

Wyoming Community College Commission

2020 Carey Avenue, 8th Floor, Cheyenne WY 82002

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Exofficio
Governor Dave Freudenthal
State Superintendent Dr. Jim McBride
Executive Director
Dr. James O. Rose

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Memo

To: Governor Dave Freudenthal, Wyoming State Legislature
From: Amy Brockel
Date: 10/13/10
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, 2009-July 1, 2010. 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 2007-2008 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 at the end of the biennium to cover the Spring 2010 semester. There was \$169,000 added to the OCV budget from another program to fully cover the requests. The appropriation for the 2009-2010 biennium was \$800,000 with a 20% budget cut applied to the program. That brought the available funding to \$760,000 which was not adequate to fully fund the program. The program was supplemented by \$174,046. The supplemental funding came from the projected surplus that was in the health insurance fund for the colleges.

The Community College Commission submitted a biennial budget request for \$760,000 and an exception request of \$240,000 to meet the anticipated growth in the program in the 2011-2012 biennium. Both requests were approved by the Governor and legislature, bringing total funding for the 2011-2012 biennium to \$1,000,000. The use of the 2011 biennium funds began with the summer 2010 semester. In total this program has assisted 423 Wyoming Veterans since the first semester in the fall of 2006.

SUMMARY:

Vietnam Veteran & Overseas Combat Veteran, Surviving Spouse, or Orphan Tuition Reimbursement Program			
Participants (Veterans Served)	UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING	COMMUNITY COLLEGES	TOTAL
Fall 09	63	126	189
Spring 10	67	130	197
Summer 10	24	27	51
TOTAL	154	283	437
Average Tuition & Fees per Semester	\$1,682.23	\$894.02	
Total Reimbursement	\$259,064.41	\$253,008.40	\$512,072.81

Wyoming Community College Commission, July 30, 2010