



RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE LARAMIE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT, WYOMING, IN SUPPORT OF ACTION TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR WYOMING'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES.

THIS RESOLUTION, upon signature of all Parties, is made effective on this ____ day of _____, 2021, by and of the Board of Trustees of the Laramie County Community College District, Wyoming, and created by said parties through mutual consent and belief.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the success of Wyoming's economic and social future is dependent on the educational attainment of its citizens, especially post-secondary attainment; and

WHEREAS, Wyoming's higher education attainment goal is that 67 percent of the state's working population 25–64 years of age will possess a valuable post-secondary credential (certificate or degree) by 2025, and a secondary goal of 82 percent attainment by 2040; and

WHEREAS, Wyoming's community colleges enroll the majority of students in higher education in the state, produce high school diplomas or equivalencies in numbers to be the third largest school district in the state, provided customized trainings to hundreds of businesses, and are the primary provider of transfer students to UW; and

WHEREAS, all 23 counties in Wyoming benefit from the programs, services, and graduates of Wyoming community colleges yet only seven of these counties provide direct local funding support for these institutions; and

WHEREAS, since 2010 state funding for Wyoming's community colleges has been reduced by \$94 million, while at the same time local revenues have declined 15.12%; and

WHEREAS, the declines in state and local funding have resulted in tuition at Wyoming's community colleges increasing 96.4% over the past decade, seriously compromising the affordability of a higher education for Wyoming citizens and its future workforce; and

WHEREAS, since 2016, Wyoming's community colleges have eliminated 281 positions, or approximately 16% of the entire community college workforce, forcing the closure of numerous degree and certificate programs and severe reduction in services the colleges provide; and

WHEREAS, Wyoming's state revenue picture is dire, and the state's tax system is unbalanced and unsustainable, yet its overall tax rates are below that of any similar comparison states suggesting capacity exists to increase tax revenues to support the state's needs; and

WHEREAS, Wyoming's community colleges are the solution for the state's future, and its citizens, businesses, and elected officials are asking for more from these institutions at a time when the colleges are grappling with doing less because of financial constraints.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees, on behalf of the citizens who have, by affirmative vote, elected us to govern and represent their community college, urges the Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign into law, legislation that:

1. enacts reasonable increases to existing tax rates that would generate additional revenue necessary to support the continued provision of services Wyoming citizens desire and the state requires for the benefit of its future;
2. incorporates a mechanism through which all 23 Wyoming counties who benefit from the state's community colleges provides financial support for these institutions through mechanisms such as ad valorem (property) taxes;
3. provide more tools in the toolbox to the community college Boards of Trustees though changes to statute that would provide the Trustees the authority to impose an additional mill levy, from one additional mill to two;
4. would increase the four-year statutory limitation to **eight** years on the additional five mills colleges may secure by the affirmative vote of the residents of the community college district, for the operations, capital projects, maintenance, etc. of the colleges;
5. **allowing local optional sales and use taxes to be used for workforce training funding, if agreed upon by the district's municipalities and enacted through the vote of the electors of the community;**
6. would add an additional one penny sales tax for the specific purpose of supporting Wyoming's education system, with a portion of these revenues guaranteed to be allocated to the unrestricted operations of Wyoming's community colleges;
7. support capital construction and major maintenance to allow the colleges to meet the needs of industry and maintain facilities to meet the needs of students;
8. establish and provide the initial investment into a Wyoming adult student financial aid program focused on addressing financial need and to encourage the enrollment/re-enrollment of Wyoming's adults into post-secondary education or training; and
9. allow for a vote of the citizens of Wyoming to determine if they desire the inclusion of Wyoming's community colleges in the state constitution.

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Signature Page

The parties to this document have executed this Resolution on the dates set out below, and certify their full understanding and dedication to the commitments outlined within this Resolution to support what they believe are necessary elements of sustainable funding.

The effective date of this Resolution is the date of the signature last affixed to this page.

For the LCCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ms. Wendy Soto, Board Chair

Date _____

Mr. Bob Salazar, Board Vice-Chair

Date _____

Mr. Don Erickson, Board Treasurer

Date _____

Mrs. Janine Thompson, Board Secretary

Date _____

Mrs. Brenda Lyttle, Trustee

Date _____

Mrs. Carol Merrell, Trustee

Date _____

Mr. Jess Ketcham, Trustee

Date _____