

Wyoming Community College Commission

2020 Carey Avenue, 8th Floor, Cheyenne WY 82002

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Exofficio
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State Superintendent Dr. Jim McBride
Executive Director
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Memo

To: Governor Dave Freudenthal, Wyoming State Legislature
From: Amy Brockel
Date: 10/07/09
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, 2008-July 1, 2009 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 by \$169,000 from another program to fully cover the requests.

The Community College Commission submitted a supplemental budget request for 2010 to receive additional \$400,000 to cover the projected costs of this program (for a total of \$800,000 for the biennium). With the 10% budget cut and continued growth of this program additional funding will again be requested by the Community College Commission. It can be seen below that in just the first year of the biennium the program requests have exceeded more than half the available funds.

SUMMARY:

Vietnam Veteran & Overseas Combat Veteran, Surviving Spouse, or Orphan Tuition Reimbursement Program			
Participants (Veterans Served)	UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING	COMMUNITY COLLEGES	TOTAL
Summer 08	22	6	28
Fall 08	66	80	146
Spring 09	63	103	166
Summer 09	20	16	36
TOTAL	171	205	376
Average Tuition & Fees per Semester	\$1,629.72	\$796.04	
Total Reimbursement	\$278,681.43	\$163,188.60	\$441,870.03

Wyoming Community College Commission, 2009