# THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

# Statewide Strategic Planning Listening Sessions

# *Cheyenne, Wyoming*

# Tuesday, December 6, 2016

A community member stated that the implementation of an applied science degree at UW would be beneficial to numerous students across the state that were interested in technical trades, which was a number that was increasing often at LCCC. He explained that often times these students continued into the field of computer science and the cyber security area which were both critically important to the future of the state and the county. The community member stated that he hoped UW would work to strengthen those relationships as the demand for these programs increased. He suggested that this relationship include in creation of a business incubator in Cheyenne to promote health science and business opportunities.

Another community member stated that it would be important for UW to invest in internationalization, which should start at the top and permeate its way through the campus and the state. She added that citizens of the United Stated were living in a time period where global connections would only continue to increase, noting that UW and Wyoming could not afford to ignore this expansion. The community member stated that these opportunities would provide students the change to expand their horizons, as well as support economic diversification in the state. She stated that there were emersion programs across the state in languages like Chinese, and she worried that UW might not be prepared to accommodate these students when they arrived at UW. The community member added that preparing for these students would work to increase enrollment and retention for the University. She added that she hoped that UW could continue to support strong library programs on campus that provided both print and technology resources to students through well trained and educated professional librarians.

A member of the community stated that in an effort to support economic development across the state UW needed to consider the implementation of new programs.

Another community member stated that UW Extension, through programs like 4-H was the first class that many students took with connection to UW. She stated that these programs could heavily support recruitment to UW, however in recent years these programs had had difficulty getting students to campus for events and tours based on the cost.

A community member suggested that UW look into partnerships with community colleges outside of Wyoming. He added that often times if students took college courses in high school or following their high school graduation those credits often times did not transfer from out of state to UW which lead many of these students to stay in their home states. The community member stated that it could broaden the horizons of the state if they started looking for these opportunities in the surrounding states.

A member of the community expressed a desire for UW to implement programs that provided a welcoming environment to diverse students to work to increase diversity across campus. He added that UW should increase the arts programs in all disciplines as it attracted students.

Another community member added that she worked with Western Sugar which had two factories located in Wyoming. She explained that it was important for UW to increase the number of students receiving their degrees in agriculture, because a large number of the farming community members in the state were looking to retire and were struggling to find other Wyoming farmers to buy their shares. The community member added that the production of certain crops was being extradited to other states strictly because they had the human capital to support these efforts. She explained a program currently available through the military base located in Cheyenne that connected service men and women with the farmers in Wyoming to train them to take over these shares once these service men and women had retired from the military. The community member suggested that UW work to support and work hand in hand with this program to improve its overall success.

A community member stated that UW possessed a gold mine in their Veteran Services Center. She added that this was a program she would like to see continued as it had been incredibly successful and was such a support for the state as there were many veterans living in the state. The community member added how important the Hathaway Scholarship was to Wyoming, noting that UW had to fosters great support around this scholarship and hoped that it would continue even through the rough financial times.

A member of the community suggested that UW look to create a dual credit program that high school seniors could participate in following the completion of their required courses at the high school level. She added that the implementation of a program like this could encourage students to attend college at UW instead of going to another state for their undergraduate education, as these were incredibly smart students with numerous options for their education. The community member added that the credit transfer process needed to improve so that citizens from across the state could enroll in online courses through UW to pursue their higher education.

Another community member stated that UW should look into creating a program that would produce practitioners of innovation to increase the amount of skills that students possess when they went out into the job market upon graduation.

A community member suggested that UW look at its incentive structure for faculty and staff to bring the intellectual resources present on campus to citizens of the state.

A community member asked what role the community colleges would play in the strategic plan for UW. President Nichols briefly stated that she believed that the community colleges were the front line work force development for economic diversification that would take place in Wyoming. She added that UW proved the next level degree programs for this development.

Another community member stated that the humanities had an ability to reach across disciplinary lines and these programs were incredibly valuable to students and the University culture as a whole. She added that she was appreciative of the skills that could be obtained through an interdisciplinary and well-rounded education, based on her personal experiences which she felt should be received by all students that attended UW.

A member of the community suggested that UW look at its outreach programs to change these programs to better accommodate citizens across the state that were working and trying to receive their degrees from UW. She added that this would include an evaluation of the programs that were offered. The community member noted that in her career she had tried to assist students at LCCC with the transfer credit program and she receive help from faculty members at UW to complete this process. She added that the faculty reached out to two students that originally were planning to transfer out of state but were unable to transfer their credits but were well received by the faculty at UW.

A community member stated that UW had amazing storied to tell the citizens of Wyoming. He stated that these citizens had so many great things to be proud of that were taking place at UW but those messages were not being translated to the citizens of the state. The community member added that this knowledge of the things taking place on campus would provide a great opportunity for recruitment and to show how UW was working to diversify the Wyoming

Another community member wanted the support of 4-H programming to continue as it assisted the military base that was located in Cheyenne. She stated that it was a requirement to have 4-H available through the youth programming on the base and she felt very fortunate that the base in Cheyenne had a 4-H educator that was supported through the UW Extension coming into provide those services. The community member added that UW could create better partnerships with the base to promote educational programs. She stated that it would be great to have UW students in the College of Education working in the teen center on the base.

A community member thanked UW for the amazing opportunities that they offered to students and faculty to participate in international experiences. She added that UW also provided numerous opportunities on campus for students to engage in an international experience.

Another community member suggested that UW look to provide distance education to members of the military that were deployed. She added that this could provide these service men and women the opportunity to pursue higher education while they were deployed. The community member added that another suggestion for recruitment efforts at UW would be for them to provide information to parents and students at the same time so that the information was being disseminated to both groups to improve an understanding of the college process.