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For Immediate Release

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News Release

Western Wyoming Community College named to the list of the 100 Best Online Colleges by BestColleges.com

ROCK SPRINGS – Western Wyoming Community College has been named by BestColleges.com to its 2014 list of the nation's top 100 schools for online degree programs. The list is divided into categories for two-year and four-year institutions, and Western was ranked 23rd among the top 50 two-year programs.

The complete list can be found at <http://www.bestcolleges.com/features/top-online-schools/>.

In its summary of Western's online offerings, the nationally recognized website referenced the College's 17 web-based educational programs, including: an Associate of Arts degree with emphases in criminal justice, general studies, social science, social work, or sociology; an Associate of Science degree with emphases in accounting, business administration, computer information systems, marketing, and general studies; an Associate of Applied Science degree in Office Information Systems; and six professional certificates requiring commitments of anywhere from 15 hours to one year.

BestColleges.com's rankings were based on the latest information provided by the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) and College Navigator databases, both of which are maintained by the National Center for Education Statistics. Specific data used to establish rankings included schools' acceptance and retention rates, and graduation and enrollment rates.

WWCC Distance Learning Director Nancy Johnson said that Western's strong ranking for online education programs reflects the College's commitment to providing quality, accessible degree options to residents who live throughout Western's extended service area in southwestern Wyoming.

"Online classes are one vital component of outreach education at Western Wyoming Community College, and we certainly encourage students from beyond Wyoming to take advantage of the affordable tuition for these quality programs, as well," Johnson said. "We also offer many live courses at our outreach sites throughout the region, and we have staff at those locations who can provide advising, registration assistance, and other services to students from those areas who wish to complete a certificate or degree."

Johnson noted that students from outreach sites, including students whose programs are entirely online, may also qualify for Western's 16 to Succeed program, in which students who commit to pursue a full-time or part-time track, and who complete their degree by the specified date, can receive an award of \$1,000 upon graduation. The program applies to associate degrees but not to certificate programs, and some restrictions do apply.

For more information about 16 to Succeed, go to <http://www.wvcc.wy.edu/engagement/16tosucceed.htm>.

Western's Outreach Centers include locations in: Afton/Star Valley; Big Piney; Bridger Valley; Cokeville; Evanston; Farson; Medicine Bow/Elk Mountain; Kemmerer; Little Snake River Valley; Pinedale; Rawlins; and Saratoga/Encampment. For more information about Distance Learning at Western, go to http://www.wvcc.wy.edu/Dist_ed/outreach.htm.

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