

# GilletteCollege



# Foundation

## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



### OUR MISSION

To support Gillette College by providing direct financial assistance for scholarships, grants, programs, and capital projects so all students can realize their academic goals and our College has a valued partner for sustainable growth.

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gillettecollegefoundation.org  
300 W. Sinclair St.  
Gillette, WY 82718



## GILLETTE COLLEGE FOUNDATION BOARD

Janell Oberlander, Matt Walker, Charlene Camblin, Peg Smith, Dan Clouston, Todd Hoese, Maggi McCreery, Catherine Gallilee, Kelly Barlow, Toby Gorsuch, Heidi Gross-Executive Director, Scott Cargill, Jenna Waldner-Administrative Coordinator, Lori Hubbard, Sue Knesel, and Dave Horning



What is now the Gillette College Foundation was originally founded by five community members that wanted to bring higher education to Gillette, Wyoming. Today, seventeen community members from a wide variety of backgrounds in our community comprise the Gillette College Foundation Board, the mission of which is to enhance the offerings and operations of Gillette College which is now Wyoming's newest community college district - the Gillette Community College District. All of the Foundation's board members are committed to higher education in Campbell County in the form of Gillette College, and the Foundation plays an indispensable role in fulfilling the needs of Gillette College by providing direct financial assistance for scholarships, grants, programs and capital, so all students are able to realize their academic goals and by being an indispensable part of the continued success of our Gillette College. The Foundation is very proud of its success in its ongoing mission, but recognizes that that success is and always will be due to our loyal and generous donors and supporters who share the Foundation's mission of student success.

### **David Horning**

Foundation Board President



## A note from Heidi

It was a busy year for the Gillette College Foundation! This past year, the Foundation board updated its strategic plan. The board set four strategic priorities including revenue stream diversification, community engagement, targeted and diversified fundraising, and alumni development. These four priorities will give us a work plan for the next three years.

The Foundation also hired a part-time alumni coordinator and formed the Pronghorn Partners group. The Pronghorn Partners is an engaged group of community members who have served on our Advisory Board, Foundation Board, or is a past faculty or staff member. The purpose of forming this group is to establish a communication channel for Gillette College and Gillette College Foundation with past board members. We greatly appreciate the past service of our past board members and look forward to connecting with them.

Our events last year were very successful as well! Our annual casino night and golf events raised \$167,933! We cannot do our good work without the support of our wonderful donors and our community. Your gifts make a huge impact on the lives of our students, their families, and our community. Our mission is to support Gillette College by providing direct financial assistance for scholarships, grants, programs, and capital projects so all students can realize their academic goals and Gillette College has a valued partner for sustainable growth. Gillette College Foundation strives to end financial barriers and provide access to education for all our students, and we need your help to achieve this goal.

We truly appreciate your ongoing support of Gillette College Foundation. We look forward to many great things to come!

Warmly,

**Heidi Gross**

Gillette College Foundation Executive Director

## 2022 By The Numbers

**\$301,554**

Dollars awarded in scholarships by the Foundation

**\$367,500**

Total program support

**\$1,832,797**

Total contributions

# Meet Our Gillette College Alumni

The Gillette College Foundation is proud to recognize each graduate as a Gillette College Alumna!



## Crysta Sullivan

Meet Crysta Sullivan, who graduated in 2015 with her Associate of Science in General Studies and an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing. Crysta decided to attend Gillette College because the Nursing Program offered an excellent education that provided the opportunity to start her nursing career. While she was at Gillette College, she was a part of the nursing club, the honor society, and the community choir.

Crysta received her Doctorate of Nursing Practice degree in August 2020 through the University of Wyoming and is certified as a family nurse practitioner, working in the community providing primary care. She recently just started a new position at Hoskinson Health and Wellness clinic that will allow her to expand her skills and knowledge as a primary care provider.

Crysta's 5- & 10-year goals are to grow into her role as a nurse practitioner and potentially complete further certifications for other options for care.



## Echo Roush

Meet Echo Roush, who graduated from Gillette College in 2021 with her Associate's Degree in Psychology. Then in 2022, she received her Addictions Practitioner Certification.

Echo has started her first semester at MSU-Billings, MT, where she is currently in the Bachelor's Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program, working towards her LAC (Licensed Addictions Counselor) and moving from CAPA to CAP. Echo would like to work as an Addictions Counselor in a rehabilitation setting.

Echo chose Gillette College because it was affordable and offered the degree she was interested in. She did most of her classes in person, living off campus as a non-traditional student with kids. Echo was a member of Active Minds for two years. She truly loved being able to help students and let others know they are not alone regarding mental health.

Her 5- and 10-year goals are to graduate with a Master's Degree, work as an addiction counselor in Billings, MT, and work towards self-sufficiency by buying her own home.



## Wyatt Blakeman

Meet Wyatt Blakeman, who graduated in 2017 from Gillette College with an Associate of Applied Science Diesel Technology. He was born and raised in Buffalo, WY.

After touring many different schools that offered the Diesel Technology Program, Wyatt was very impressed by Gillette College. While in college Wyatt enjoyed college sports games, basketball, and the local hockey team.

Wyatt is currently working in the trucking and diesel industry for a family propane business, maintaining and building their fleet of trucks. He someday hopes to own and operate his own trucking company.

Wyatt's favorite thing about being a college alumnus is he is proud to say that he was a Gillette Pronghorn, and he completed his associate degree in the diesel program. Still passing the school to this day, he still feels that rush of memories from all the fun times he had while in college.

# Scholarship Recognition Distinguished Alumni Dinner

Our Scholarship Dinner is a wonderful opportunity for our donors to meet the recipients of the scholarship funds they have funded. Our students and donors truly enjoy this event. This year we also recognized Elisabeth Coleman, Our Distinguished Alumni of the Year. Thank you to our donors who make this event possible.



## Donor Recognition Reception

Every year we take the opportunity to celebrate our donors. We cannot do our good work without their support. This year's event was very exciting as Governor Gordon was able to attend the event. He spoke about the exciting opportunities for Campbell County with the successful vote to establish Gillette Community College District. We are so thankful for the support we have from our donors and our community. Thank you!



# Casino Night

Our annual Casino Night was a great success again this year! Over 425 people joined us for a night of games, great food, and most importantly, an opportunity to support our students. This year's fund-a-need supported our tech programs. Several of our students volunteered to help at the event and we appreciated it very much!

We also recognized our annual award winners. First Interstate Bank was the corporate builder of the year, Don and Cathy Schuh were individual builders of the year, and we honored the Our Community Our College PAC with the Spirit of Gillette College award for all their hard work to establish Gillette Community College District. Please save the date for next year's Casino Night event, April 15th! We look forward to seeing you there!





# Golf Scramble Event

It was a cold, blustery day this year! The bad weather did not chase anyone away though! The tournament was hosted just before the vote on 8/21 so there was a lot of excitement in the air! Thank you to our major sponsors, as well as all the brave golfers! This was our 20th year of hosting this golf event. The event raises operating funds for the foundation. Thank you for your ongoing support!





# In-Service

After a full week of training for faculty and staff (and a little bit of fun) they were ready for another semester to begin.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES



Foamy Slide & Paintball



STUDENT ACTIVITIES



Lucky Bamboo & Hat Day





## Veteran's Spotlight

# Ernest Gibson

We would like to thank Ernest Gibson for his services in the U.S. Air Force. Ever since the age of ten, Ernie was fascinated by aircraft and that is when he began to study the military branches and realized he wanted to do something different. Ultimately, he decided to join the Air Force. He wanted to get out of his community, experience life, meet different people with different life experiences, and just travel the world, plus he would get his education paid for while doing the things he wanted to do. In January 1982 he decided to enlist in the Air Force, he was only 17 years old, but the Airforce let him enlist but not go into basic training until August 1982, when he then went to San Antonio, TX.

Ernie held many positions while in the U.S. Airforce; Security Policeman, which changed to Security Forces, Elite Guard, Presidential Honor Guard, Office of the Security of Defense at the Pentagon, Staff Sergeant, Technical Sergeant, and Drill Instructor. In March 2003, Ernie retired from the Air Force with 21 years, and 9 months of honorable service.

In 2005, he moved to Gillette. In 2007 he started taking classes at Gillette College. In between college, he worked a few jobs; Adult Community Corrections Center as the Program Manager, K-Mart as the Assistant Store Manager & Loss Prevention Manager While working at the Campbell County Sheriff's Office; he was a Detention Officer, Patrol Deputy, DARE Officer, and School Resource Officer. In March 2021, Ernie retired from the Campbell County Sheriff's Office and is currently taking classes to earn his Human Services Certificate.

Today, Ernie is enjoying his retirement, taking college classes, and loves being part of any veteran's programs the community offers. He states, "I really want to help veterans," and he loves to be an inspirational/informal leader for the Veterans. Ernie loves doing activities with his family, which also includes family gatherings all over different states, loves to travel, likes to listen to audiobooks, ride his electric bike with his wife, and enjoys his dogs because he is a "big kid" at heart.

Ernie lives his life by following the advice of John Wayne "Talk low, talk slow, and don't say too much. Life is too short."



# Upcoming Events

**Scholarship Recipients/  
Distinguished Alumni Recognition Dinner**

**February 23rd, 2023**

**Estate Planning Dinner**

**March 16th, 2023**

**Casino Night**

**April 15th, 2023**

**WyoGives**

**July 12th, 2023**

**Energy Cup Golf Scramble**

**August 11th, 2023**

**Donor Recognition Reception**

**October 19th, 2023**





## A closing note from President Oberlander

You make a difference at Gillette Community College District! Without your support, encouragement, and dedication Gillette College could not have reached the long-anticipated goal of becoming an independent college district. Since August 17, 2021, we have been focused on standing up all aspects of operations that will lead us into a new era at Gillette College.

While we have much to celebrate, we extend our deepest condolences to the families of Trustee Frank Stevens and Trustee Olin Oedekoven. The loss of two founding board members was a difficult time for our leadership. Frank and Olin were pillars of our community and provided great insight during their time with the Board of Trustees. I believe they would be pleased with the addition of Trustee Larry Smith and Trustee Teri Anderson.

As we approach the new year, work continues toward accreditation with the goal of having our eligibility filing submitted by June 30, 2023. It is an ambitious goal and I know the Gillette College faculty and staff are up for the task. The IT infrastructure transition is ahead of schedule and the employee transfer will be complete in August of 2023. Enrollment for the Fall 2022 semester was up slightly over last year, and we are already registering for the upcoming spring semester. Participatory Governance is a priority, and we continue to find ways to gather input and feedback from our internal and external stakeholders.

I encourage you to attend the Pronghorn Town Halls, hosted by the Gillette College Advisory Board, for an in-depth update on Gillette College. Our next gathering will be March 9, 2023, at 5:15 pm in the Main Building Presentation Hall. The Board of Trustee Meetings are held each month on the third Wednesday, starting at 11:30 am in the Tech Center Pronghorn Board Room. These meetings are open to the public and all are welcome.

In closing, please accept my sincerest gratitude for your continued support of Gillette College. Our students can reach their academic and career goals because of your generous support. You make a difference and for that we are ever so grateful.

Looking forward to seeing you on campus soon!

All the best,

**Janell L. Oberlander, EdD**

President

Gillette Community College District

