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Press Release:

Ellbogen Foundation Launches Opportunity Scholarship

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Cheyenne, June 15, 2021: The John P. Ellbogen Foundation has announced a \$500,000 scholarship program to help adult learners attend Wyoming's community colleges. The Foundation will pilot this scholarship with interested Wyoming Community Colleges, and will target financial aid to Wyoming adults ages 24 and older who endeavor to attend a Wyoming Community College and complete a postsecondary credential. The full name of the project is the Ellbogen Opportunity Scholarship: All Students Successful, and is intended to help adult learners access the job training and education they need to find a job or advance their careers, and to ensure that Wyoming's workforce has the skills necessary for its industries, both now and in the future.

According to the Ellbogen Foundation Board, "The rationale behind this grant opportunity is that the Foundation Board realizes the tremendous economic and social impacts of a valuable post-secondary credential for individuals' and families' lives, the health of our communities and the well-being of the State of Wyoming." This aid will fill gaps in funding after other sources of financial aid are used, and will allow a student to cover expenses related to the total cost of attendance, which includes tuition and mandatory student fees as well as course fees, transportation, housing, sustenance, books, and child care. This is especially important for adult learners, who frequently have to juggle a return to college with job and family responsibilities.

The community colleges are working with the Ellbogen Foundation to establish guidelines and application procedures specific to each college, and additional information about how to apply will be posted on community college websites in the coming weeks.

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