

## RESOLUTION

### A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES, IN SUPPORT OF ACTION TO SUSTAIN FUNDING FOR WYOMING'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES.

THIS RESOLUTION, upon signature of all Parties, is made effective on this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021, by and of the Board of Directors of the Wyoming Association of Community College Trustees and created by said parties through mutual consent and belief.

#### RECITALS

WHEREAS, the success of Wyoming's economic and social future is dependent on the educational attainment of its citizens, especially post-secondary attainment; and

WHEREAS, Wyoming's higher education attainment goal is that 67 percent of the state's working population 25–64 years of age will possess a valuable post-secondary credential (certificate or degree) by 2025, and a secondary goal of 82 percent attainment by 2040; and

WHEREAS, Wyoming's community colleges enroll the majority of students in higher education in the state, produce high school diplomas or equivalencies in numbers to be the third largest school district in the state, provided customized trainings to hundreds of businesses, and are the primary provider of transfer students to UW; and

WHEREAS, all 23 counties in Wyoming benefit from the programs, services, and graduates of Wyoming community colleges yet only seven of these counties provide direct local funding support for these institutions; and

WHEREAS, since 2010 state funding for Wyoming's community colleges has been reduced by \$94 million, while at the same time local revenues have declined 15.12%; and

WHEREAS, the declines in state and local funding have resulted in tuition at Wyoming's community colleges increasing 96.4% over the past decade, seriously compromising the affordability of a higher education for Wyoming citizens and its future workforce; and

WHEREAS, since 2016, Wyoming's community colleges have eliminated hundreds of positions, approximately 16% of the entire workforce, forcing the closure of numerous degree and certificate programs and severe reduction in services the colleges provide; and

WHEREAS state revenues from long-standing sources have eroded significantly, and indicators demonstrate the existing tax structure is not likely to generate revenues equal to previous performance, and because Wyoming's overall tax rates are below those of comparable states, suggesting that capacity exists in Wyoming to produce more revenue for public use; and

WHEREAS Wyoming's community colleges are the solution for the state's future, and its citizens, businesses, and elected officials are asking for more from these institutions at a time when the colleges are grappling with doing less because of financial constraints.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the WACCT Board of Directors, on behalf of the individual college boards of directors, who have, by board vote, elected us to represent their community college, urges the Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign into law, legislation that:

1. provide more tools in the toolbox to the community college Boards of Trustees through changes to statute that would provide the Trustees the authority to impose an additional mill levy, from one additional mill to two;
2. would increase the four-year statutory limitation to eight years on the additional five mills colleges may secure by the affirmative vote of the residents of the community college district, for the operations, capital projects, maintenance, etc. of the colleges;
3. would add an additional one penny sales tax for the specific purpose of supporting Wyoming's education system, with a portion of these revenues guaranteed to be allocated to the unrestricted operations of Wyoming's community colleges;
4. incorporates a mechanism through which all 23 Wyoming counties who benefit from the state's community colleges provides financial support for these institutions through mechanisms such as ad valorem (property) taxes;
5. enacts reasonable increases to existing tax rates that would generate additional revenue necessary to support the continued provision of services Wyoming citizens desire and the state requires for the benefit of its future;
6. support capital construction and major maintenance to allow the colleges to meet the needs of industry and maintain facilities to meet the needs of students; and
7. establish and provide the initial investment into a Wyoming adult student financial aid program focused on addressing financial need and to encourage the enrollment/re-enrollment of Wyoming's adults into post-secondary education or training.

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### Signature Page

The parties to this document have executed this Resolution on the dates set out below, and certify their full understanding and dedication to the commitments outlined within this Resolution to support what they believe are necessary elements of sustainable funding.

*Regina Clark*, WWCC, WACCT President

*Kathy Dolan*, CC, WACCT Vice President

*Dr. Judith Bartmann*, EWC, WACCT Secretary

*Don Erickson*, LCCC, WACCT Treasurer

*Ernie Over*, CWC, WACCT Past President

*Steve Degenfelder*, CC

*Dr. Veronica Donaldson*, WWCC

*Norleen Healy*, NWCCD

*Erin Kilbride*, NWCCD

*Tara Kuipers*, NWC

*Thomas McCreery*, EWC

*Bob Salazar*, LCCC

*Craig Tolman*, CWC

*Mark Wurzel*, NWC