

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

WYDENT Program Report October 2016

[Pursuant to W.S. 21-17-119 (f) and (g)]

To the Joint Appropriations Committee and the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Interim Committee

Program update

In 2007, the Wyoming Legislature, through the 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 by which the State of Wyoming, through the University of Wyoming, pays for the cost of attendance for up to five dental students at each institution each educational year. 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 repays the payments Wyoming makes to the dental school on the student's behalf by practicing dentistry in Wyoming. The three-year repayment requirement begins one year after graduation or completion of post-graduate training.

Due to FY 10 statewide budget cuts, only 4 new students were admitted to each school annually, beginning in the 2010-11 academic year. For the academic year 2016-2017, a total of 14 WYDENT students are enrolled at the Creighton University School of Dentistry, and 15 at the University of Nebraska's College of Dentistry.

The efforts of the 2016 Wyoming Legislature and Governor Mead in the passing of HB85 are greatly appreciated. HB85 (House Enrolled Act No. 37, 2016) produces two important changes. First, it modifies the limits on the spending of investment income from the Dental School Student Account. Specifically, the act allows for a portion of the investment income from the account to be spent to support WYDENT students and the return of WYDENT graduates as authorized by the president of the University of Wyoming and the dean of the College of Health Sciences. Second, it allows the tuition and fees received by the University of Wyoming from students participating in the dental education program to be spent by the university for the support of education and training conducted at the university in the college of health sciences.

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. One student was approved for a temporary decelerated repayment schedule in 2014.

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 legislature regarding income and expenditures from this account during the preceding fiscal year. The account has grown to approximately \$111,582 in expendable funds in FY 15. UW began to expend some of these funds in FY 14 to recruit and support pre-dental students by subsidizing DAT (Dental Admission Test) preparation (\$1200.00 in FY 16). It also provided scholarships for 3 students to attend a dental simulation clinic at University of Nebraska (\$750.00). With the 2015-2016 entering class, the fund will also assist with board exam preparation and exam fees. Efforts will continue to use these funds to support dental education.

Current statistics:

82 Started WYDENT (though 2016) less 3 withdrawals; 1 has repaid in full
 50 graduates (through 2016)
 36 Practicing in Wyoming, includes 13 completed service requirements
 8 Practicing outside Wyoming, includes 3 paid in full
 4 Enrolled in specialty residencies
 2 Grace period
 30 currently enrolled in dental school
 14 Creighton University
 16 University of Nebraska

Wyoming WYDENT graduates and practice sites:

8 Casper
 7 Cheyenne
 2 Cody
 3 Gillette
 1 Kemmerer
 1 Lander
 5 Laramie
 1 Lyman
 1 Powell
 1 Rock Springs
 3 Sheridan
 1 Thayne
 2 Torrington

Legislative Report Fiscal Year 2016 costs

Creighton	\$1,063,986
UNMC	<u>\$1,083,976</u>
Total	\$2,147,962

Feedback:

This program appears to be fulfilling its intended purpose with 36 dentists returning to Wyoming practice, 4 dentists in residencies, and 2 in the grace period. Post-graduate education (residencies) in specialized areas (pediatrics, orthodontics, etc.) is optional in dentistry and is highly competitive. The fact that so many of our graduates are completing residencies speaks well of our students. This specialization will provide additional dental services to the residents of the state. The WYDENT students are grateful for relief of the great financial burden of dental school.