

# Wyoming Community College Commission

2020 Carey Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Cheyenne WY 82002

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Dr. James O. Rose

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## Memo

**To:** Governor Dave Freudenthal, Wyoming State Legislature  
**From:** Amy Brockel  
**Date:** 9/26/08  
**Re:** Overseas Combat Veterans, Surviving Spouses and Orphans Education Benefit  
Annual Report as per Wyoming Statute 19-14-106 (e)--Revised

## OVERVIEW:

As a result of the 2006 legislative session, Wyoming statute 19-14-106 was expanded to allow for free tuition and fees for overseas combat veterans, surviving spouses and orphans. The Community College Commission was tasked to implement the benefit and reimburse the University and the community colleges. During the 2007 legislative session the statute was amended to include reimbursement for Vietnam Veterans.

The following is a report of the program's usage at the University of Wyoming and Wyoming's seven community colleges from June 30, 2007-July 1, 2008 semesters. No surviving spouses or orphans have utilized this program thus far. Also included are the Vietnam era Veterans (Aug 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975) for which UW and the colleges were reimbursed starting spring semester of 2007.

EA 42 contained an original appropriation of \$200,000, which was not sufficient to provide educational benefits for the full 2007-2009 biennium. There was a supplemental budget appropriation of \$200,000 added to fund the program through June 30, 2008. The funding still was not adequate to cover the requests from the 8 institutions and additional funding had to be supplemented from other programs to fully cover the requests.

The Community College Commission will submit a supplemental budget request for 2010 to receive an additional \$400,000 to cover the projected costs of this program.

## SUMMARY:

Vietnam Veteran & Overseas Combat Veteran, Surviving Spouse, or Orphan Tuition Reimbursement Program			
Participants (Veterans Served)	UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING	COMMUNITY COLLEGES	TOTAL
Summer 07	17	6	23
Fall 07	69	51	120
Spring 08	68	59	127
Summer 08	22	0	22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>292</b>
Average Tuition & Fees per Semester	\$1,625	\$919	
Total Reimbursement	\$285,977	\$106,596	\$392,573

Wyoming Community College Commission, 2008