



FACT SHEET

WYOMING LEGISLATIVE SERVICE OFFICE

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EXCELLENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND CHALLENGE PROGRAM ENDOWMENTS

Tables on the following pages describe generally how each community college and the University of Wyoming are using the funds received from both the Excellence in Higher Education Endowment Program and the Endowment Challenge Programs.

EXCELLENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION ENDOWMENT PROGRAM

The Excellence in Higher Education Endowment Program was initiated in 2005 ('05 Laws, Ch. 190). In February, 2006, an initial endowment appropriation was made to each community college in the amount of \$306,259 and to the University of Wyoming in the amount of \$4,300,000. These funds are part of the endowment and only the interest received on these funds may be spent. Additionally, in July, 2006, a special appropriation from the Common School Permanent Fund Reserve Account ('06 Laws, Ch. 45) of \$200,000 was made to each community college and \$2,800,000 to the University of Wyoming. (Later, the University's amount was reduced to \$1,800,000 in '08 Laws, Ch. 48, Section 333.) This allowed each institution to begin hiring staff for the Excellence in Higher Education Program while the Endowment Accounts for each institution were being filled by the diversion of Federal Mineral Royalties. Now, as of April, 2008, the Endowment Accounts are full.

The community colleges and University of Wyoming are to use the endowment earnings "to establish endowed faculty positions and to acquire instructional and resource materials, classroom equipment and other resources necessary to support the work of endowed faculty" (W.S. 21-16-1202 and 1203). In October 2008, the higher education institutions reported their use of endowment funds in Fiscal Year 2008. **Table 1** summarizes how much each institution spent in that year and how they used the funds.

Table 1: University of Wyoming and Community College Excellence in Higher Education Endowment Programs.

Institution	Expenditures (FY08)	Use of Endowment Funds
Casper College	\$111,106	Casper College hired an instructor to fill a new position in its robotics program. As of the last filed report, the College also intends to use the funding for a paramedic technology program beginning in fall 2009.
Central Wyoming College	\$100,000	CWC allocated funds for two positions: a math/science instructor at the Jackson outreach center, and an instructor at the Fire Science program in Riverton.
Eastern Wyoming College	\$93,201	The funds were used to improve agricultural course offerings and start a livestock judging program. \$100,000 was budgeted toward salary and benefits for an ag instructor/livestock judging coach, related educational supplies, travel expenses, and scholarships. This position was filled by a former University of Wyoming assistant livestock judging coach.
Laramie County Community College	\$63,858	LCCC has used the funds for costs associated with starting a Physical Therapy Assistant program. It paid accreditation fees and hired a program director/instructor in January 2008. Since the end of FY08, it hired a second instructor using this funding.
Northwest College	\$107,907	Northwest College has used the funding for part-time staff to address workforce needs in three areas: (1) food safety, culinary basics, and hospitality training in Cody; (2) construction trades in Powell and Cody through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity; and (3) workforce planning for high school students and business owners in Cody and Powell. Additionally, Northwest College created a half-time early childhood education faculty position and expanded related educational opportunities for students throughout the Big Horn Basin.
Northern Wyoming Community College	\$137,156	NWCC has used the funding for two faculty positions. One is a coordinator of First Year Experience, which has a goal of increasing engagement, retention, and student performance. The second is for an industrial electronics instructor in Gillette.
Western Wyoming Community College	\$136,379	WWCC uses the funds to support two faculty members to teach industrial maintenance, electrical and instrumentation, and natural gas compression technology. It plans on using funds to purchase equipment for these programs. The college also plans on adding another faculty member in instrumentation.
University of Wyoming	\$1,425,409	The University of Wyoming had allocated the funding for fifteen positions. Four positions are within the College of Education with focuses on literacy, science, reading, and math. Three positions are in Arts and Humanities: an eminent writer-in-residence, a fine arts visiting artist-in-residence, and an art museum master teacher. Four positions in life sciences are related to ecology, biomedical physiology, atmospheric-biosphere interaction, and prion biology (prion diseases include bovine spongiform encephalopathy in cattle and chronic wasting disease in elk). Three other positions are related to energy and natural resources, but are in a variety of disciplines: law, community economic development, and collaborative natural resource management. The final position is in accounting.

Source: LSO summary of community college and University of Wyoming submitted Higher Education Endowment Reports (October 2008) and other information gathered from the institutions.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENDOWMENT CHALLENGE PROGRAMS

The Wyoming Community College Endowment Challenge Fund was created in 2004 ('04 Laws, Ch. 117) and funded with a \$31.5 million appropriation from the General Fund which will allow an endowment of \$4.5 million in state funds (which are matched with private donations) for each community college. As detailed in **Table 2**, in 2007, 2008, and 2009, the Legislature has appropriated additional funding to community colleges that met previous matches.

Table 3 illustrates information on the Wyoming Community College Endowment Challenge Fund. Using data from the State Treasurer's Office, it displays the actual amounts of state match money each college has received as of June 22, 2009. Each college only receives state matching funding once it has actually received the donation. However colleges also report on commitments, even if the college has not yet received the donation; these commitment amounts are included in Table 3. Finally, the table includes a short description of the intended use of the funds.

Table 2: Amounts Authorized for Community College Endowment Challenge Programs.

Institution	2004 ('04 Laws, Ch. 117)	2007 ('07 Laws, Ch. 136, Section 338)	2008 ('08 Laws, Ch. 48, Section 318)	2009 ('09 Laws, Ch. 159, Section 337)	Total
Casper College	\$4.5 million	\$2 million	\$1.33 million	\$1 million	\$8.83 million
Central Wyoming College	\$4.5 million				\$4.5 million
Eastern Wyoming College	\$4.5 million				\$4.5 million
Laramie County Community College	\$4.5 million	\$2 million		\$1 million	\$7.5 million
Northwest College	\$4.5 million	\$2 million	\$1.33 million	\$1 million	\$8.83 million
Northern Wyoming Community College	\$4.5 million	\$2 million	\$1.33 million	\$1 million	\$8.83 million
Western Wyoming Community College	\$4.5 million				\$4.5 million
Total appropriation	\$31.5 million	\$8 million	\$4 million	\$4 million	\$47.5 million

Table 3: Community College Endowment Challenge Programs.

Institution	Total Amount Authorized	Amount Committed as of 06/22/2009	State Match as of 06/22/2009	Description
Casper College	\$8,333,333	\$7,863,253	\$7,765,762	In FY08, Casper College spent about \$526,000 from the endowment. Of this 90 percent went to scholarships, with most of the remainder going to instructional support.
Central Wyoming College	\$4,500,000	\$4,251,161	\$3,270,408	Funds have been committed for scholarship endowments and programmatic areas, based upon the intentions of specific donors. In addition to committing funds to existing endowments, in FY08, CWC created nine new endowments – six are for scholarships and three for various programs.
Eastern Wyoming College*	\$4,500,000	\$1,132,564	\$1,532,564*	The Endowment Challenge Funds will be used for student scholarships, art and cultural enrichment, a speaker's series, instructional program development, technology, faculty/staff development, outreach, and an unrestricted fund.
Laramie County Community College	\$7,500,000	\$5,961,841	\$5,431,993	Around half of the funds are dedicated for scholarships and 30 percent are for innovative academic programming. Another 8 percent are devoted to cultural series, 6 percent for an unconditional fund, and 4 percent for student services.
Northwest College	\$8,333,333	\$7,276,621	\$6,698,663	Of the funds, 76 percent have been dedicated to endowed scholarships; 17 percent devoted to endowed programs; and 7 percent directed to endowed technology programs. Specifically, some of the funds were used to purchase equipment for nursing, biology, music, and drafting programs.
Northern Wyoming Community College*	\$8,333,333	\$7,593,589	\$5,333,349	Funding has been used for scholarships as well as hiring an endowed chair for a joint University of Wyoming and Northern Wyoming Community College nursing education initiative.
Western Wyoming Community College	\$4,500,000	\$3,303,984	\$3,272,535	In FY08, the College used 87 percent of funds for scholarships, which went to 58 students. The remaining funds went to trust, insurance, audit and credit card fees.

Source: LSO summary of University of Wyoming and Community College submitted Endowment Challenge Reports (October, 2008) and financial data provided by the State Treasurer's Office.

Note: Northern Wyoming Community College received an \$800,000 donation, and split the state match in half with Eastern Wyoming College as allowed by W.S. 21-16-1104(f).

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING ENDOWMENT CHALLENGE PROGRAMS

The University of Wyoming has three matching endowment challenge programs: Endowment Challenge Program, Academic Facilities Matching Program, and Athletics Matching Programs. The authorization for these programs is shown in **Table 4**. The University of Wyoming's Endowment Challenge Program began in 2001 ('01 Laws, Ch. 197) with an initial \$30 million General Fund appropriation in the standard budget, ('01 Laws, Ch. 139, Section 067, Footnote 2). As shown in Table 4, this program has received additional appropriations in recent years as the University has met prior matches.

The University of Wyoming Athletics Facility Matching Program was initiated in 2004 ('04 Laws, Ch. 61) with a \$10 million appropriation ('04 Laws, Ch. 95, Section 3, Subsection 067) from the General Fund. The Legislature in 2006 ('06 Laws, Ch. 70) added additional money to the Program by appropriating an additional \$6 million from the General Fund to continue the Athletics Facility Matching Program.

The University of Wyoming Academic Facilities Matching Program began in 2006 ('06 Laws, Ch. 70) with an initial appropriation of \$9 million from the General Fund. The Legislature added to this amount with a 2007 ('07 Laws, Ch. 136, Section 3, Subsection 067) appropriation of \$31.35 million which was designated for a number of projects. In 2008, the Legislature added an additional \$3 million ('08 Laws, Ch. 48, Section 3, Subsection 067). In 2009, the Legislature authorized the University to move certain funding that had been appropriated to academic facility matches for certain projects ('09 Laws, Ch. 159, Section 344). Of the \$6.25 million appropriation for labs and other facilities, the University may spend up to \$1.4 million to purchase a parking lot. Additionally, of the unexpended, unobligated portion of the \$20 million appropriation for the School of Energy Resources Facility:

- The University may use \$3 million from academic facilities for the athletic facilities challenge.
- Up to \$1,422,522 of the academic facility endowment authorization shall be credited to the University's block grant to replace funds spent to fund clean coal technology research.
- The balance may be used for the Endowment Challenge Matching Program. According to the Treasurer's Office, the University estimates that this will be approximately \$5.6 million.

Table 4: Amounts Authorized for University of Wyoming Endowment Challenge Programs.

Year	Session Law	Endowment	Athletics	Academic Facilities	Total
2001	'01 Laws, Ch. 197; '01 Laws, Ch. 139, Section 067	\$30,000,000			\$30,000,000
2004	'04 Laws, Ch. 116; '04 Laws, Ch. 61; '04 Laws, Ch. 95, Section 3, Subsection 067	\$18,000,000	\$10,000,000		\$28,000,000
2006	'06 Laws, Ch. 70	\$25,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$9,000,000	\$40,000,000
2007	'07 Laws, Ch. 136, Section 067; '07 Laws, Ch. 136, Section 3, Subsection 067	\$1,650,000		\$31,350,000	\$33,000,000
2008	'08 Laws, Ch. 48, Section 067; '08 Laws, Ch. 48, Section 3, Subsection 067	\$10,000,000		\$3,000,000	\$13,000,000
2009	'09 Laws, Ch. 159, Section 337	\$4,000,000			\$4,000,000
Total		\$88,650,000	\$16,000,000	\$43,350,000	\$148,000,000
Total, with all transfers authorized in '09 Laws, Ch. 159, Section 344		\$94,250,000	\$19,000,000	\$31,927,478	\$145,177,478

Table 5 provides information on the University of Wyoming Endowment Challenge Funds. Using data from the State Treasurer's Office, it displays the actual amounts of state match money each fund has received as of June 22, 2009. The University only receives state matching funding once it has actually received the donation. However the University also reports on commitments, even if it has not yet received the donation. Finally, a short description of the intended use of the funds is included in the table.

Table 5: University of Wyoming Endowment Challenge Programs.

Fund	Total Amount Authorized	Amount Committed as of 06/22/2009	State Match as of 06/22/2009	Description
Endowment Challenge Program	\$94,250,000	\$81,548,546	\$67,006,759	These funds are used for endowed scholarships, endowed chairs and professorships, excellence funds, fellowships, and a wide variety of programs of study.
Athletics Matching Program	\$19,000,000	\$18,193,761	\$12,164,658	These funds have been dedicated to UW athletic facilities. Gifts reported in October 2008 were dedicated to the War Memorial Stadium Enhancements and an unrestricted athletics facility account.
Academic Facilities Matching Program	\$31,927,478	\$28,324,649	\$24,327,649	These funds are dedicated to the College of Engineering, Law School, School of Energy Resources Facilities, International Center, and the Kendall House at IENR (Institute for Environment & Natural Resources).

Source: LSO summary of University of Wyoming submitted Endowment Challenge Reports (October, 2008) and data provided by the State Treasurer's Office.

Copies of all the institutions' October, 2008 reports are on file with the LSO if you would like a copy. If you have any further questions do not hesitate to contact me at 777-7881.