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Statewide Perceptions of the University of Wyoming

From October 5th to 11th, 2016, the Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center (WYSAC) at the University of Wyoming conducted a biennial Wyoming statewide telephone survey. The survey was sponsored by the University of Wyoming Political Science Department and the Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center. The survey instrument features questions that focus on attitudes toward government, contemporary policy issues, elected

officials, candidates for office, and the University of Wyoming. Cellular and landline telephone numbers were randomly generated to ensure equal probability of selection for all Wyoming residents. The survey was completed by 722 Wyoming residents, resulting in a margin of error of approximately ± 3.6 percentage points.

Performance of the University of Wyoming

All survey respondents were asked to rate the performance of the University of Wyoming on a number of items. For each item, respondents could answer *excellent*, *good*, *fair*, *poor*, or offer that they *don't know/are not sure*. The University of Wyoming's performance was rated highest with regard to "Maintaining a safe campus for students, employees, and visitors," with 23% of residents rating the performance of the University as *excellent*, and 50% rating it as *good* (73% combined). Next, 27% of residents rated the performance of the University as *excellent* with regard to "Providing an excellent undergraduate education," with an additional 44% rating it as *good* (71% combined).

When asked to rate the University on its performance with regards to "Educating young people to participate in Wyoming's workforce", 19% of residents gave it the highest rating of *excellent*, with another 47% rating the performance as *good* (66% combined). With regard to the University "Being responsive to the needs of the state and its citizens," 14% give it a rating of *excellent*, and 52% a rating of *good* (66% combined).

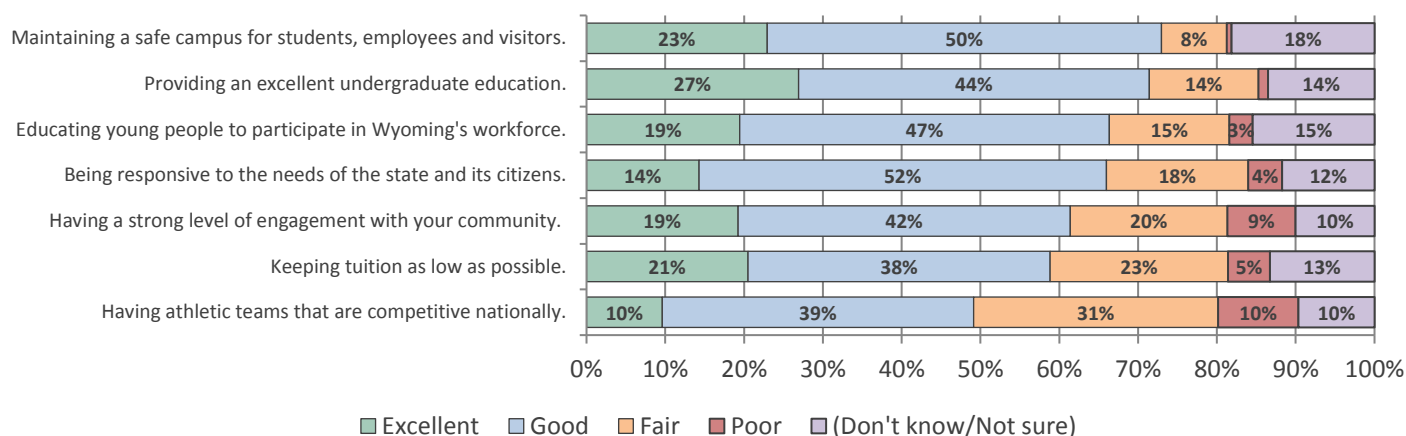
Ratings by Wyoming residents for performance on "Having a strong level of engagement with your community" varied, with 19% rating the University's performance as *excellent*, 42% rating it as *good* (61% combined), followed by 20% rating it as *fair*, and 9% rating it as *poor*.

Just over one-fifth (21%) of Wyoming residents rate the University as *excellent* with regard to "Keeping tuition as low as possible," with an additional 38% rating it as *good* (59% combined). Nearly a quarter (23%) of Wyoming residents rate the University on this item as *fair*, with another 5% rating it as *poor*.

When asked to rate the performance of the University of Wyoming with regard to “Having athletic teams that are competitive nationally”, 10% of Wyoming residents say it is *excellent*, while 39% say it is *good* (49% combined). Nearly a third (31%) of residents rate the University as *fair* on this item, while 10% of residents rate their performance as *poor*.

Figure 1

Please rate the performance of the University of Wyoming on the following activities:



Note: Items are displayed in descending order of their rank as the sum of *excellent* and *good* ratings.

Source: Biennial Election Survey (2016). 722 Wyoming residents, resulting in a margin of error of ± 3.6 percentage points.

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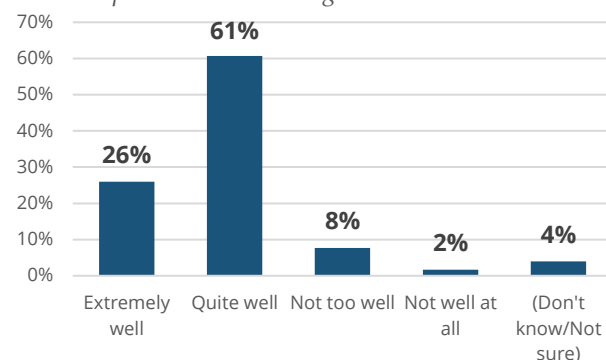
Appeal of the University of Wyoming

Respondents were asked “How well do you think the University of Wyoming appeals to Wyoming students and their families as a desirable place to attend college?” Over a quarter (26%) of residents say *extremely well*, while 61% say the University does this *quite well*. Only 8% of residents say *not too well*, with another 2% saying *not well at all*.

A majority (86%) of survey respondents did not have a degree from the University of Wyoming. Those who had received a degree from the University were asked two additional questions regarding their perceptions of the University. When asked to report their perception of the **quality** of their educational experience, 35% indicated it was *excellent*, while 52% indicated it was *good*. When asked about their perception of the **relevance** of their educational experience, 22% indicated that it was *excellent*, and 63% that it was *good*.

Figure 2

How well do you think the University of Wyoming appeals to Wyoming students and their families as a desirable place to attend college?



Source: Biennial Election Survey (2016). 722 Wyoming residents, resulting in a margin of error of ± 3.6 percentage points.

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