

## Star Valley College Gateway

It soon will be possible for graduates of Star Valley High School to leave with not only many hours of college and university credit but with an **Associate Degree** from Western Wyoming College or even Utah State University or Brigham Young University-Idaho. This means that a graduate of Star Valley High School could enter most colleges or universities as a junior, saving him or her two years of post secondary education. This will be accomplished by upgrading and expanding the already fine program of **concurrent classes** being offered at the high school. A concurrent class is one where not only high school credit but college credit is offered to those who complete it. The project to upgrade and expand concurrent classes is being spearheaded by The LCSD2 Education Foundation who calls the effort "Star Valley College Gateway."

Here is how it works. A student going into high school who desires to participate meets with his high school guidance counselor and plans an associate degree track for the student. In order for classes to be for college credit they must be taught by instructors with a masters degree or 18 additional hours in the specific subject. All teachers in the program will be evaluated by colleges granting the credit. If the class is taught on site by a Star Valley High teacher there will be no charge to the student for the college credit. The financial savings to students and parents amounts to thousands of dollars over regular college freshman and sophomore study. In addition to that there are no housing and food plans required since the student lives at home during high school years. University of Wyoming Hathaway scholarships can still be applied to Junior and Senior college years on campus.

Star Valley High School already has a number of qualified teachers to be able to offer concurrent classes. The Foundation is embarking on a program to create an incentive for current teachers to upgrade to a masters degree or add 18 appropriate hours. The Foundation will seek funding to pay for the upgrade.

Current interested teachers may now apply to the Foundation for this funding by contacting us at [lcsd2ef@lcsd2.org](mailto:lcsd2ef@lcsd2.org). The Foundation will also seek willing residents of Star Valley with credentials needed to teach in this program.

Freshmen students can start planning and taking their Star Valley College Gateway high school track now. The Foundation will continue to work with colleges and universities to build the program. The community can get involved by adopting a teacher to fund upgrades to their degree as well as identifying potential already qualified teachers.