



The Trustee

WACCT Completes Successful Legislative Session

Distance education, career and technical scholarship bills fail



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Did you know?

- Trustee leadership resulted in achieving the largest increase in Pell Grant funding in five years - increasing the maximum grant to \$4,310, or a \$260 increase. One-third of the students attending community colleges receive Pell Grants; combined federal investment for community college students now exceeds \$6 billion annually.

Although education reform was a key focus of the 61st Wyoming Legislature, that focus was trained primarily on the K12 system.

The WACCT carefully monitored those issues—but worked actively to ensure that key supplemental budget priorities survived the 37-day general session.

Among the most important budget items was an original one-time request for \$6.8 million to help fund continued enrollment growth.

Former Gov. Dave Freudenthal recommended halving the Wyoming Community College Commission's request to \$3.4 million, but he also recommended making that an annual figure.

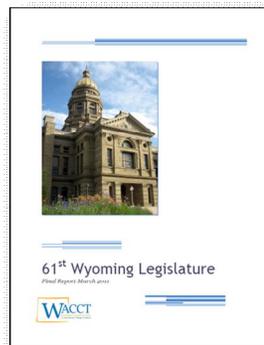
Gov. Mead also supported that recommendation, which passed with the supplemental budget bill.

The Legislature also approved \$3.5 million to support the community college endowment challenge fund.

The WACCT worked closely with the college presidents to pass a \$14 million

budget amendment that will help fund new buildings at Central Wyoming College and Northern Wyoming Community College District.

The amendment included \$6.5 million to support construction of an Allied Health and Science Center at CWC, and about \$7.5 million to support construction of the New Academic Center at NWCCD in Sheridan.



As is always the case, not all elements of the WACCT legislative agenda survived the Legislature.

For example, Gov. Freudenthal had included in his budget recommendation some \$3.08 million in ongoing funding for compensation at the community colleges, and \$1.38 million in one-time merit pay funding.

Lacking a detailed comparison of compensation, however, Gov. Mead withdrew his sup-

port for the proposal, and it failed.

The WACCT provided the Governor and the Joint Appropriations Committee with position-level comparative data.

Based on appropriate data, the Governor said he remains open to a conversation about compensation increases at the colleges.

A bill sponsored by the Joint Education Committee to restore funding for distance dual enrollment courses also failed. The bill would have appropriated \$250,000 to help ensure access to college courses for students in Wyoming's smallest, most remote school districts.

A measure that would have created career and technical scholarships for non-traditional students easily passed the Senate, but failed in the House Education Committee. The bill, which has been introduced in previous sessions, would have set aside \$500,000 for the scholarship program.

For a complete recap of the 61st Legislative Session, download the WACCT legislative summary from the Advocacy page at www.wacct.org.

WACCT Hosts First-Ever Interactive Video Institute

Partnership with ACCT delivers trustee education across the state via video



Effective Trusteeship

The WACCT Interactive Video Institute was built around five key questions:

- Do we have a highly effective team comprised of the full board and our president?
- What are the key roles and responsibilities of trustees versus a president?
- Which standards of good practice are used to evaluate us?
- Why is 'Policy vs. Operations' cited so often as a major guideline?
- How do effective governing boards plan for the challenges of the future?

In March, the WACCT took an innovative step toward closing the vast distances that separate Wyoming's community college trustees.

Rather than hosting a traditional trustee education program in a central location and requiring trustees to travel in order to participate, the WACCT took the program to them.

The first WACCT Interactive Video Institute provided 32 trustees from around Wyoming with a course on Effective Trusteeship, and they didn't have to leave their home towns.

The program, the product of a partnership with the ACCT, was delivered via videoconference.

Dr. Pam Fisher presented the program onsite at Northwest College in Powell, and the content was streamed to trus-



tees at all six of the other community colleges.

"We've been looking for ways to reduce the tremendous distances between our colleges," said Steve Bahmer, WACCT Executive Director. "Video technology was an easy, inexpensive way for us to do that."

The educational program focused on the characteristics of the most effective community college boards.

It was built around five key questions intended to help determine whether Wyoming's boards are strong teams, and whether they and their presidents understand their key roles, among others.

Based on their responses to post-program surveys, trustees appear to largely have appreciated both the content of the program and the delivery method.

Trustees rated the Institute at a 3.81 out of 5 in terms of meeting their overall expectations, and at 4 out of 5 on gaining knowledge about the topic.

Additionally, trustees cited the frank discussions and the opportunity to hear other boards' challenges and solutions as highlights of the Institute.

Some trustees specifically reported that not having to travel was a benefit of the innovative new training method.

"This was an experiment to see if we could effectively supplement our more traditional, in-person trustee education programs," Bahmer said.

"And the results are promising. More trustees participated in our Interactive Video Institute than at our annual trustee educational conference, largely because they did not have to drive for hours in difficult conditions to participate."

Retreat Scheduled for Legislative Planning



The dust has hardly settled on the 2011 General Session of the Wyoming Legislature, and the WACCT is already beginning its planning for the 2012 Budget Session.

A planning retreat is scheduled for May 2 and 3 in Casper.

Organized by the Presidents Council, the retreat is intended as an opportunity for a number of groups from each college to begin thinking about chal-

lenges and opportunities that may require legislative attention.

The result is expected to be the creation of near-term and long-range principles and objectives that can be distributed to the colleges, and that create a platform for conversations with legislators during the interim.

Gov. Matt Mead has been invited to attend and participate in discussions with the colleges

as well.

Tentative plans include meetings among the various councils—Administrative Services, Student Success, Academic Affairs, and Institutional Research.

A final session is expected to synthesize the recommendations from those meetings into a prioritized list of items that will become the focus of WACCT advocacy efforts.

Wyoming College Leaders Attend Summit

Eight community college leaders from Wyoming attended the U.S. Department of Education’s Community College Regional Summit in San Diego this month.

The regional event followed the first-ever White House Summit on Community Colleges, hosted last fall by President Obama and Dr. Jill Biden.

The White House Summit brought together 150 community college and business leaders, as well as policymakers, to discuss solutions for increasing the number of college graduates

who are prepared for the 21st century workforce.

As a next step, the USDE plans to work with community colleges and other stakeholders to focus on innovative solutions from institutions around the country.

That next step took the form of four regional summits held around the country.

The regional meetings are intended to bring together federal, labor and industry, and philanthropic partners to discuss how each can support the President’s goal.

Additionally, the meetings provided a forum for sharing institution-level barriers, solutions, and promising practices in college completion.

And finally, the summit offered a forum to identify local, state, and national recommendations for increasing community college completion to meet the President’s 2020 goal: for the U.S. to once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world.

The USDE will conclude with a Community College Virtual Symposium in April that will summarize the recommendations from each event.

Regional Summit Attendees

- Charlene Bodine**—Wyoming Community College Commission
- James Roth**—Trustee, WWCC
- Karla Leach**—President, WWCC
- Kathleen Dolan**—Trustee, Casper College
- Laura Driscoll**—Dean of Continuing Education, Casper College
- Rick LaPlante**—Trustee, Northwest College
- Lynne McAuliffe**—Asst. Dean for Workforce and Community Education, CWC
- Steve Bahmer**—Executive Director, WACCT

WACCT Honors Leadership Award Winners at Reception

More than 220 people, including trustees, presidents, students, faculty, staff, legislators and Gov. Matt Mead attended the Wyoming Community Colleges Legislative Reception in Cheyenne on Feb. 1.

Hosted by Central Wyoming College, the reception provided an opportunity to recognize nominees and winners of the WACCT’s Leadership Awards, and to talk with legislators about key community college issues.

The WACCT recognized six award winners for their commitment to Wyoming’s community colleges.

Dr. Roger Gose, Chairman of the CWC Board of Trustees, earned the 2011 Trustee Leadership Award.

His nomination for the award cited Dr. Gose’s com-

mitment of time, energy and resources to moving the college forward during a time of unprecedented growth and limited resources.

Dr. Gose, a semi-retired physician, chaired the political action committee that was formed in support of CWC’s bond initiative to build its Health and Science Center.

That successful initiative raised local matching funds that were critical in securing state funds that will help pay for construction of the building.

The grassroots effort that Dr. Gose led resulted in voter support for the initiative, when pre-polling surveys indicated that voters would not support it.



Dr. Roger Gose

CWC student Chloe Skaggs won the Student Leadership Award.

Ms. Skaggs is a second-year student at CWC who will graduate in May with three Associates Degrees.

Ms. Skaggs maintains a 3.87 grade point average, and was a major participant in CWC’s successful bond campaign.

The WACCT initiated a new tradition at the 2011 reception as well, honoring past WACCT President John Freeman.

Mr. Freeman, former chairman of the Western Wyoming Community College Board of Trustees, was elected to the Wyoming House of Representatives in November. He represents House District 60.

WACCT 2011 Leadership Award Winners

- Student Leadership Award: **Chloe Skaggs, CWC**
- Classified Staff Leadership Award: **Val Hieb, NWC**
- Professional Staff Leadership Award: **Lance Goede, CWC**
- Faculty Leadership Award: **Garth Shanklin, CC**
- Volunteer/Foundation Leadership Award: **Dick and Marge Wilder, NWC**
- Trustee Leadership Award: **Roger Gose, CWC**



**WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF
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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.

"We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately."

- Benjamin Franklin

Like most, I am a big fan of the Founding Fathers. I remember reading about them in middle school and being astonished by their ability to keep their local interests in mind while literally fighting for the greater good.

I recognize that the history of the Founders is quite complicated and nuanced, but I think these historic axioms are instructive, too.

And we have the evidence to prove it.

The success of a budget

amendment that will provide some \$14 million to help construct buildings in Riverton and Sheridan relied heavily on our ability to hang together.

Portions of a letter from the Presidents Council offering the support of all seven colleges was read from the floor of the Legislature.

In more than 50 conversations with legislators about the budget amendment, the WACCT confidently noted that all seven colleges supported the measure.

In fact, that was often the first question we received—are all of the colleges on board with this?

It's a theme we've been pushing at the WACCT for

more than a year, and it's worth repeating. Our success as an advocacy organization is tied directly to our ability to support a comprehensive vision and to speak with a unified voice—even as each college keeps its local needs in mind.

The budget amendment approach we took this year was a bit unorthodox, and the issues will not always be \$14 million in scope, but I believe the concept holds, regardless of the issue.

As a lobbyist, your support is critical, and I want to thank you for speaking with that powerful, unified voice. And I look forward to achieving similar successes as we begin planning for 2012.