



WYOMING
COMMUNITY COLLEGES



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

State of Wyoming Educational Attainment Executive Council and WICHE Taskforce Update

October and December 2021

This quarterly report serves the purpose of both the October 2021 and December 2021 quarterly reports. The combined efforts including the work of the Budget hearings, Wyoming Innovations Partnership, and ARPA planning delayed the typical Educational Attainment Executive Council (EAEC) October report. As such, combining the October report with the December report was the most prudent approach.

October EAEC and WICHE Taskforce hold October 21, 2021: The EAEC met for a half day meeting on October 21, 2021, at University of Wyoming in Laramie with a virtual attendance option via Zoom. The meeting was action packed with a lot of discussion regarding implementation of the items within the Strategic Plan and how to manage and provide updates on metrics and measures of the plan. There was significant discussion of the 2022 EAEC sunset paired with assurances the work will continue as institutionalized work of the state. Primary areas of focus for the meeting included: Attainment ARPA Drive requests and the ARPA process; Implementation and Scaling of Attainment Efforts; Identification of the remaining To-Do list; Metrics/Measures and Reporting; Highlights of implementation efforts including scaling via Wyoming Afterschool Alliance College Readiness, WDE FAFSA workshops and the EAEC FAFSA request, and the Governor's Initiative Career Coach Dashboard/Skills Match/Skillabi Showcase; update on new community college district, Gillette Community College District; Legislative Session tracking and bi-weekly calls; and planning for 2022 EAEC Sunset including scheduling the last EAEC meeting. The meeting agenda is attached. More detailed information regarding topics is below. 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/>

ARPA Attainment Submissions Drive Stage: The Attainment ARPA Drive requests were submitted on the due date, October 8, 2021, through the WCCC as approved by the co-chairs. During the October 2021 EAEC meeting, there was significant discussion regarding the Attainment requests and the WIP requests. There was also a great deal of discussion and questions regarding the state process and how entities make requests. The Attainment ARPA Drive submissions were directly derived from the prior efforts and the Wyoming Post-secondary Educational Attainment Strategic Plan. The EAEC discussed the importance of each of the requests including relevance of the charge of the council by the legislature. The final submissions, if funded, should help ensure the EAEC can sunset with the efforts focused on implementation and providing a solid basis for future efforts such as the WIP. During the October meeting, there was confirmation of the Year 1 WIP being funded in the Survive stage, which would be announced in a few days (more discussion below). The Attainment submissions are expected to go through the regular process in the Drive stage. There was significant discussion led by the legislators on the ARPA request process and how the requests would come forward including when the Governor would release his recommendations to the legislature. Ultimately, the legislature will make the final decision on the ARPA Drive funding. The EAEC concurred that the multiple avenues to successful economic

December 31, 2021

diversification including success of the WIP initiative are dependent on access to education and the foundational attainment efforts the legislature put in place. As the EAEC sunsets, the work and messaging must continue. The Attainment ARPA Drive requests include: Wyoming's Tomorrow adult grant bridge funding, FAFSA Workshops, Near Peer Coaching and Support at UW and Community Colleges, Student Success Management System, and Higher Ed Awareness Campaign and Economic Impact Study. The complete set of [Attainment ARPA submissions](#) can be on the WCCC website for the October 2021 meeting.

Wyoming Innovations Partnership (WIP) Update: The WIP has continued to evolve and develop. The Presidents Steering Group (PSG) comprised of the university and community college presidents, WCCC executive director, and WIP executive director have worked to submit a Year 1 proposal that the Governor has determined will be funded for \$24.7 million out of the \$50 million he was allotted. The WIP is still finalizing a Year 2-3 proposal ARPA Drive request and was granted extended time to submit beyond the October 8, 2021 deadline. Recognizing the WIP is really a next step for our state, it is built on prior foundational efforts like the Attainment work. WIP is more focused on the directions and economic sectors Wyoming needs to support economic diversification compared to the attainment work, which is a building block of having the educated population for whichever sectors the state develops. The WIP areas of focus include training and energy programs, supporting entrepreneurship across the state, digital infrastructure and technology, and outdoor recreation, tuition, and hospitality. As the EAEC sunsets, there are expectations that the WIP will take some responsibility for ensuring the attainment work continues and is still monitored.

Wyoming Post-secondary Educational Attainment Strategic Plan Implementation and Metrics/Measures Status: A critical aspect for the EAEC to put into place to ensure the council can sunset is the implementation of the SP and a mechanism to ensure the metrics and measures are completed and the results are reported. In the final stages of the plan development, the council repeatedly heard that the public wanted assurances of implementation and accountability for the SP. Final implementation components include institutionalizing Attainment within multiple efforts throughout the state, ensuring entity strategic plan development with Attainment integration within the plan, completing/publishing DWS credentials/licensure report, and identifying appropriate WDE and SBE accountability measures.

Evidence of institutionalizing attainment in multiple venues in the state include specific examples such as the Wyoming Afterschool Alliance College Readiness Initiative, the WBA Excels Sub-committee focus on connecting education and the workforce, and the Governor's Initiative based in the NGA grant connecting education and the workforce using a three-pronged approach to provide on-going access to regional labor market and desired workplace skills via Career Coach, Skills Match, and Skillabi Dashboards at the community colleges, UW, and five targeted workforce centers. The WCCC and all seven of the community colleges (Gillette CCD is not included given the separate college district is new) have either completed new SPs or are in the stage of developing a new SP with Attainment either specifically called out or embedded within the plan. University of Wyoming is in the development stages of its new SP and also confirmed that Attainment will be called out in the final plan. Department of Workforce Services has a new credential and licensure report that needs to be revised and finalized for the Attainment SP. WDE is in the process of developing a monitoring structure and identifying which metrics are most appropriate for these purposes including third grade reading, on-time graduation, 9th grade matriculation, and bottom quartile schools. The WCCC presented a tracking plan for the Attainment metrics and measures as well as an analysis process for the 5-year and 10-year target dates. The Five Metrics that Matter and each focus area and set of objectives will show quantitative and qualitative data and progress each year; methods of assessment will be noted and recorded by level of completion (met/partially met/not met); and tracking over time for accountability. Additionally, the

December 31, 2021

WCCC will create an annual update process for submission to the Governor's Office, Legislature, WCCC, UW, and other entities as deemed necessary on or around November 1 each year through 2030. An [overview of the Attainment process for metrics and measures and accountability](#) (link) can be found on the Attainment Council website.

Legislative Update and Bi-weekly Legislative Session Zoom meetings: The fall 2021 interim legislative session was very active with the Joint Education Interim Committee focused heavily on post-secondary educational attainment. The legislative committee is currently working on bill drafts for the 2022 legislative session. Even though the upcoming session is a budget session requiring 2/3 major for non-budget bills to pass, the committee is considering bills on Hathaway, adult learners, and community college funding as a matter of good public policy in which vigorous and rigorous debate will occur for the budget and ARPA funds. Currently, there are two Hathaway bills in development to help support high school to college matriculation including people who need to stop-out, Wyoming's Tomorrow endowment focused on the adult learners in the state, and a community college funding endowment for operations and program start-up. During the October 2021 EAEC meeting, the legislative attainment council members indicated that refined messaging related to attainment and the importance of these bills needs to be more broadly communicated, particularly outside the southeast part of the state. While WIP is a next step, the EAEC has been the entity that has pulled the messaging together and demonstrated how all the pieces fit together. They encouraged focusing on the good work the attainment effort, which was legislatively created, has done and the readiness for the JEIC bills to move forward. This should also help the EAEC sunset as intended. Focus messaging on supporting solid building blocks to ensure efforts like the WIP can be successful.

Beginning January 21, 2021, the EAEC will commence bi-weekly legislative update Zoom calls to update the council on the bill progress, budget status, and ARPA funding. The WCCC policy analyst, Christy Klaassen will set the calls up and update the legislative tracking chart. She will lead the bi-weekly discussions.

Planning the Sunset of EAEC in 2022 and LAST EAEC meeting April 5, 2022 (tentative date): Per the legislation, the EAEC is due to sunset on June 30, 2022. The plan should be in full implementation by that time with its outputs embedded within state/entity operations. Given the framework has been agreed upon for tracking the Strategic Plan metrics and measure along with confirming an annual update will be completed on or around November 1 each year, the council agreed on a final meeting and final report regarding the council Sunset. The council will hold its bi-weekly legislative update calls beginning January 21, 2022, and promote positive messaging during the session. The FINAL meeting of the EAEC and WICHE staff will be in April 5, 2022, either at UW or a central location such as Casper College. The co-chairs and membership will create a summary of the council's work to submit to the legislature, WCCC, UW, and Governor's Office confirming progress and providing assurances that the effort has been institutionalized, the SP metrics/measures will continue being gathered, and accountability for meeting the plan will continue after the EAEC has disbanded including completion of an annual report by November 1 each year.

December 31, 2021

Educational Attainment Executive Council

October 21, 2021

9 am – 12:30 pm

In-person: University of Wyoming

Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center, Boyd Conference Room

222 S 22nd

Laramie, WY

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86523764469?pwd=d2E0bXphSkpYUndGbG4wcXVtMDNmZz09>

***THIS INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY
AT:***

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

9-9:15 am	Welcome, Introductions, and Overview of Morning	Co-Chairs Dale/Seidel
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Minutes from May 19, 2021b. Quarterly Report Gov, UW, and WCCC June 2021c. Debrief events and activities since the last meeting<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. update ARP Drive requestsii. Articulation Summit	
9:15-9:45 am	Implementation and Scaling of Attainment Efforts	Co-Chairs Dale/Seidel
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Wyoming Afterschool Alliance College Readinessb. NGA Grant Wrap up & Presentationc. Gov's initiative Showcase EMSI<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Career Coach Dashboardii. Skills Match/Skillabi Dashboard	Sullivan Brant/Moritz Brant/EMSI
9:45-10:15 am	Implementation : To do list and assigning follow up	Caldwell/Co-Chairs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Entity SP development with Attainment Integrationb. DWS Credentials and Licensuresc. Capturing WDE datad. What else do we need to capture?	
10:15-10:30 am	Legislative Debrief	Connolly/Schuler
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Interim committee meetingsb. JEIC bills Hathaway; K12; and Adult Learnersc. 2022 Budget Session	Connolly/Schuler
10:30-10:45 am	BREAK	
10:45-11:45 am	Implementation: Metrics/Measures & Reporting	Caldwell/Klaassen
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Tracking the Metrics/Measures & Analysisb. Creating annual update process<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Boards and commissions (UW, WCCC, Colleges,	Klaassen/Group Discussion Co-Chairs Dale/Seidel

- WWDE, SBE, etc?
- ii. Governor's Office
- iii. Legislature via LSO
- iv. Other entities?

11:45 am-noon Grab lunch and break

12-12:25 pm Planning Sunset Timeline and 2022 Activities

Co-Chairs Dale/Seidel

- a. Sunset timeline in legislation
- b. Messaging
- c. Bi-weekly Zoom meetings during session
- d. Meeting Feb/Mar/April 2022
- e. Wrap up report May/June 2022