
WYOMING P-16 EDUCATION COUNCIL

P.O Box 4175
Cheyenne, WY 82003
p-16wyo@live.com www.wp-16.org

July 15, 2011

Wyoming P-16 Education Council sets plans for the coming year

The Council held a late June retreat in Casper to set its focus for the coming year. The primary project will be a statewide initiative to help parents and students make use of available information and services to maximize students' career and education opportunities through planning and preparation. The initiative will focus at two distinct levels, junior high and the junior year in high school, to encourage parents and students to prepare for the educational options and opportunities available in high school and beyond, and to take full advantage of the senior year. Plans are to involve community members who can share their experiences demonstrating the importance of life-long learning. A critical element in planning this project will be communicating with school counselors and other entities such as the Hathaway Program and GEAR UP to learn how the Council can help in this area. Another focus for the Council will be involving the community – including potential employers – to identify roles in helping students succeed in career planning and preparation.

In addition, the Council voted to continue its work with dual and concurrent enrollment, especially through the role of informing students and their families, emphasizing communication to areas of the state with low participation, about the opportunities to take courses that qualify for dual and concurrent credit. At the same time, the Council remains committed to monitoring the dual and concurrent enrollment program to ensure that the courses offered offer college-level rigor. To accomplish this, the Council will call upon its members who also participated in the SEA 52 Consensus Group to keep informed and report back to the full Council.

During its 2011 Session, the Legislature earmarked \$45,000 of the Community College Commission's General Fund appropriation to oversee and monitor the implementation of the minimum educational standards that were at the heart of the SEA 52 work done by the Consensus Group in 2010 and reported in *Implementing SEA 52: Improving Equity and Access to Quality Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Programs through Consensus Building* ([click here to access report](#)).

At the retreat, the Council also determined to add its support to worthwhile projects primarily being undertaken by other groups. These included *Faculty Swap: Gaining a Better Understanding of Student Learning Expectations in Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Courses sponsored by the Wyoming School-University Partnership*. Through this project, secondary faculty and administrators will spend time in classrooms at the University or community colleges, and postsecondary faculty and administrators will in turn visit high school classrooms.

This will provide an “on-the-ground reality-check” about expectations for learning in dual and concurrent courses.

The Council will also continue to support the development of the Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS). A year ago, the Council adopted a SLDS as a main priority. Since then, Governor Freudenthal appointed members to the Wyoming State-Wide Longitudinal Data System Task Force, which has continued to work on this project under the leadership of its University of Wyoming members. Council members also serve on the Task Force, along with representatives from the Department of Education, all community colleges and the Community College Commission, the Department of Workforce Services, and school districts.

Finally, the Council voted to establish annual “Legislative Boot Camp” for its members to prepare them to attend Interim Committee meetings where issues relating directly or indirectly to Council goals are discussed. In this way, the Council can be better prepared to influence public policy in areas that are critical to its mission.