

WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGES

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

OVERVIEW OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Wyoming Community Colleges are responsive to training and workforce development needs of the state. In February 2004, community college staff began working with the Wyoming Workforce Alliance and Community College Commission staff to address the need for a unified and automatic process that will enable Wyoming's community colleges to track and report workforce development activities throughout the state. During the 2003-2004 academic year (summer '03, fall '03, and spring '04 semesters), Wyoming's community colleges offered credit occupational/technical (traditionally referred to as "vocational") courses and awarded associate degrees and certificates to students in the following areas.

CREDIT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AT WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGES 2003-2004 ACADEMIC YEAR					
CATEGORY	Number of Sections	Duplicated Headcount	Credit Hours Offered	"Occupational/Technical" Associate Degrees Awarded	Credit Certificates Awarded
Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources	455	3,868	1,575	73	17
Architecture & Construction	151	1,184	529.5	9	36
Arts, A/V Technology & Communications	430	2,901	656	40	0
Business, Management & Administration	1,087	11,318	2,349	147	44
Education & Training	170	1,818	397	53	33
Finance	5	88	15	0	0
Government & Public Administration	30	982	184	0	0
Health Science	571	8,038	1,800	290	145
Hospitality & Tourism	25	153	69	3	0
Human Services	150	2,028	412	29	3
Information Technology	330	3,457	998	49	30
Law, Public Safety & Security	202	2,551	559	84	3
Manufacturing	423	2,794	1,218.5	48	38
Marketing, Sales & Service	38	468	143	2	76
Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics	162	1,436	448.5	25	6
Transportation, Distribution & Logistics	171	1,785	580	22	64
TOTAL	4,400	44,869	11,933.5	874	495
<i>Non-credit Workforce Development course offerings during the same time period are estimated as 678 courses with 6,124 enrollments (duplicated headcount).</i>					

Throughout the next six months, Wyoming's Community Colleges will be taking steps to provide the following information through an automatic and validated process.

Spring 2005 - By working in partnership with the Department of Workforce Services, the Colleges will begin recording additional data that shows workforce development activities not recorded above. (i.e. conferences, meetings, forums, needs analysis, demonstration or pilot training, high-stakes and skills validation testing, and train-the-trainer activities)

Summer 2005 - Colleges will begin recording information about customized and contract courses developed and/or offered by their staff that provides workforce development and training services. This information will provide industries served and key partners worked with, in addition to the information listed above.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ADULT BASIC EDUCATION (ABE)/GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (GED) ACTIVITIES

- Based on a family size of 4 approximately 3,229 students at all Wyoming ABE Centers lived below the poverty line, which equates to 62% of the students served during 2003-2004.
- Of the ABE students that listed their primary goal as obtaining post-secondary education, 43% achieved that goal.
- Over 58% of students served at Wyoming community college ABE Centers entered employment compared to the total state percentage of 62% and the total federal percentage of only 28%.
- 71.27% of the 1,838 GED candidates successfully received their credential in 2004.
- Wyoming's correctional system accounted for 17.68% of all GED candidates in 2004.
- In 2004, 46% of the GED candidates listed obtaining post-secondary education as their goal for receiving their GED credential. 30.41% wanted to get a better job and 41.29% wanted to receive their GED for personal satisfaction.
- 55% of all GED candidates in 2004 earned less than \$10,000 per year. 44% earned less than \$5,000.

HIGHLIGHTS OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Throughout the past year, Wyoming's seven community colleges have made strides in strengthening and developing alliances with state and local entities that address education, employment, and economic development. Through their efforts, Wyoming's community colleges helped businesses, organizations, and government departments assess their workforce training needs in an accurate and effective manner. The following are highlights of their successes:

Through a joint venture with the local Department of Workforce Services office, ***Casper College*** has developed a brochure that outlines the workforce development training available in the Casper area, and has administered WorkKeys assessments in Applied Math, Locating Information, Reading for Information, and Applied Technology to high school students involved in a summer work experience program. Casper College also offers one-week basic safety training courses for new hires in the energy services industry. During 2004 Casper College offered customized training or hosted events for 31 corporate clients serving 653 individuals. The Casper College ACT Center also served 187 candidates taking licensure, certification, or WorkKeys exams.

Central Wyoming College (CWC) has improved the workforce for more than 57 different organizations and companies in its service area by training more than 454 participants in customized training activities. In total, CWC has had more than 300 participants earn 2,695 college credits through their Employment and Training for Self-Sufficiency (ETSS) program. More than 70 different companies employ ETSS graduates in Fremont County alone. CWC has also started screening applicants for an IT Support Specialist program that will train 10 women in the nontraditional career of Information Technology. This program was made possible by a Wage Disparity grant from the Department of Workforce Services and will officially begin in the spring semester of 2005.

With more than 600 enrollments in workforce training courses, ***Eastern Wyoming College*** (EWC) continues to meet the workforce needs in its service area. In addition to the popular computer applications courses, and safety courses (such as CPR and first-aid), EWC has seen an increased demand for health services, grant writing, and effective substitute teaching courses. In order to respond to the ever-increasing need for trained healthcare professionals, EWC is offering CNA courses to meet the needs in the outreach communities of Lusk, Wheatland, Douglas, and Moorcroft. Through a recent TANF grant from the Department of Workforce Services, EWC has also been able to help many of its students with the expenses of enrolling in the Certified Nursing Assistant program.

Laramie County Community College (LCCC) works closely with the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services and the Wyoming Business Council to help support the region's training needs. In doing so, LCCC has provided workforce development training and services to more than 100 business, organizations and government entities within its service area. Services include customized training for larger groups such as the Wyoming Chamber of Commerce, Wyoming Department of Workers Compensation, Wyoming Business Council and United Medical Center. LCCC has also conducted business training needs assessments for organizations such as the Wyoming Student Loan Corporation, Department of Workforce Services, Peak Wellness, Wyoming Tribune Eagle and Warren Federal Credit Union.

Northwest College had 65 participants from the Buffalo Bill Historical Center (BBHC) complete training in Microsoft Word 2003. Each participant took the Skills Assessment Manager (SAM) assessments and passed. In order to support this type of skills development, BBHC applied for and received funds from the Department of Workforce Services training fund. This collaboration between BBHC and Northwest College's Workforce Development Department is only one example of the forty different training programs offered this year. The Workforce Development Department serves large and small businesses in the Big Horn Basin including Park, Big Horn, and Washakie counties.

Sheridan College has officially formed a Workforce Development Office and continues to strengthen its relationships with strategic partners including Sheridan Area Economic Development (SADA), Campbell County Economic Development, Department of Workforce Services, Wyoming Business Council, Campbell County School District, Johnson County School District, Campbell County Chamber of Commerce, Sheridan Chamber of Commerce, Buffalo Wyoming Chamber of Commerce, the state OSHA office and Wyoming Small Business Development Center. Sheridan College was also recently involved in a symposium in which 110 people from business, industry, education and government agencies met and determined action steps for improving the workforce situation in northeast Wyoming. Quest recently awarded a \$12000 grant to the college to provide Customer Service Training to high school students and other entry-level workers in Johnson County.

Western Wyoming Community College (WWCC) has provided workforce development training and services to more than 175 different companies in its service area in the past year. WCCC continues to survey and meet with employers about their workforce training needs. WWCC has provided 387 open enrollment and 54 contract classes/testing services, and is beginning to serve the oil and gas industry with weekly safety classes and Commercial Drivers License training.

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