

Wyoming P-16 Education Council
December 12, 2011
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Teleconference call

Present: Rob Black, Amber Page, Mike Ceballos, Joe McCann, Carol Kirkwood, Carol Stewart, Audrey Kleinsasser, Teri Wigert, Diana Clapp, Bill Sniffin, Jon Connolly, Josh Michelena, Carl Manning, and Kelley Pelissier, Exec. Director

Call to order: 3:10

Minutes from November 14 meeting approved as presented.

Discussion of Projects:

7-11 conversation/community involvement: The Riverton meeting on Dec. 13 set up with Fremont County School District representatives by Diana Clapp will be an opportunity to gauge interest in developing a community involvement initiative centered around the Council's "7th and 11th Grade Conversation."

There was discussion of the need for students to take remedial/developmental courses before they could start taking credit-bearing courses at the state's postsecondary institutions – which tends to be correlated with students' decreased completion rates. Joe McCann reported that for community colleges, 50% of the incoming students have to take one or more developmental courses. He also noted that incoming community college students are of all ages. Carol Stewart noted that a lot of students are considering college that wouldn't have considered it in the past.

Nationwide about 60 percent of community college students take at least one remedial course, according to the Community College Research Center at Columbia University's Teachers College, and only one-quarter of those students ever earn a certificate or degree.

Read more: <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2011/10/21/ohio-chancellor-wants-end-remedial-education-public-universities#ixzz1c5irvN6H> Inside Higher Ed

U.W. does not provide developmental courses, but Joe suggested a proxy for the same statistic would be the number of students that the UW would require to participate in the Synergy Program (presented during the recent UW admission requirement modification discussions). The admissions standards change is predicted to increase the number of freshmen students participating in Synergy from 150 to 300 in a year (17.64% based upon 1,700 freshmen).

STEM Summit: Five from Wyoming, including Council members Rollin Abernethy, Teri Wigert, and Joan Evans attended the NGA STEM Summit in Durham, North Carolina. These individuals learned much to inform the Feb. 9th Summit, including recommended speakers. While at the Summit, the group worked together to adjust the draft agenda, and determined looking at the national science standards should be scheduled at a time when science teachers could participate (summer). The focus of the summit will be "what is STEM in Wyoming?" and discussion of what is occurring. The group recommends that the

summit be by invitation only, and that the invitees will include district superintendents, and 8-10 key leaders in the schools who are not teachers. The summit would not include vendors, but focus upon those with STEM experience in the state, but would stay away from taking teachers out of the classroom in February. To date, there is no budget for the STEM Summit, but Rollin has committed the Council to paying for lunch for the participants (at Casper College, Roberts Common, cafeteria). The Council agreed to authorize up to \$2,500 for the summit, with the assumption that there should be support forthcoming from other entities for the summit.

SLDS: Discussion of letter of support for proposed U.S. Dept. of Education SLDS grant proposal from Wyoming Department of Education. After some discussion, the Council determined that it should send a letter in support of the proposal, which is focused upon bringing the data generation capability to add early childhood education data to the system.

Budget/Council funding: Mike noted that the discussion of continued funding for the Council needs to be an early item of discussion in the coming year.

Discussion of article: “Community and Schools Overcoming the Effects of Poverty.” Due to time running out, there was not time for this discussion. Audrey noted that she had posted additional information to the P-16 Wiki that would further illuminate this topic and encouraged members to read it/watch it. Joe McCann mentioned another “60 minutes” segment on poverty on the Rosebud Indian Reservation that is applicable to this topic and Wyoming; Carol Kirkwood recommended the Ruby Pain literature as another source of insight. Audrey suggested that the Council schedule a meeting just to discuss this topic and the various materials amassed to inform the discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.