

CHADRON STATE COLLEGE

October 15, 2009

Community Center Committee
% Kristi Johnson
300 Shelton Street
Chadron, NE 69337

Dear Community Center Committee,

I commend all of you for your efforts to bring a community center to Chadron. On behalf of Chadron State College, I fully support your effort.

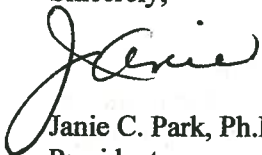
I have been asked whether Chadron State College would be willing to partner with the community center with regards to public access to the indoor pool in Armstrong Gym. As some of you know, we currently have defined public use hours for our pool but our current facility presents us and you with some limitations. Principally, we don't have adequate locker or bathroom facilities for public use and when we have other athletic events in the building we have to close the pool to the public. We also have problems finding and compensating certified life guards and building supervisors during the hours people would like for us to have the pool open.

We have on the drawing board a major renovation and addition to the Armstrong gym that has the potential to resolve some of the limitations I mentioned above. The planned renovation will include additional locker rooms and bathrooms for the pool that will not have to be closed down when other athletic events are held in the building. The renovation will also upgrade the mechanical parts of the pool itself and bring the building up to code which should result in less down time due to mechanical failure.

Maintaining an indoor pool is a very expensive proposition both in terms of the facility itself and the staffing and I would be in favor of a partnership with the community center to continue the current public use hours, and with the completion of the renovation, enhance public access without saddling the community with the full costs of building, maintaining and staffing a second indoor pool. The cost of staffing the Chadron State pool during the public hours could be covered through a shared community center membership fee which would be considerably less than the fees it would take to support a separate community center pool.

I can't predict at this time how long it will take to acquire the funding for the planned renovation of Armstrong Gym. It will take a combination of state funding and private donations and although the private donations are coming along well, the state revenue deficit will delay our appeal to the state for its share of the costs until the state revenue rebounds. In the mean time, we will continue to designate as many hours as possible for public use of our pool taking into account the current facility and staffing limitations.

Sincerely,



Janie C. Park, Ph.D.
President