Themes from Focus Groups

- Experiential learning/real-world & immersion experiences
    - Field research, internships, relying on the Yellowstone ecosystem to offer experiential opportunities that only the College can offer. "Creating a Yellowstone experience for every student."
    - Summer immersion programs and academic/co-curricular camps for students.

- Renaming and Rebranding the College
    - Need for enhanced recognition of the College to enhance enrollment and revenue to the College. "Nationally and internationally, not everyone may know where Wyoming is, but everyone knows where Yellowstone is."
    - Capitalizing on Northwest's unique location and surroundings went hand-in-hand with possible renaming or rebranding of the College.
    - Significant feedback was offered to pair the renaming or rebranding of the College with expansion of academic program innovation, partnerships, or applied-learning experiences.

- Academic Innovation & Workforce Responsive Programming
    - Greater reliance on work-ready skills in the future than ever before. Flexible and differentiated types of credentialing will be key (micro-credentials). Clear pathways that can create stackable credentials.
    - Interdisciplinary academic programs that can be used to address economic, social, and/or workforce needs (e.g., sustainability, renewable energy, etc.).
    - Use of technology (virtual reality and artificial intelligence) on campus to offer workforce-ready experiences that support digital and technical skills.

- Flexible Delivery of Academic Programs
    - Block scheduling (e.g., one course at a time over a semester) and creating alternative scheduling paths to degrees.
    - Distance and online learning. Provide online opportunities for students through fully online programs and hybrid courses. Build low-residency academic programs that allow students to take online courses elsewhere, but come to Northwest College for short 1-2 week experiences/on-site learning.

- Partnerships
    - Creating K-12 and college/university partnerships (e.g., 2+2 programs) that can help increase enrollment of students
    - Partnerships with businesses and industry:
        - that have heavy telecommuting workforces that allow students to live in region and work remotely elsewhere;
        - that can provide local experiential learning opportunities to students; or
        - that offer pathways for adult learners/employees to upskill and achieve credentials that support career advancement and changes.