

THE TRUSTEE

Volume 1 ~ January ~ 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

WACCT Executive Director Update

CREG Update

Register Now for WACCT's February Event

2016 Budget Session - WACCT Communications

Happy New Year from the Board and Staff of WACCT

2016 - A Look Ahead - An Update from the Executive Director

A new year. A new Executive Director. A new perspective.

Coming in as a new Executive Director to an already established association allows one the opportunity to take everything in, reflect on what is there, what's been done, and perhaps offer some new ideas. Here are a few of my observations after six months on the job...



The job always involves more than what the job description says - I say this in jest, however it is so true. Especially when it comes to running an association. I guarantee there isn't one board member who truly knows the detail that goes into making sure the association runs efficiently, communications go out on time, records are kept in detail, and all done in accordance with the approved budget. The day-to-day work isn't sexy or anything you want to tell your friends about, but it needs to get done. The committees need to meet, the website needs updating, the bills need to get paid, and everyone needs to know what's going on!

It is always a tough job to go through someone else's files and decipher how things were done. But rest assured, let me tell you that WACCT is in a good place with the transition. Our website is still up and running, and even got a small face lift in the fall. This being the first of our e-newsletters took a bit more time to get formatted and sent out, but it's happening and will now happen on a quarterly basis. The Board made great strides this fall by adopting a formal [WACCT Policy Manual](#) and updating the [Association's bylaws](#) - both of which take a lot of time and energy to draft, review, and discuss. So the mechanics and day-to-day operations of the Association are functioning well!

Budgets never tell the real story - Coming in to a new position with a budget that is already established for you is always a challenge. There is \$X allocated for travel, and \$X for events,

and what? nothing for this? The last six months have taught me that the Community Colleges have a voice that many want to hear. If we are not at a meeting, I hear about it. If we are at a meeting, they want to know what we have to say. Six months may not be long enough to know what the budget should look like, but I will tell you that I am working now and will continue to work over the next several months to recommend a budget that reflects the policy direction, visibility and communication WACCT needs. I will work hand-in-hand with our Board Treasurer to develop a budget that is reasonable and moves the Association forward.

Just because it has always been done that way does not mean that is the way it should always be done - and so the old adage goes. We association people like stability and predictability and we most certainly like to say "this is how we usually do it". I get it. I too am a creature of habit - just ask my husband about how I am forever trying to bring order to our ever chaotic household. Over the years - with three kids, two dogs, two professionals, countless kid activities and a house to maintain - I have indeed learned to give a little (do not ask how much - I said "a little"). Yet, I have years of experience serving as the ED of other associations and I know first hand that change cannot happen overnight, and I also appreciate the perspective a new voice can offer. I feel very fortunate to come into a well run organization lead by thoughtful people and a well -functioning board of directors. We've come a long way in the last six months and I am optimistic that 2016 will bring continued success.

Support for the community colleges runs far and wide - probably the biggest "well of course we do" you have read, but it is true and I hear it all around the state and from policy makers everywhere. The colleges impact every community in every county in this state and we have such a great story to tell. I am honored to be the one who gets to sing our song. Here's to 2016 and the stories it will tell for the community colleges!

Happy New Year ~ Erin

Wyoming Revenue Picture - January Update

Joint Appropriations Committee Gets CREG Update - What's Ahead for the 2016 Budget Session

Members of the Joint Appropriations Committee received an update on the State's revenue picture today ([click here for the full CREG report](#)) from the Consensus Revenue Estimating Group (CREG).

The bottom line is familiar these days - revenues are down due to prices and production for minerals. The January update reduced revenues for 2015/2016 by another \$32M from the October forecast and \$46.4M for the 2017/2018 biennium with the total shortfall for the 2017/2018 cycle of \$465M.

One of the biggest issues of contention with the CREG is that the profile does not consider capital gains. This year, however, the impact of capital gains on the budget will be far less than in year's past. So far, capital gains are not being realized like they have been - this year we are only sitting at \$24M, which is a drop in the bucket when the State was once swimming in the hundreds of millions in capital gains. Even if the capital gains do come in to "save the



day" so to speak, last year's budget bill already appropriated that money. In fact, the colleges are due to receive \$15M in matching funds for endowments (aimed at STEM resources) if the capital gains are realized.

Perhaps the biggest gasp could be heard when the JAC walked through the School Foundation Program funding. For the first time in a long time, the major account responsible for funding K-12 education will not carry a \$100M balance at the end of the biennium. The real crisis will come in the 2019/2020 biennium. The accounts are due to be more than \$515M short with no solution in sight - no revenue sources to cover the gap.

All of this being said, we will just have to wait and see how the budget session shakes out. With the Governor asking for legislators to appropriate from the Legislative Stabilization Reserve Account (LSRA), or the rainy day fund, it takes a bit more analysis to get a good understanding of where all of the money is going. Some say the rainy days are here - some say everything will work out fine. One thing is for sure - your WACCT resources will be hard at work to make sure you are informed and the interests of the colleges are heard.

Registration NOW for the February 18th WACCT Awards and Legislative Reception

Plan to come to Cheyenne on February 18th for WACCT's Annual Awards and Legislative Reception. We encourage everyone to attend, including all nominees. Each of the seven colleges submitted nominees for the following awards:

- Classified Employee
- Faculty Member
- Foundation Board Member
- Professional Employee
- Student
- Trustee

Winners will be posted on WACCT's website following the ceremony!

[Click here for the day's agenda](#)

How to Navigate the 2016 Budget Session

WACCT Bill Tracking and Where to Find Weekly Updates

This will be a different year for the legislative budget session with the Capitol under renovation - all 90 legislators, staff, lobbyists, the public - will huddle into the Jonah Business Center for the next three years.

The good news is that we won't have three floors of stairs to climb! The bad news is that we won't have Cheyenne's downtown right down the street to escape for lunch!



On the serious side, this is a big change, but
WACCT communications won't skip a beat!

This is a great opportunity to utilize our WACCT website (www.wacct.org) and make sure you are up to speed on what's going on at the Jonah Center. If you click on our Advocacy page, we will have weekly updates posted giving you an idea of what happened that week.

You will also find a bill tracking sheet listing all of the bills WACCT is following. WACCT emails will also increase during this time to keep you informed.

We will send information about a weekly conference call for those of you interested in a first hand account of the week's goings on. More information on that to follow.

[Click here for a map of the Jonah Center](#)



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.

Everyone at WACCT wishes you a happy and healthy new year!

Warm wishes,

Erin Taylor
Executive Director
Wyoming Association of Community College Trustees

As always, please help me say thank you to our sponsors...

ellucian.

MHP McGee, Hearne & Paiz, LLP
Certified Public Accountants and Consultants

Find us on Facebook



[SIGN UP FOR EMAILS](#)

[SHARE THIS EMAIL](#)

Wyoming Association of Community College Trustees

erin@wacct.org

Copyright © 20XX. All Rights Reserved.