
BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE TALKING POINTS 2020

Attainment - Executive Order

Wyoming's Higher Education Attainment Goal: "...educational attainment goal of 67 % by 2025 and 82 % by 2040 of Wyoming's working populations 25-64 years who possess a valuable post-secondary credential certificate or degree." Governor Mead's Executive Order 2018-01

Degrees Matter

- Less likely to be unemployed (2.5% for bachelor's, compared to 4.6% for HS grad)
- Higher earnings (\$461 more per week for bachelor's holders compared to HS grads)
- Wyoming ranks 38th among all states for percent of total population 25 and older with bachelor's degree or higher.
- Wyoming ranks 48th in the nation for the number of bachelor's degrees produced per 1,000 residents.

Education = Economic Development

- Seven out of 10 states with the fastest-growing economies already offer applied bachelor's degrees in their community colleges
 - Two of the three without have approximately twice the number of four-year institutions than the other states.
- Six of the 10 states with the fastest-growing economies rank in the top 20 for the percent of their adult populations with a bachelor's degree or higher.
- UW would have to produce 8,488 more bachelor's degree graduates PER YEAR to raise the proportion of the labor force with a bachelor's degree to 39.2% by 2025.

Why the BAS is Part of the Solution (addressing the need, the student, the workforce)

- BAS degrees are designed with multiple pathways to completion, keeping in mind that students may already have an AAS degree or comparable educational credentials in a technical field and require practical skills and knowledge for advancement. BAS degrees are:
 - Generally, more career-oriented, focus less on general education course requirements (CWC/LCCC degrees designed with business/industry groups).
 - Emphasize applied rather than theory level of a discipline.
 - Intended to allow students to complete coursework quickly by utilizing previously completed vocational and technical education and/or training.
- Why at the community colleges?
 - 37.2% (165,000) adult Wyomingites already possess some college or associate degrees.
 - Most are working adults who are place-bound with ties to their communities, families, and jobs (i.e. BAS with Tribal Leadership option at CWC).
 - Community Colleges are geographically/strategically located to serve

Stages of Approval in the process

Stage 1 - Internal/college/community advisors - Curriculum, Administration

Stage 2 - Board of Trustees - Approval to Offer

Stage 3 - Wyoming Community College Commission - Approval to Offer

Stage 4 - Higher Learning Commission - Accreditation - Substantive Change

Stage 5 - US Department of Education - Financial Aid Authorization

Community Colleges in the Process

Stage 4: CWC and LCCC

Stage 3: WWCC, NWC, and NWCCD