



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

**June 2021**

The Educational Attainment Executive Council (EAEC) met for a half day meeting on May 19, 2021, at Western Wyoming Community College in Rock Springs with a virtual attendance option via Zoom. The EAEC was pleased to welcome the newest member appointed to the council, Senator Wendy Schuler, Evanston. Senator Schuler previously served on the Wyoming's Tomorrow Taskforce and, as such, was already familiar with the attainment goals and work. 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). A highlight of the meeting was an announcement by the Ellbogen Foundation for the Ellbogen Adult Scholarship at the community colleges to impact the attainment rate of adult learners. A formal announcement will come on June 10, 2021, from Ms. Mary Ellbogen Garland at the Wyoming Community College Commission meeting at EWC in Torrington. The body also discussed the recent Wyoming Legislative Session as well as the recent and proposed federal legislation. Finally, the EAEC discussed the timeline and steps necessary to sunset the council per the 2019 SEA 61 end date. 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/>

*May EAEC and WICHE Taskforce Meeting May 19, 2021:* The May meeting was held in-person and hosted by the EAEC Co-chair Dr. Kim Dale at Western Wyoming Community College in Rock Springs. UW AVP Kyle Moore served as designee for Co-chair Dr. Ed Seidel. The meeting included a recent [report by SHEEO](#) on the correlation of State Appropriations in Higher Education and state attainment rates including the impact to the state economy. The EAEC will develop a press release on the report as it relates to Wyoming attainment goals and plan. The EAEC also discussed the federal legislation that has been passed via the ARP Act including HEERF III and ESSR funds and proposed legislation for the American Jobs Act and American Families Plan as well as the mirror bills introduced in the House and Senate for America's College Promise. Director Robin Cooley, DWS, and Ron Gullberg, WBC, shared an overview of the state process for the ARP funds and how the planning is occurring enterprise-wide. The Attainment Council proposed ARP requests developed by the co-chairs and submitted on behalf of the EAEC were provided to the council. There was also a brief summary of the types of items submitted via the WIN, UW, and colleges. The last update was related to the NGA grant on education and the workforce and the upcoming end to the grant period.

The balance of the meeting was focused on implementation aspects of Adult Readiness/Prior Learning Assessments, Policy Barriers, and SP Metrics and Measures monitoring. The chair of the workgroup on Adult Readiness and PLAs, Dr. Brandon Kosine, provided a status update and proposed next steps including creating a consistent and portable process for PLAs. The body divided into two sub-committee breakout sessions to focus discussions on the policy barriers and to outline the metrics and measures monitoring process:

Policy barriers sub-committee breakout summary: Moderated by Cindy DeLancey and Erin Taylor, recorded by Ben Moritz, and reported out by Representative Cathy Connolly. Overall conclusion is that many of the policy barriers have been identified through this work. Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarship legislation and the Learn While You Earn legislation did not pass in the session, but were successful in building momentum to address the policy barriers. Along with other legislation under consideration, the bills were effective in reminding all parties of the Campbell County case that established education policy as a legislative responsibility. The group agreed that understanding the funding mechanism and communicating the importance of attainment are high priorities. The 1-pager explanation on the importance of post-secondary attainment helped legislators--particularly new ones--understand the statewide and economic implications. Focus in the coming year should be on messaging with a goal of creating an elevator speech that quickly explains that an overarching goal of economic vitality is what the Attainment, WWDC, NGSP, and WIN initiatives are working toward. Attainment is a foundational piece that supports the long-term and transformational economic work. This sub-committee will be reliant on the Metrics and Measures sub-committee pulling the data and information together in an easy to use and understand manner.

Metrics and Measures sub-committee breakout summary: Moderated by Christy Klaassen, recorded by Kyle Moore, and reported out by Dr. Joe Schaffer. The sub-committee focused on the nuts and bolts of project management and creating a mechanism to monitor the status of the plan and to communicate the status. The sub-committee identified two parts that need to be implemented: 1. Visualization tools like a dashboard tied to a tracking database or a mechanism that will store the data/information; and 2. Project management tools such as a GANTT chart or other tools that reflect timelines, milestones, task assignments, and status.

*Next Steps and Planning the Sunset of EAEC in 2022:* Per the legislation, the EAEC is due to sunset in 2022. The plan should be in full implementation by that time with its outputs and embedded within state/entity operations. Several members expressed concern that the council sunset could result in lost momentum. The body agreed to think through how to ensure the effort is institutionalized as intended. The sub-committees will meet in advance of the next EAEC meeting to develop the necessary sub-committee tasks. The next meeting of the EAEC and WICHE staff will be in October 2021. A meeting in advance of the 2022 Legislative Session will be held in February 2022 including discussing a strategy for messaging during the legislative session. A final meeting of the council is slated for around May 2022 after the session has ended. 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 as well as provide a report and documentation for use throughout the interim committee work in 2022.

*October EAEC and WICHE Taskforce Meeting TBD:* The next meeting will be held in-person with a Zoom option sometime in October 2021. Dr. Caldwell will work with the co-chairs to identify a date, time, and location. The EAEC will consider the work of the sub-committees including adopting and implementing recommendations from the sub-committees. The EAEC will also review the status of any federal legislation as well as discuss any proposed or draft legislation in development by the interim legislative committees.

# Educational Attainment Executive Council

May 19, 2021

8:30 am – noon

In-person: Western Wyoming Community College

Room 3650A/B

Rock Springs, WY

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86229444288?pwd=anZ5VzQ5Z2xBTFJzQnVxejRWdWhkUT09>

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

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

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|----------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 8:30-8:45 am   | Welcome, Introductions, and Overview of Morning   | Co-Chairs Dale/Seidel          |
|                | a. <a href="#">Minutes from February 18, 2021</a>   |                                |
|                | b. <a href="#">Quarterly Report Gov, UW, and WCCC March 2021</a>  |                                |
|                | c. Ellbogen Adult Scholarship   |                                |
|                | d. <a href="#">SHEEO State HE Appropriations impact student success &amp; economy</a>   |                                |
| 8:45-9 am      | Legislative Debrief and potential special session   | Connolly/Schuler               |
|                | a. <a href="#">2021 Wyoming Legislative Session 66<sup>th</sup></a>   | Connolly/Schuler               |
|                | b. <a href="#">Attainment Overview and bills</a>  | Dale/DeLancey/Taylor/Klaassen  |
|                | c. Federal legislation overview and status:   | Caldwell/Klaassen/Buchholtz    |
|                | i. ARP  |                                |
|                | ii. <a href="#">Proposed American Jobs Act Infrastructure</a> , <a href="#">Proposed American Families Plan</a> , Mirror bills <a href="#">America's College Promise</a> (Free College For All) |                                |
| 9-9:45 am      | <a href="#">America Rescue Plan State Process</a>   | Co-Chairs Dale/Seidel          |
|                | a. <a href="#">Statewide ARP approach and process</a>   | Cooley/Dorrell                 |
|                | b. <a href="#">Attainment Council Concepts</a>  | Co-Chairs Dale/Seidel/Caldwell |
|                | c. WIN Concepts   | Seidel/Brant                   |
|                | d. College and University Concepts  | Caldwell/Moore                 |
| 9:45-10 am     | Plan Implementation: <a href="#">EIS, Skills Gap &amp; PDGA</a>   | Co-Chairs Dale/Seidel          |
|                | a. NGA Grant Status and Dashboard   | Brant/Cooley/Gullberg          |
|                | b. EIS Request CARES Funds Status Update  | Dale/Seidel/Brant              |
| 10-10:15 am    | BREAK   |                                |
| 10:15-11:40 am | Plan Implementation: Priorities 2020-2021   |                                |
|                | a. <a href="#">Adult Readiness and PLAs</a>   | Kosine/Moritz and discussion   |
|                | b. Audit of public policy on the barriers to implementation and success   | Breakout session               |

c. Setting up Annual Metrics and Measures

Breakout session

11:40-11:50 am Breakout report out and next steps

Breakout group reporter

11:50 am-noon Wrap up and next meeting  
October 2021

Dale/Seidel