

## State of Wyoming Educational Attainment Executive Council and WICHE Taskforce Update

October 2020

The Educational Attainment Executive Council (EAEC) met for a half day meeting on October 21, 2020, remotely via Zoom. The focus of the meeting was to follow up on several implementation efforts related to the Wyoming adopted Wyoming State Educational Attainment Strategic Plan for 5-years and 10-years (May 19, 2020). 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/>

The EAEC and WICHE Taskforce formally welcomed Dr. Ed Seidel as the new President at the University of Wyoming and as the legislatively appointed co-chair of the Educational Attainment Executive Council. Dr. Seidel had a chance to share his commitment to the effort and shared that he had the chance to jointly present the plan with Dr. Hicswa and Dr. Caldwell to the UW BOT during its July 2020 meeting. The EAEC also received the announcement that Dr. Hicswa, NWC President and co-chair of the EAEC, had accepted the position of Chancellor at MSU-Billings. As such, a new community college president will assume the position upon appointment by the WCCC Executive Council.

The EAEC and WICHE Taskforce overviewed the dissemination of the plan. The final adoption and summary memo served as the June 2020 Quarterly Report of the EAEC. The adopted plan and summary were submitted to the Governor's Office, UW BOT, WCCC, Joint Education Interim Committee, and Joint Mineral, Business, and Economic Development Committee as required. Representative Connolly, legislator on the EAEC, provided an update on the legislative efforts related to post-secondary attainment that are underway.

### Implementation of the Attainment Plan:

The October 21, 2020, meeting consisted of several implementation efforts already underway. Specifically, the council had the opportunity to review the Program Demand Gap Analysis and the Wyoming Skills Profile as identified in the NGA grant and contracted by EMSI. The WCCC had also recently adopted a new Statewide College System Strategic Plan on October 8, 2020, that specifically includes aspects of post-secondary educational attainment as required. Additionally, the EAEC had been successful in acquiring mini technical assistance grants to promote post-secondary attainment for those impacted by COVID-19 as well as to launch a post-secondary attainment awareness campaign. Dr. Caldwell will proceed with a contractor to move the awareness campaign forward ASAP to meet the November 30, 2020 deadline. Finally, Dr. Caldwell reported that HCM Strategy with Lumina Strategy Labs has expressed interest in having Wyoming apply for a technical assistance grant to develop the monitoring and reporting structure as outlined in the adopted Attainment Plan.

### Data, Articulation, and Student Transfer Success (Common Transcript):

In addition to the implementation efforts underway, the EAEC also had updates on the existing initiatives underway related to SLEDS and data and Student Transfer Success (Common Transcript). In addition, Dr. Seidel and Dr. Hicswa discussed the recent annual articulation summit and a recent UW/CC presidents' summit where the institutions agreed to move forward on a new universal articulation MOU. There will be multiple steps involved, but the effort will move forward. A press release is in motion. Finally, the EAEC and WICHE Taskforce heard the data on the impact of CARES Adult and CARES Wyoming College grants released by Governor Gordon had on post-secondary enrollment statewide. Going into the semester, enrollment at the institutions was down approximately -20%. Upon implementation of the grants, the enrollment gap was closed significantly across the institutions to approximately -8% statewide. Per data released by National Student Clearinghouse (NSC), the data nationwide showed a -22.7% post-secondary enrollment decrease. The longitudinal impacts will be a part of the on-going work of the SLEDS data. Wyoming was just notified that it did receive an additional \$400,000 augment to its recently awarded \$3.2 million grant to study the long-term impacts of COVID-19 and the implementation of the CARES grants to student outcomes and economic impact.

November 10, 2020