

SUPPORT HB 310 – WYOMING’S PROMISE

WACCT supports the creation of an adult-focused scholarship/financial aid program to help meet the state’s higher education attainment goals.

- HB 310 provides for a study to create a grant program to make two years of education at Wyoming community colleges and the University of Wyoming as affordable as possible.
- WACCT sees HB 310 as a good first step in helping Wyoming meet the higher education attainment goal, as signed by Governor Mead in an executive order last year.
- UW, the Wyoming Community College Commission, ENDOW and by executive order, the State of Wyoming have formally adopted higher education attainment goals. Higher education attainment levels are directly correlated to economic productivity and will be even more so in the future.
- If Wyoming high schools graduated every senior in the state, and if Wyoming had the highest college-going rate in the nation, the numbers would still not be sufficient to reach the higher education attainment goals.
- Therefore, Wyoming must re-engage working adults already committed to living here and encourage them to earn a post-secondary credential.
- According to the Lumina Foundation, Wyoming has 87,034 working-aged adults with just a high school diploma and 56,149 with some college, but no credential. Wyoming could meet the attainment goal if the colleges could help just 40% of these individuals earn a post-secondary credential.
- It is difficult for working adults to leave the labor force to pursue higher education because of life commitments and financial obligations.
- With Hathaway scholarships focused on traditional-age students, the addition of an adult-focused scholarship program is a natural counterpart to serve all Wyomingites' pursuit of higher education.