Priority	Category	Request	Amount	Type	Notes
1	*State Aid Block Grant: Faculty & Staff*	*Salary Increases*	*$6,000,000*		*Actual Request will be based on Governor's compensation plan. 2% Cost of living increase ($1.5 million per one percent per year).*
2	State Aid Block Grant: Students, Faculty & Staff	Mental Health Services	$1,800,000	Recurring	Comprehensive well-being initiative for students, faculty, staff. Based on the number of student, staff, and faculty concerns around mental health, we propose creating a comprehensive Well-Being Center to support our campus community. There is not a one size fits all approach when it comes to addressing individual mental health needs. Several techniques should be considered and implemented. It is an approach to helping community members adopt a new way of learning, gaining the resources needed to address a pivotal situation, and beginning to find solutions. This multi-layered approach will not remedy campus mental health in one year. The essential components of our institution are its employees and students, and we want to make them our number one priority. Addressing mental health will retain happier, healthier employees and students.
3	State Aid Block Grant: Faculty & Staff	Inflationary Costs	$4,500,000	Recurring	Request covers current estimated increase in utilities and actual increases in insurance policies.
4	State Aid Block Grant: Student Success	Classroom Technology Upgrades	$6,000,000	One-time	Estimate based on IT review of requested technologies in common classroom space. A working group has made recommendations regarding which technology is useful and won't be obsolete in the next five years. One classroom is being upgraded to test the recommended equipment.
5	State Aid Block Grant: Research Excellence	Increase Graduate Assistant Stipends and increase funding for PhD Fellowships	$3,000,000	Recurring	After conducting a review of graduate assistant stipends at peer institutions The School of Graduate Education will increase graduate assistantship stipends by 20% in order to be more competitive with stipends at peer institutions.
6	State Aid Block Grant: Athletics	Rodeo	$200,000	Recurring	Ongoing annual request to fund strength and conditioning program as well as fund graduate assistants that help coach the team.

7	State Aid Block Grant: Medical Education	WWAMI	$1,170,000	Recurring	The request for additional support will allow Wyoming WWAMI students to continue paying the same estimated percentage of program costs over the next two years given anticipated Academic Year 2024-2025 and Academic Year 2025-2026 Washington School of Medicine tuition and fee increases.
8	State Aid Block Grant: Faculty & Staff	Additional Campus Operations Staff Positions Funding	$1,500,000	Recurring	Recurring Funding for ten additional campus operations staff positions to needed to maintain increased square footage and buildings on Laramie campus.
9	Endowments	University Endowment Challenge Program WS 21-16-903	$20,000,000	Matching	The Wyoming state matching program began more than 20 years ago with the intent of incentivizing major gifts to the University of Wyoming. It was expanded from matching endowments to athletics facilities and then to academic facilities. The overwhelming success of the program is a testament to the dedicated investment of the state leadership and the enthusiastic commitment of UW supporters. UW proposes a new matching pool of $20 million for an extension of the University Endowment Challenge Program. This request follows the recent investments by the UW Board of Trustees in students, faculty, and research, and the matching funds created by the UW Foundation Board of Directors for students and faculty.

10	State Aid Block Grant: Student Success	Library Collections Budget Increase	$2,000,000	One-time	EBSCO, the primary supplier of journal content for university libraries, reports an 18% increase over the past five-year journal price history (2018-2022). This means that to maintain access to all the content the UW Libraries had in 2018, the collections budget would have to have grown by approximately 18% over the five years. However, from 2018 to 2023, UW's collections purchases have dropped from $8,973,245 (FY18) to $8,419,563 (FY23). Although the requested appropriation does not increase the collections budget to cover the full cost of inflation, it does greatly improve the ability to maintain access. Without additional funding the existing budget is concerning as the University of Wyoming strives to become an R1 institution. Increased research support will likely require more library resources, while instead, without baseline budget increases, we will have to make strategic cuts. To our credit, over the past 7 or 8 years, UW Libraries has done everything to stretch the collections dollars we have – but our mitigation efforts appear to be exhausted. There are no more corners to cut, no new partners with which to share costs, nor new opportunities for resource sharing agreements. Increasing costs of materials, eroding collections budgets, and new programming and opportunities embraced by the University, bring us to a reckoning point that requires action.
11	Wyoming Innovation & Technology	Artificial Intelligence Partnership	$2,500,000	Recurring	See attached AI Concept Plan.
			$7,500,000	One-time	
12	Matching Funds: Research Excellence	Phase Two Wyoming Gas Injection Initiative	$25,000,000	Matching	Phase two of an existing state supported program to develop and implement new technologies to extend the life of existing oil infrastructure through the utilization of captured hydrocarbon gasses and carbon dioxide. UW is seeking a delayed effective date to FY26 for this request.
13	Special Projects	Neltje Center for Excellence in Creativity & the Arts	$2,000,000	Recurring	At its core, the NCEAC will be centered around student success; all students' success. The concepts of creativity, opportunities for personal growth, development of critical thinking skills, and the study of the arts are valuable assets to all UW students, regardless of their major. These ideas are fundamental to a college education, are at the root of why students choose higher education, and are crucial to forming the leaders of the future. There will be opportunities for students across UW to benefit from this Center.

$83,170,000 **Total**
$16,670,000 Recurring (Becomes part of Standard Budget)
$15,500,000 One-time
$45,000,000 Matching

WICHE					
	Health	WICHE		$715,000	Recurring	The request is to restore funding to the base level prior to state implemented budget reductions. The request would restore funding to provide for approximately ten contracts for professional medical programs.

Proposed University of Wyoming AI Initiative: A Catalyst for Statewide Transformation

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming industries, education, and society. AI holds the promise of substantial advancements across Wyoming's core economic sectors, including oil and gas, mining, agriculture, tourism, wildlife conservation, and manufacturing.

Many states such as MA, CA, TX, UT, ID, and FL are making major investments in their universities to advance research and workforce development that will leverage the emerging AI-driven economy. To be competitive in the new AI-enabled advances, Wyoming must also invest in this transformative technology. The University of Wyoming is poised to provide a significant ROI on such investments through increased student enrollment, extramural funding, and industry collaborations.

UW aims to establish an AI Initiative across the entire University, and across Wyoming, to trigger economic growth, enhance research capabilities, drive job creation, and prepare our workforce for AI's disruptive transition across market sectors. This initiative requires investments in faculty and technical positions with AI expertise. These investments will:

- Strengthen UW's faculty excellence in AI
    - The core investments will create faculty positions with foundational AI research programs.
    - Additional cluster hires will be developed in key programs linked directly to the state's economy, including energy and mining, agriculture, business, education, engineering, health, and the arts, building upon their established expertise.
    - These faculty will help UW increase enrollment in computer science and computing disciplines.
- Foster economic growth in AI-driven industries
    - Staff will be hired to better support industry partnerships and resources such as the NCAR-Wyoming Supercomputing Center, to enhance entrepreneurial activity, and to connect better to statewide communities, schools, and community colleges.

The University of Wyoming requests the following investments in the UW AI initiative over the next three years.

Year	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
Recurring annually	$0.9 million	+$1.6 million ($2.5 million total)	+$2.0 million ($4.5 million total)
One time	$3.2 million	$4.3 million ($7.5 million total)	

Strengthen UW's faculty excellence in AI

Year 1 (FY2025)

- 6 new faculty positions ($0.9 million recurring) in core AI disciplines to be hired in the College of Engineering and School of Computing. These hires will focus specifically on AI and will augment the expertise that is already in the School of Computing and among those hired through Tier 1 Engineering Initiative in related areas.
- One-time funds ($2.8 million) towards faculty start up.

Year 2 (FY2026)

- 4 new faculty positions ($0.6 million recurring) in core AI disciplines.

- 4 faculty positions for one cluster hire ($0.6 million recurring) for AI-driven discoveries in other colleges, allowing interdisciplinary research and AI applications in diverse fields, including energy sciences, social sciences, health sciences, environmental sciences, law, arts, humanities, and others. These will focus on one of the industry sectors relevant to Wyoming (energy, outdoor recreation, agriculture, etc.).
- Provide introductory AI classes with hybrid delivery in which community college students or interested faculty will also be able to enroll. Develop a statewide asynchronous online AI course for workforce development and implement alternative credentials (e.g., badges) that would confirm competencies to state agencies or industry employers. Address shortage of Advanced Placement Computer Science offerings in Wyoming (especially for rural schools without a CS teacher) by working with Dept of Education to provide online, asynchronous, offering of AP Computer Science Principles ($0.3 million one-time funds for development).
- UW will use internal funds to support start-up costs for faculty.

Year 3 (FY2027)

- 8 faculty positions for two cluster hires ($1.2 million recurring) for AI-driven discoveries in other colleges, allowing interdisciplinary research and AI applications in diverse fields, including including social sciences, health sciences, environmental sciences, law, arts, humanities, and others. The cluster themes will focus on industry sectors relevant to Wyoming (energy, outdoor recreation, agriculture, etc.)
- UW will use internal funds to support start-up costs for faculty.

Foster economic growth in AI-driven industry

Year 2 (FY2025)

- One-time funds ($0.4 million) for hiring two scientists for AI-based computing applications working with faculty across campus.

Year 2 (FY2026)

- One-time funds ($4 million) for AI-capable computing environment deployed at NWSC.
- Grow the planned UW Industry and Strategic Partnership office in the Research and Economic Development Division to support strengthened relationships with UW across all colleges of the university, providing more opportunities for student internships, sponsored research, and investments from companies (2 staff, $0.4 million).

Year 3 (FY2027)

- Create a focused "UW-NWSC Industry Program" building on UW's ARCC and the NCAR-Wyoming Supercomputing Center (NWSC), to assist existing Wyoming-based businesses to adopt AI and to attract new industry to the region, catalyzing growth in the southeast Wyoming tech sector, enhancing collaboration with statewide industry. This is based on successful programs in other states (e.g., STAR Industry in Texas) and would include 2 research scientists, ($0.25 million plus 0.25 million for operational costs of the computer).
- Enhance community partnerships with support staff (three distributed across the state) ($0.3 million) to work with local communities and their economic development offices, facilitating the development and dissemination of AI literacy.

Partnerships, Outcomes and Timelines

This initiative will catalyze partnerships with industry, federal agencies like NSF and DOE, other universities, national laboratories, and regional businesses and communities, fostering a vibrant AI ecosystem to advance both the state's workforce and economy.

Further, the Wyoming Innovation Partnership (WIP) established digital and entrepreneurial activities as central to its efforts and is already establishing numerous transfer programs with community colleges, with software, AI, and cybersecurity training among the digital pathways.

This initiative proposes a phased approach to implement the AI program across the university. The timeline includes setting up infrastructure and resources in the first year, hiring faculty in the second year and beyond, and likewise expanding partnerships and community engagement as staff are hired to support the initiative throughout the timeline.