

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho) Program Report
From the College of Health Sciences
1OCTOBER 2008

[Pursuant to W.S. 21-17-109 (d)(iv) and (e)]

To the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Interim Committee

Program update

The WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho) Program is the current program through which the state provides a loan to students covering the bulk of the cost of attendance at a medical school (since 1997, the University of Washington School of Medicine) and the students have the option of repaying the loan either by practicing in Wyoming or by repaying in cash. The program is authorized under W.S. 21-17-109(e). In prior years, students attended medical schools under this provision at Creighton and Utah.

Given that cash repayment does not begin until the physician has completed a residency, and now sometimes a second residency or other advanced training, and that the loans can be repaid over 8 years, some Creighton graduates are still repaying loans. Moreover, many WWAMI graduates are still in residency and post-residency training. Currently, 28 WWAMI graduates are required to begin repayment of their obligation, and 20 of those 28 are repaying by practicing in Wyoming.

During the 2004 Special Session, legislation was enacted to expand the size of the WWAMI program by two students each year until all four years of WWAMI classes had 16 students. In the fall 2005, the entering class size was increased from 10 to 12. In the fall 2006, the entering class size was expanded from 12 to 14. The authorized fall 2007 entering class size was expanded to 16 students. The fall 2008 entering class has a full enrollment with 16 students.

Required report

W.S. 21-17-109 (d)(iv) – Under this provision, 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 Committee the number of students who have been relieved of the obligation to repay the loan. For FY 2008, no student has been relieved of the obligation to repay the loan.

W.S. 21-17-116 (f) – Under this provision, effective July 1, 2005, all loan repayments under this program are credited to an account to be invested by the University and the earnings thereon used exclusively for scholarships and support for WWAMI medical students. This provision requires the University to report to the Committee regarding income and expenditures from this account during the preceding fiscal year. Note that the bulk of the payments to this account are from physicians who participated in the Creighton program; only eight WWAMI

graduates have completed their residency training and are repaying loans other than by practicing in Wyoming.

FY08 – Fiscal report

Corpus in Medical School Student fund

Beginning balance	\$ 2,610,537
Collections \$ 525,887	
Net gains to corpus	\$ (208,497)
Total in corpus	\$ 2,927,927

Total Earnings (expendable)

Unexpended balance	\$ 100,891
FY 08 earnings	\$ 108,299
Total available for expenditure	\$ 209,190

FY 08 expenditures \$110,340

Breakdown of expenditures from repayments to medical contract

Payment of USMLE Exams/Travel stipend to Part IICS:	Class of 2008 \$2430/student
	Class of 2009 \$2475/student
Dislocation allowance for 2 nd year move to Seattle:	Class of 2011 \$1000/student
Dislocation allowance for first year move to Laramie:	Class of 2012 \$1000/student
Dislocation allowance for 3 rd & 4 th year clinical rotations	Class of 2009 \$1000/student
	Class of 2010 \$1000/student

In addition, currently and in the future, assistance is also offered to graduating WWAMI students to interview and relocate (if accepted) at one of the UW family medicine residency programs in Cheyenne or Casper; to set up a practice in Wyoming irrespective of where the student completed their residency and finally financial assistance to WWAMI students entering and completing the newly developed Wyoming rural clinical rotation track (4 rotations in Wyoming only one of which can be in either Cheyenne or Casper).