

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
Accelerated Nursing Program Report
October 1, 2014

[Pursuant to W.S. 21-17-122(c) and (f)]
To the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Interim Committee

Program Overview

The Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing offers an accelerated baccalaureate program preparing prior non-nursing baccalaureate degree students for the Bachelor's of Science in Nursing degree to enable them to become a registered nurse. This program, started in the summer of 2008, is called BRAND (Bachelors Reach for Accelerated Nursing Degree) and takes 15 months to complete.

The State of Wyoming Legislature established an educational loan repayment program for accelerated students in the BRAND program in 2009 (W.S. 21-17-122). Under this statute the University of Wyoming was authorized to provide five loans annually of up to \$25,000 each for full-time students enrolled in the BRAND program, although currently funding allows for nine loans during each biennium, instead of ten. The funding is divided over a four-semester period. Students receiving support from the state are obligated to engage in professional practice as a registered nurse for two years in Wyoming or repay all amounts expended by the state for their education.

Required Report

W.S. 21-17-122 (c) – Under this provision, like the WWAMI program, 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.

W.S. 21-17-122 (f) - On or before October 1 of each year, the university shall submit a report to the committee on expenditures from the account during the prior fiscal year. Funds from students who repay their loans flow into this account. Currently, three students are in the grace period and six students are paying with service in Casper, Cheyenne, Evanston, Jackson, and Laramie. Two students are currently paying back the loan in cash.

Loan Repayment Update

State funding for the current biennium totals \$225,000, which is sufficient to support nine students during a two year period. For FY2014, six (6) students were supported, receiving their loans over the course of the 2013-14 academic year. During FY2015 a total of four awards will be given which will leave five awards possible for the FY2016 academic year.

Thirty-one students have been supported by the BRAND loan payment program since it was established. The table below summarizes the current status of those students/graduates as of August 30, 2014. No students have been relieved of their obligation to repay the loan. One student has enrolled in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at UW (labeled as "re-enrolled" on the table below), so the loan has been deferred while the individual is in school.

Status	Home Town	City of Practice
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Completed	Buffalo	Buffalo
Completed	Casper	Casper
Completed	Casper	Casper
Completed	Cheyenne	Cheyenne
Completed	Cody	Cody
Completed	Green River	Green River
Completed	Jackson	Jackson
Completed	Kaycee	Sheridan
Completed	Laramie	Laramie
Completed	Lovell	Laramie
Completed	Riverton	Lander
Completed	Torrington	Casper
Completed	Wheatland	Douglas
Completed	Wilson	Jackson
Deferred for practice	Casper	Casper
Deferred for practice	Cheyenne	Cheyenne
Deferred for practice	Evanston	Evanston
Deferred for practice	Jackson	Jackson
Deferred for practice	Laramie	Casper
Deferred for practice	Laramie	Laramie
Enrolled	Douglas	
Enrolled	Jackson	
Enrolled	Moran	
Enrolled	Rock Springs	
Enrolled	Wilson	
Grace	Jackson	
Grace	Jackson	
Grace	Laramie	
Re-enrolled	Cheyenne	
Repayment	Casper	
Repayment	Jackson	

University of Wyoming		
BRAND Loan Program		
Loan Receivables: Student balancing		
Year Ended 6/30/14		
Loan advances 2010	225,000.00	
Loan advances 2011	112,500.00	
Loan advances 2012	112,500.00	
Loan advances 2013	112,500.00	
Loan advances 2014	93,750.00	
Total Loans		656,250.00
Canceled-Service 2012	(57,835.48)	
Canceled-Service 2013	(146,756.04)	
Cancelled-Service 2014	(172,190.78)	
Total canceled		(376,7823.30)
Loans-Rec Student		279,467.70

There have been no repayments received into this fund as of June 30, 2014. Those in re-payment will be indicated in the FY2015 financial report.

Summary

The BRAND Program has been quite successful and is accomplishing its goals. The State of Wyoming and health care employers are experiencing the impact of the loan repayment program. All graduates who have received loans have either completed their payback with service in Wyoming (14 graduates) or are in the process of paying back the loan through service in the state (6 graduates). As you can see from the 3rd column in the table above, a variety of Wyoming cities have benefited by a BRAND graduate, including Sheridan, Cody, Buffalo and Green River.

The BRAND graduates are also high quality nurses. They do very well with an NCLEX (national nursing licensure examination) pass rate of between 86 to 95% over the last 4 years. Moreover, the BRAND program attracts a diverse student pool with an increasing number of men and women of color graduating from the program. Given the ongoing challenges of recruiting and retaining qualified registered nurses because of the increasing demand for and ongoing shortages of nurses, increasing the loan repayment program to the original 10 loans per biennium is warranted. The BRAND program has a solid record (see above) of retaining graduates in the state and increasing the number of loans could be a key part of addressing the pressing nursing shortage in Wyoming.