



WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGES

2020 LEGISLATIVE BUDGET SESSION



WACCT
WYOMING ASSOCIATION
OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES

NOW IS THE TIME TO INVEST

COMMUNITY COLLEGES ARE CUTTING COSTS AND REALLOCATING RESOURCES, NOT GROWING OR EXPANDING AS NEEDED.

Four significant budget cuts over the last decade have resulted in \$19.3M decrease in unrestricted state aid. The loss climbs to \$53.8M adjusted for inflation.

- BY2011: \$191.9M
- BY2019: \$176.2M
- BY2020: \$172.6M
- In addition, \$4M was lost to decreasing local mill levies since BY2015.

HOW ARE THE COMMUNITY COLLEGES CURRENTLY FUNDED?

The Community Colleges are funded from three major sources:

- State aid (approximately 60%)
- Local property taxes (up to 4 mills assessed in the home county for each college) (approximately 20%)
- Tuition and fees (approximately 20%)

HOW IS STATE AID DISTRIBUTED?

The primary distribution of the state aid (approximately 60%) is based on HB80 (passed in the 2016 legislative session) which recalibrate the standard budget every four years based on historical credit enrollment and costs. Variable costs (approximately 40%) are then reallocated every year based on performance metrics, but it is a reallocation, it does not include additional dollars. It is important to understand that the distribution does not consider the following cost factors, which the colleges must absorb:

- Costs associated with workforce training & educational attainment
- New program development
- Fixed cost increases
- Maintaining competitive wages
- Cost associated with compliance requirements
- Increased competition
- Inflation

HOW HAS STUDENT TUITION BEEN AFFECTED BY THE REDUCED FUNDING?

While each college establishes its own fees structure, tuition is standardized by the Wyoming Community College Commission for Wyoming residents, Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) & Nebraska students and non-residents. Tuition for all three categories has increased 53.5% or more since 2003.

HIGHER EDUCATION IS A PRIMARY COMPONENT TO A COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC STRATEGY. NOW IS THE TIME TO INVEST IN WYOMING'S WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC ENGINES, THE COMMUNITY COLLEGES.

The Community Colleges request the following:

- \$30M ongoing increase to the state-aid block grant
- \$28.7M continued investment in community college capital construction projects

WYOMING'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES ARE THE KEY TO TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE

COMMUNITY COLLEGES SERVE A UNIQUE AND DISTINCT ROLE IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND STATE.

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COMMUNITY COLLEGES and their many outreach sites serve all citizens.



COMMUNITY COLLEGES are the solution for people who cannot relocate to further their professional opportunities.

OVER 8,190 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RECEIVED AN EDUCATIONAL JUMP START BY COMPLETING 41,143 COLLEGE CREDITS BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION.



COMMUNITY COLLEGES are the educational resource serving Wyoming residents throughout their career and lifetime.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES ARE THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE SERVING WYOMING RESIDENTS THROUGHOUT THEIR CAREER AND LIFETIME.



COMMUNITY COLLEGES maintain connections and are responsive to workforce needs in their communities that otherwise would not be met.

IN 2017, 854 STUDENTS TRANSFERRED FROM A COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING TO FINISH THEIR BACHELOR'S DEGREE.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES offer a broad range of training and development programs that help people:

- Remain current on changes in their profession or gain/maintain certification or licensure
- Receive professional testing
- Receive career advancement training by increasing skills to improve career success
- Receive entry-level career training.



THE COMMUNITY COLLEGES DESIRE to remain an important community asset and also to play a leading role in our state's workforce and economic strategies.

WYOMING'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES SERVE ALL 23 COUNTIES

29,000

Combined **WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGES** served over 29,000 students during the 2017 academic year. 61% of all 2018 college students attended a community college. (WWCC 2017-2018 Enrollment Report)

'14-'18

FROM 2014-18, Wyoming's community colleges doubled the number of students transferred to UW.



OPEN ENROLLMENT at the community colleges means that any potential student will be admitted.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND THEIR REACH doesn't end with credit programs. Thousands more students took advantage of continuing and community education, entry level career training, testing, and certification.

WYOMING ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS ENROLLED 1,733 STUDENTS IN 2016-2017, HELPING THOSE STUDENTS TO OBTAIN HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY CREDENTIALS AND WORKFORCE SKILLS (WY ABE PROFILE 2017, WCCC WEBSITE)



"The value that community colleges bring to our communities is invaluable. A community college provides an excellent partner for both K-12 education, as well as local businesses. Our partnership with EWC is extremely important to Banner. It has allowed us to partner to train the healthcare providers of tomorrow. Further, our sports medicine partnership is a visible display of our commitment to the health of our community. We are very lucky to have EWC as a valued partner and neighbor in Torrington."

ZACH MILLER

CEO Community Hospital, Banner Health

I am a wife and mother of four children who decided to take a leap and return to school. I had contemplated returning to school several times but it was just never the right time, and I didn't know how I would be able to fit it into my schedule. When I found out that Eastern Wyoming College was starting an evening nursing program, I knew that the program would fit perfectly into my life and schedule since I continue to work full time. Without EWC's program, and without Banner Health, none of this would have been possible.

MARIA CHAVEZ

Western Wyoming Community College Nursing Student, Torrington, WY

