

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
Accelerated Nursing Program Report
October 1, 2013

[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, one student is in the grace period and thirteen students are paying with service in Casper, Cheyenne, Douglas, Jackson, Lander, Laramie, and Sheridan. No expenditures have been made from the account because no students have paid back the grant 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 FY2013, three (3) new students will be supported, receiving their loans over the course of the 2012-13 academic year. For FY2014 a total of six awards will be given (for a total of 9 loans for this biennium).

Twenty-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 June 30, 2013. Nine students are currently enrolled (Enrolled), 12 are paying off the loan in service (Deferred for Practice), one is in a grace period, and five have completed their contractual obligation to Wyoming (Completed for Practice). No students have been relieved of their obligation to repay the loan.

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

FY13 Fiscal report

University of Wyoming		
BRAND Loan Program		
Loan Receivables: Student balancing		
Year Ended 6/30/13		
Loan advances 2010	225,000.00	
Loan advances 2011	112,500.00	
Loan advances 2012	112,500.00	
Loan advances 2013	112,500.00	
Total Loans		562,500.00

	Canceled-Service 2012	(57,835.48)	
	Canceled-Service 2013	(146,756.04)	
	Total canceled		(204,591.52)
	Loans-Rec Student		357,908.48

There have been no repayments received into this fund, as all graduates are currently working in state.

Summary

The BRAND Program has been quite successful and is accomplishing its goals. The State of Wyoming and health care employers are beginning to experience the impact of the loan repayment program. All graduates who have received loans have either completed their payback with service in Wyoming (5 graduates) or are in the process of paying back the loan through service in the state (12 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.