



The Trustee

WACCT Hosts Forum for Gubernatorial Candidates

Roundtable discussion with Democratic nominee scheduled for October 25

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As part of its ongoing advocacy efforts, the WACCT hosted a forum in August for all candidates for Wyoming governor.

Six candidates attended the forum, including Republicans Matt Mead, Rita Meyer, Ron Micheli and Colin Simpson, and Democrats Pete Gosar and Leslie Petersen.

WACCT Executive Director Steve Bahmer moderated the hour-long forum, during which the candidates were asked questions relating to key community college issues (see sidebar for the list of questions).

The questions asked during the forum were provided by community college trustees and presidents across the state.

Now the Republican nominee, Mr. Mead heralded the flexibility and agility of Wyoming's community colleges in meeting demands for workforce training in existing and emerging industries.

With all that is asked of the colleges, he said, the state should review the funding model to ensure it is fair to the counties with and without colleges.

Ms. Petersen also touted the key role community colleges play in preparing learners of all ages for the demands of 21st-century businesses.

She also indicated that study of community college funding is warranted to ensure that the colleges are adequately funded and can handle continuing enrollment increases.

Both candidates said they believe the Wyoming Constitution's clause relating to the creation of a 'complete and uniform system of public instruction' includes community colleges.

The Joint Advocacy Committee of the WACCT and college presidents has scheduled a roundtable discussion with Ms. Petersen for October 25, before the Wyoming PBS gubernato-

rial debate. The Joint Committee invited Mr. Mead to a similar roundtable session, but he is unable to attend.



Republican Matt Mead talks with CWC President JoAnne McFarland after the WACCT Candidates Forum on August 9 in Riverton.



Democrat Leslie Petersen talks with LCCC Trustee John Kaiser after the WACCT Candidates Forum.

Forum Questions

- What is the role of Wyoming's community colleges in Wyoming's system of public education?
- Does the Wyoming Constitution include community colleges?
- Over the past several years, several legislative committees have tried, but failed, to identify new statewide revenue streams to adequately fund Wyoming's community colleges. What is your opinion about the adequacy of state funding for community colleges? What leadership as Governor would you provide on this issue?
- Unlike the K12 system, in which funding increases as enrollment increases, community colleges operate with a fixed pie—so as enrollment increases, funding per student decreases. Given this, what are your thoughts for funding the increasing number of students at Wyoming's community colleges?

Did you know?

- 50% of new nurses and the majority of other new health-care workers are prepared by community colleges.

White House Hosts Community College Summit

Session focuses on public-private partnerships to help students succeed

White House Summit

For complete coverage of the first White House Summit on Community Colleges, visit www.whitehouse.gov/communitycollege.

To see the introductory video that kicked off the summit—"Community Colleges: America's Best Kept Secret" - visit www.whitehouse.gov/photos-and-video/video/2010/10/05/community-colleges-americas-best-kept-secret.

For more information, contact WACCT Executive Director Steve Bahmer.

A common thread seemed to weave through the first White House Summit on Community Colleges: more emphasis on private and public partnerships to help students succeed in college, from providing resources to developing learning opportunities.

Some 120 participants from community colleges, businesses, philanthropies and federal and state governments gathered for the summit. Dr. Jim Rose, Executive Director of the Wyoming Community College Commission, was among those in attendance.

Participants discussed challenges and promising practices to help increase the number of students who graduate from public two-year colleges.

Much of the discussion focused on the importance of education to the economy.

"Community colleges are at the center to educate our way to a better economy," said Dr. Jill

Biden, who led the summit, noting the need for skilled workers in traditional industries such as transportation infrastructure, to growing industries such as healthcare, and emerging fields such as green jobs.

Participants also received a pep talk from President Barack Obama before breaking into groups to discuss certain topics, from affordability and college completion, to online learning and industry partnerships.

The president emphasized his national goal of producing the largest number of college graduates in the world by 2020.

"America does not play for second place, and it certainly does not play for ninth," he said, observing the current world ranking of the U.S. "Let's get busy."

During the summit, several new public-private initiatives to improve student success were announced, including a \$35 million initiative by the Bill &

Melinda Gates Foundation, and an annual \$1 million prize that will be managed by the Aspen Institute, and funded by various philanthropies, including Lumina Foundation for Education.

Summit participants discussed the current strengths of community college-business partnerships, such as offering flexible class schedules to accommodate working students, and offering apprenticeships and internships to provide contextual learning experiences for students.

Challenges included bringing proven practices up to scale, said Labor Secretary Hilda Solis, who noted that her department this month will begin accepting proposals for the \$2 billion in job training grants made available through the healthcare legislation enacted this spring.

- From wire reports

Candidates Respond to WACCT Questionnaire



Candidates for Governor, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the House and Senate responded to a WACCT candidates questionnaire in the run-up to the primary elections earlier this year.

Responses from the candidates who survived their primary races will be available online when the WACCT web site launches in the next several days. In the meantime, individual responses are available to

trustees by contacting WACCT Executive Director Steve Bahmer.

The WACCT issued 162 surveys to candidates in July, and received 44 responses, for a response rate of 27 percent.

That rate is quite successful for the first-ever such questionnaire from the WACCT. A number of factors affect a candidate's decision not to respond, including the fact that

some are running in uncontested races.

The WACCT received responses from Republican gubernatorial nominee Matt Mead and Democratic gubernatorial nominee Leslie Peterson.

Responses were also received from Republican Superintendent candidate Cindy Hill and Democratic candidate Mike Massie.

CWC President Earns Regional CEO Award

Central Wyoming College President Dr. Jo Anne McFarland has been chosen as the recipient of the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) 2010 Western Regional Chief Executive Officer Award.

The award makes Dr. McFarland the sole nominee from the western region for the prestigious Marie Y. Martin CEO Award.

She and four other regional award recipients will be recognized at the ACCT Annual Community Leadership Congress that takes place in To-

ronto, Canada, October 20 through 23.

The national award recipient will be announced at the Annual Awards Gala on Friday, Oct. 22.

Selected as president of CWC more than 20 years ago, Dr. McFarland is the longest-serving college president in Wyoming.

"Jo Anne is an excellent communicator, relating to the most insecure freshman, as well as to the most educated faculty member," CWC Board Chair Roger Gose said in Dr.

McFarland's nomination letter for the award.

"Her attention to detail is remarkable...always prepared, always under control. She has the ability to defuse contentious situations and help build consensus, when consensus seems very unlikely."

Gose said Dr. McFarland's most outstanding characteristic is her commitment to purpose.

"She is legendary at the college, at the Wyoming Community College Commission, and at the state level for her zeal in promoting the mission and vision of this institution," he said.



CWC President

Dr. Jo Anne McFarland

WACCT Advocacy Committee Preparing for Legislature

The WACCT's Joint Advocacy Committee is set to meet at Central Wyoming College in Riverton on Oct. 25 to continue refining an agenda for the 2011 legislative session.

Comprised of the members of the WACCT Advocacy Committee and the seven college presidents, the Joint Advocacy Committee is charged with developing a unified set of legislative priorities and communicating those priorities back to their college boards.

The first meeting of the joint committee was held at Central Wyoming College in August to finalize preparations for the WACCT gubernatorial candidates forum and to outline key legislative issues.

Since that meeting, additional work has been done to refine an initial list of agenda

items and to begin preparing the legislative brochure that will be available later this year.

The slate of priorities is expected to include work on a consistent statewide funding stream. Legislators advanced a statewide mill levy proposal that failed during the 2010 Budget Session.

Following the failure of that bill, some legislators suggested the colleges should take the lead in proposing funding options.

Additionally, the committee will discuss supporting the Wyoming Community College Commission's 2011-2012 enrollment growth supplemental budget request of \$6.845 million.

The committee will also consider seeking the restoration of \$8.2 million in one-time

federal stimulus funding for post enrollment growth.

Other potential legislative agenda items include adjustment of the annual budget approval process, and adjustment of the capital construction language regarding major maintenance projects over \$100,000.

The committee will also continue to monitor the progress of the P-16 Council's study of dual and concurrent enrollment, as well as the stakeholder group's recommendations to the legislature.

Once the legislative agenda has been finalized and positions on each issue established, WACCT Advocacy Committee members will report back to their boards.

The 2011 General Session of the Legislature begins Jan. 11.

Election Day—2010

Get out and vote!

Election day is Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2010.

Wyoming's five statewide elected officials are on the ballot, as are members of the Wyoming House of Representatives and the Senate.

A number of seats on community college boards of trustees are also in play.

Your most powerful advocacy tool is your vote. Don't forget to get to the ballot box on November 2!



WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES

Steve Bahmer
Executive Director
6909 Foxglove Drive
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Phone: 307.287.4594
E-mail: steve_bahmer@yahoo.com

Mission

The mission of the Wyoming Association of Community College Trustees, a collaborative organization of Wyoming community college trustees with college presidents, is to promote the continued quality, strength, vitality and effectiveness of its members.

Vision

The Wyoming Association of Community College Trustees will be the leading information source and advocate for Wyoming's community colleges, shaping public policy that strengthens community college education, and providing trustee development to ensure effective governing boards.

Notes From the Director's Desk

-By Steve Bahmer



Your Thoughts

The Trustee is one of many tools we'll be using to communicate more effectively with you about community college issues and the work of the WACCT.

To be effective, though, it has to meet your needs and provide information you find useful and valuable.

So let me hear from you. If you have story ideas, subjects that need attention, or if you would like to contribute, please email me at: steve_bahmer@yahoo.com.

By the time you receive this edition of *The Trustee*, election day will be less than one month away.

That means a new governor, a new state superintendent of public instruction, new legislators, and new community college trustees.

We spent a good portion of the summer actively working on advocacy—we hosted a forum for gubernatorial candidates with another planned for later this month.

And we surveyed other statewide and legislative candidates regarding their positions on community college issues.

Both were critical steps in establishing our organization, and they were quite educational

as well.

Even as the General Session of the Legislature approaches, though, we have begun to actively turn our attention to another of the WACCT's three pillars: trustee education.

Thanks to your feedback, we are working to schedule our first educational session, which will focus on the roles and responsibilities of trustees.

We'll follow that one up with another session on the specifics of community college funding in Wyoming. And we're aiming to deliver both via videoconference to reduce your travel time and improve participation.

The timing for both sessions gives us an opportunity to help

orient newly elected trustees, and it's a great way to demonstrate one of the benefits of WACCT membership right away.

But that's not all we're doing. We're also working on a WACCT Handbook, a guide for all community college trustees that explains what the WACCT is, and what we do to help you more effectively serve your students.

And all of this information will be available on the new WACCT web site that will launch in the next few weeks.

Advocacy. Education. Communication. We're staying focused on our priorities, and we're making real progress.