



State of Wyoming Educational Attainment Executive Council and WICHE Taskforce Update

March 2021

The Educational Attainment Executive Council (EAEC) met for a half day meeting on February 18, 2021, via Zoom. The focus of the meeting was to follow up on several implementation efforts related to the adopted Wyoming State Educational Attainment Strategic Plan for 5-years and 10-years (May 19, 2020). The body also discussed the newly launched Wyoming Innovation Network (WIN). A copy of the agenda with hyperlinks is attached. A summary of the current activities of the EAEC can be found at the EAEC website: <https://communitycolleges.wy.edu/initiatives/educational-attainment-executive-council/>

A great deal of activity has occurred since the last update. The 66th Legislature started off with a modified and hybrid 2021 Legislative Session with a one-day session in January, committee work in February, one week virtual session at the end of February, and then a month long session conducted in-person and remote during March into April. There were multiple discussions and topics related to education including post-secondary education. Those items are discussed below. The submission of this quarterly update is a bit late due to the legislative schedule and the capacity of those involved to create the update.

February EAEC and WICHE Taskforce Meeting February 18, 2021: The February meeting was focused on organization and implementing sub-committees to move topics forward. With so much related to educational attainment coming forward as discussion topics and bills during the session, the Attainment Council agreed to hold bi-weekly legislative update calls. Senator Wasserburger shared thoughts on the upcoming session and areas for us to watch. The concept of educational attainment is starting to be better understood as an economic issue. Lachelle Brant provided an update and summary on the NGA Education and the Workforce grant. Dr. Ed Seidel and Dr. Kim Dale shared the concept and direction of WIN effort. They shared the focus of the WIN to take action on economic efforts leveraged by the platform and plan established by the EAEC as well as other effort such as Wyoming Workforce Development Council (WWDC) and Next Generation Sector Partnership. The Co-chairs and WCCC will keep the council updated as the effort proceeds. There was also the reminder that Wyoming Business Council (WBC) has its new-ish state Strategy Plan that was used to guide and inform the adopted Attainment Plan and would also be a helpful guide as the WIN proceeds. Superintendent Balow highlighted a new FAFSA workshop that the WDE will be launching in the spring to help get the word out on available financial aid. The effort is aimed at high school students, but also their parents given the high number of adults identified by the plan. A great deal of the meeting was focused on showcasing the launch of WyoTransfer, universal MOU between the university and the colleges, and the rollout of the Attainment awareness campaign. Finally, the council wrapped up by identifying sub-committees to begin work on areas of attainment plan implementation for policy barriers and measures/metric development. Dr. Caldwell will establish the committees after the legislative session. The February meeting agenda and the overview of WyoTransfer are attached.

2021 Legislative Session and Bills Related to Attainment: The WCCC hosted the calls and Policy Analyst, Christy Klaassen, supported the Co-chairs, Dr. Kim Dale and Dr. Ed Seidel, on updating the

April 2, 2021

body. The body also directed Dr. Sandy Caldwell to provide a 1-page Attainment overview and highlight that post-secondary educational attainment is an economic issue. The body focused on multiple bills that impact educational attainment including the budgets for K12, community colleges, and UW. There is particular interest in the K12 funding that appears in HB 173. Final outcome included softening the blow with federal relief funds pending availability and final Treasury Guidance. Three bills were specifically targeted by the EAEC as directly related to implementation of the Wyoming Attainment Plan: HB 157 Health Professionals Education Endowment, HB 165 Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarship, and SF 127 Learn While You Earn. We provided documentation and testimony on the bills, attainment plan, and data to highlight the potential impact including the effectiveness of the Governor's CARES College Grant and CARES Adult Grant. Both the endowment bills died in committee, but SF 127 was amended to include critical aspects of HB 165 Wyoming's Tomorrow. The final outcome will be determined in JCC. The topics of these bills are expected to be considered during the interim.

While not directly related to the Attainment Plan, the request for Gillette Community College District made it through as SEA 47. Part of the data provided via the WCCC Needs Assessment included the post-secondary educational attainment of Campbell County, which is lower than average. This is particularly important as it relates to the ability for a region to adapt to a changing economy. We are awaiting final notice on when and if the enrolled act might be signed.

May EAEC and WICHE Taskforce Meeting May 19, 2021: The meeting will be held in-person with a Zoom option at Western Wyoming Community College in Rock Springs. The meeting will be held from 8:30 am-noon. There will be a debrief of the legislative session and committee assignments and taskforces per the anticipated April 16, 2021, Management Council meeting. Additional focus will be on the sub-committees for policy barriers and development of the measures/metrics for the Attainment Plan and an overview of Prior Learning Assessments (PLAs) from the college workgroup.

MEMO

To: Senate Education Committee

From: Dr. Kim Dale, President of Western Wyoming Community College, Co-chair Educational Attainment Executive Council
Dr. Edward Seidel, President of University of Wyoming, Co-chair Educational Attainment Executive Council

Date: March 11, 2021

RE: Wyoming Post-secondary Educational Attainment 5-Year and 10-Year Strategic Plan and 2021 Legislation

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IS A STATE OF WYOMING PRIORITY

The purpose of the state attainment effort is to better prepare our citizens for the jobs of today and tomorrow. The urgency was recognized across the state as an economic issue. Attainment has measurable economic impact at the personal and state level. In 2019, the Wyoming Legislature identified post-secondary educational attainment as a state priority and legislatively created the Educational Attainment Executive Council in SEA 61.

WHAT IS EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The #1 indicator of economic and social mobility is higher education attainment.

Post-secondary educational attainment refers to people obtaining credentialed education after high school. Higher education plays a critical role in diversifying the economy and ensuring a vibrant future for the state. In order to increase the level of higher education in our state's workforce, Wyoming leaders have worked together to establish statewide goals for increasing the number of degrees, certificates, and certifications, also called education credentials, held by Wyoming citizens.

WYOMING POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The Wyoming Post-secondary Educational Attainment 5-Year and 10-Year Strategic Plan includes Areas of Focus, Metrics that Matter, and metrics and targets that are aggressive and achievable. The plan is only 9-pages and includes a section on Implementation and Accountability.

IMPLEMENTATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Priorities Identified 2020-2021:

1. Wyoming's Tomorrow Task Force will continue to meet throughout the next biennium to monitor, update, and recommend legislation focused on educational attainment in Wyoming with particular focus on adult learners.
2. Develop opportunities to increase apprenticeships, internships, and externships integration statewide across post-secondary credential programs.

2021 LEGISLATIVE BILLS SUPPORTING POST-SECONDARY ATTAINMENT

- *HB 157 Wyoming Front Line Health Care Education Funding Act*
- *HB 165 Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarship Program*
- *SF 127 Learn While You Earn*

Educational Attainment Executive Council

February 18, 2021

1:30 – 5 pm

Virtual Meeting Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85406940835?pwd=cXRzR0FZRTIlaGhIS2VqSjdiMHdkQT09>

THIS INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY AT:

<https://communitycolleges.wy.edu/initiatives/attainment/>

ACTION AND REPORT AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION (ACTION ITEMS IN BOLD)

- | | | |
|--------------|--|-----------------------|
| 1:30-1:45 pm | Welcome, Introductions, and Overview of Afternoon | Co-Chairs Dale/Seidel |
| | a. Summary of Adopted Attainment Plan | |
| | b. Minutes October 21, 2020 (Action) | |
| | c. Quarterly Report Gov, UW, and WCCC Nov 2021 | |
| | d. Enrollment Status Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 | |
| 1:45-2 pm | Adopted Plan Updates and Legislative Committees | Co-Chairs Dale/Seidel |
| | a. Bi-weekly Update Calls at 1:30 pm | Caldwell |
| | b. Legislative Committees and Legislation | Connolly/Wasserburger |
| | i. Legislative Tracking Sheet | |
| 2-2:30 pm | Plan Implementation: Skills Gap & PDGA | Co-Chairs Dale/Seidel |
| | a. NGA Grant Status | Brant/Cooley/Gullberg |
| | i. NGA Summary | |
| | ii. NGA Dashboard | |
| | b. WCCC and colleges | Moritz |
| | c. UW | Moore |
| | d. Still Need Economic Impact Study (EIS) | Council Discussion |
| 2:30-3:15 pm | Higher Ed Consortium/Wyoming Innovations Network | Seidel/Dale |
| | a. Programs and Regional Hubs | Moore/Moritz |
| | b. Colleges and UW Business Model | Buchholtz |
| | c. Advocacy and Communication | Mai/Taylor |
| 3:15-3:30 pm | BREAK | |
| 3:30-3:50 pm | Initiative Updates: Successes | Dale/Seidel |
| | a. Launch: Student Transfer Success | Moritz/Moore |
| | i. Condensed Executive Report | |
| | ii. (Common Transcript) WyoTransfer.org | |
| | b. Universal MOU UW/CCs | Dale/Seidel |
| | c. SLEDS additional COVID-19 and new research | Edeburn/Moore |

- d. Attainment Awareness Campaign
i. [WICHE Awareness Campaign Report](#)

Moritz

3:50-4:20 pm Plan Implementation: Priorities 2020-2021

- a. FAFSA Workshops
- b. Adult Readiness and PLAs
- c. Audit of public policy on the barriers to implementation and success
- d. Setting up Annual Metrics and Measures

Superintendent Balow

Moritz

Council Discussion

Council discussion

4:20-5 pm Wrap up and next meeting
April/May and October

Dale/Seidel