to build a culture that exhibits our Goals and Values.***
 - We are moving forward with the Freedom of Expression policy, which comes to College Council in their first meeting of this academic year. In addition, we are developing "Time, Place, and Manner" policies to help us frame this freedom of expression in a manner that helps us make it a productive learning experience for all of us.
 - I provided a presentation to our Management staff, helping them to think about and act on efforts to use our Strategic Plan to guide the work in their respective areas.
 - I provided an In-Service message that focused on our Mission, Values, Strategic Goals and Strategic Plan, giving special attention to our Strategic Initiatives (from the Strategic Plan) of Affordability and Equity and Inclusion.

- ***Establish an educational experience that is increasingly designed around the student and for the student's success by fully implementing Guided Pathways.***

- ***Establish facilities that support and enhance the teaching-learning experience by implementing and/or completing Bond Funded Projects.***
 - We are beginning to see progress in our efforts to encourage/support First Student's move to a new location.

- ***Continue to improve our responsiveness to the changing needs of regional industries and other community employers.***
 - We, along with partner Greater Albany Public Schools, have been invited to give a presentation on Pipeline to a gathering of Community College Presidents and School District Superintendents in Washington DC on November 12-13. We have begun our planning for this presentation, giving special focus to the role that Business and Community play in the success of this program.

- ***Establish greater Affordability for all students.***
 - I have provided the LBCC Foundation and College Council with presentations on what "Affordability" means and how we might pursue it, and am making a similar presentation to the LBCC Board at the October Board Meeting.
 - I am working with Dave Henderson and Jess Jacobs to investigate alternative revenue possibilities, including some sort of housing for students and others.

- ***Establish technology resources that support and compliment the classroom, creating new points of access and new levels of adaptation to student needs.***

- ***Establish a campus of true Equity and Inclusion.***
 - In addition to my presentations at In-Service and Management Group, the introduction to this President's Report continues to draw attention to this important Value and Goal for LBCC.
 - I hope that the manner in which we have addressed concerns regarding an Art Exhibit on our campus reflects our commitment to these Values and Goals, as well as those pertaining to Academic Freedom.