

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

WYDENT Program Report

October 1, 2015

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

To the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Interim Committee

Program update

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 under which the State of Wyoming through UW would pay the cost of attendance for up to five dental students at each institution. 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 can repay the payments Wyoming makes to the dental school on the student's behalf by practicing in Wyoming. The three-year repayment begins one year after graduation or completion of post-graduate training.

Due to FY 10 statewide budget cuts, only 4 new students are admitted to each school annually, starting in the 2010-11 academic year. In the 2012-2013 and 2015-2016 academic years the University of Nebraska admitted 4 new students and Creighton University admitted only 3 of their allocated 4 students (4th student was admitted but did not meet the residency criteria for WYDENT). For the academic year 2015-2016, a total of 14 WYDENT students are enrolled at the Creighton University School of Dentistry, and 16 at the University of Nebraska's College of Dentistry.

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 Joint Labor, Health and Social Services interim committee 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 (\$4797.00 in FY 15). This year, it also provided

scholarships for 9 students to attend a dental simulation clinic at University of Nebraska (\$2,250.00). With the 2015-2016 entering class, it will also assist with board exam preparation and exam fees. Efforts will continue to use these funds to support dental education.

Current statistics:

73 Started WYDENT (though 2015) less 2 withdrawals
43 graduates (through 2015)
27 Practicing in Wyoming, includes 6 completed service requirements
7 Practicing outside Wyoming, includes 1 paid in full
3 Enrolled in specialty residency
6 Grace period
30 currently enrolled in dental school
14 Creighton University
16 University of Nebraska

Wyoming WYDENT graduates and practice sites:

7 Casper
6 Cheyenne
2 Gillette
1 Kemmerer
4 Laramie
1 Rock Springs
3 Sheridan
1 Thayne
1 Thermopolis
1 Torrington
27

Legislative Report Fiscal Year 2015 costs

Creighton	\$1,110,180
UNMC	<u>\$1,141,084</u>
Total	\$2,251,264

Feedback:

While this program is in early stages it appears to be filling its intended purpose with 27 new dentists returning to Wyoming practice, an additional 3 dentists in residencies, and 6 in the grace period. Post-graduate education (residencies) in specialized areas (pediatrics, orthodontics, etc.) is optional in dentistry and are highly competitive. The fact that so many of our graduates are completing residencies speaks to the high quality of our students. The extra specialization will provide additional dental services to the residents of the state. The WYDENT dental students are grateful for relief of the great financial burden of dental school.