

Wyoming Colleges' Recruitment and Retention Plan

September 2017 Progress Report

Submitted by

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Legislative Request

2017 SF0001 The University of Wyoming, the community college Commission and each community college shall collaborate and develop a unified plan to provide a coordinated approach to the recruitment and retention of and incentives for students graduating from Wyoming secondary schools and from schools in states contiguous to Wyoming. The university, on behalf of the university, community colleges and Commission, shall report their progress on the plan to the joint education interim committee and the joint appropriations committee not later than September 30, 2017, and incorporate a final plan for the legislature not later than December 1, 2017, within their respective 2019-2020 biennial budget requests.

Response Development Process

On June 20, 2017, the presidents of each Wyoming college, their chief enrollment officers, and the Wyoming Community College Commission met together in Casper, Wyoming to discuss possibilities for partnership in recruitment and retention of Wyoming and neighbor-state students. Key themes for collaboration were identified and form the basis for the response.

On July 20, 2017, the presidents of each Wyoming college or their delegates, selected board members, the Wyoming Community College Commission, and the Wyoming Department of Education met with representatives from the Lumina Foundation in Rock Springs, Wyoming regarding the current state and future needs of the Wyoming workforce as it relates to levels of post-secondary educational attainment. Wyoming has the opportunity to consider setting a state-wide goal of citizens with certificates, associate's degrees, and bachelor's degrees as a

framework to meet the needs of an educated citizenry associated with economic development, such as that articulated through the governor's ENDOW initiative.

On October 11, 2017, the presidents of each Wyoming college and the Wyoming Community College Commission will meet again in Casper, Wyoming to review and finalize the *Wyoming Colleges' Recruitment and Retention Plan*, determine opportunities for further development, and articulate a timeline for deliverables in the coming three years.

Key Themes

The *Wyoming Colleges' Recruitment and Retention Plan* will outline tactics, to be completed throughout the coming three years, which focus on the following themes:

- (1) creating a **college-going culture**,
- (2) **removing barriers** to college participation,
- (3) **building a pipeline** for Wyoming's colleges,
- (4) **developing paths to re-entry into college** for Wyoming high school graduates entering higher education **from the workforce**, and
- (5) building **pathways to completion**.