

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Wyoming Dental (WYDENT) Program Report

October 1, 2013

[Pursuant to W.S. 21-17-199 (f) and (g)]

To the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Interim Committee

Program update

2007 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 103 (original Senate File 45) established a dental education contract program, informally referred to as WYDENT. Pursuant to that legislation, the University entered into agreements with Creighton University and the University of Nebraska Medical Center under which the State of Wyoming through UW would pay the cost of attendance for up to five dental students at each institution. The program is patterned after the WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho) medical education program. The Wyoming residency eligibility requirement for WYDENT students is the same as that for WWAMI students. A WYDENT graduate can repay the payments Wyoming makes to the dental school on the student's behalf by practicing in Wyoming. The three year repayment begins one year after graduation or completion of post-graduate training.

Due to FY 10 statewide budget cuts, only 4 new students are admitted to each school annually, starting in the 2010-11 academic year. In the 2012-2013 academic year the University of Nebraska admitted 4 new students and Creighton University admitted only 3 of their allocated 4 students (a 4th student was admitted but did not meet the residency criteria for WYDENT and was supported by WICHE PSEP instead). For the academic year 2013-14, a total of 15 students are enrolled at the Creighton University School of Dentistry and 16 at the University of Nebraska's College of Dentistry.

Required report

W.S. 21-17-119 (f) – Under this provision, which is identical to the statutory provision for WWAMI students, the University's Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, may relieve a student from repayment of a loan provided under this section for undue hardship. The provision requires the University to report to the Joint Labor Health and Social Services Interim Committee the number of students who have been relieved of the obligation to repay the loan. To date, no student has been relieved of the obligation to repay the loan.

W.S. 21-17-119 (g) – Under this provision, all loan repayments under this program are credited to an account (Dentistry School Student Account) to be invested by the University and the earnings used exclusively for scholarships and support for dental students. This provision requires the University to report to the Committee regarding income and expenditures from this account during the preceding fiscal year. The account has grown to approximately \$10,000 in expendable funds, and no expenditures were made last year. UW is planning to expend some of these funds in FY 14 to recruit and support pre-dental students, such as subsidizing DAT (Dental Admission Test) preparation and pre-dental students' attendance at dental school open houses.

Years	Students matriculated	Students graduated	Practice (see below)	Residency	Repayment	Paid	Grace/undetermined
2007-2011	9	8*	1	3	3	1	
2008-2012	10	9#	4	4			1
2009-2013	10	10	1	3			6
2010-2014	8						
2011-2015	8						
2012-2016	7**						
2013-2017	8						

*1 student withdrew from WYDENT but not dental school after year 1; in repayment.

#1 student withdrew after the first semester; paid.

** Creighton admitted only 3 students. A 4th student was admitted but not eligible for WYDENT.

Practice sites:

Entering year	Location	Number of students
2007	Cheyenne	1
2008	Casper	2
	Gillette	1
	Rock Springs	1
2009	Cheyenne	1

Dental Contracts: Current School Year

AY 13-14: First year [D1], second year [D2], third year [D3]; and fourth year [D4]:

Creighton

D1 Students: 4	\$287,616
D2 Students: 3	\$215,712
D3 Students: 4	\$287,616
D4 Students: 4	<u>\$287,616</u>
	\$1,078,560

UNMC

D1 Students: 4	\$282,308
D2 Students: 4	\$282,308
D3 Students: 4	\$282,308
D4 Students: 4	<u>\$260,596</u>
	\$1,107,520

Total WY-Dent 2013-2014 **\$2,186,080**

Final Thought

While this program is still in its early stages, it appears to be filling its intended purpose with 6 new dentists returning to Wyoming practice and an additional 10 dentists in residencies. Post-graduate education (residencies) in specialized areas (pediatrics, orthodontics, etc.) is optional in dentistry and highly competitive. The fact that so many of our graduates are in residencies speaks to the high quality of our students. The extra specialization will provide additional dental services to the residents of the state. The WYDENT dental students are grateful for relief of the great financial burden of dental school.