

Kickstart Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarship & Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarship

Wyoming Workforce Development Council

May 10-11, 2023

Adult Learners in Wyoming Postsecondary Credential

- ▶ 2018-2020 Critical Workforce Need per Wyoming Postsecondary Educational Attainment 5- and 10-Year Strategic Plan (identified years earlier!)
- ▶ Economic impact and ROI - Adult learners stay in the state
- ▶ Industry recognized credentials with a minimum threshold of certificates, associate degrees, and baccalaureate degrees
- ▶ Target population 24 + years old
- ▶ Wyoming residents

What is Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarship

- ▶ The Wyoming Legislature adopted 2022 House Bill 31 (House Enrolled Act 48, Session Laws, Chapter 52) during the 2022 legislative session. The law established and authorized administration of the Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarship Endowment (Endowment) and scholarship program.
- ▶ The Endowment was provided \$10 million in State seed funding.
- ▶ The law requires that before scholarship awards can be provided to eligible students, the Endowment must reach \$50 million in its corpus.
- ▶ 2023 General Legislative Session. Governor Supplemental Budget request for \$30 million for WTS. Four bills were introduced with potential direct impact on the Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarship program.
- ▶ At the conclusion of the session, only the Supplemental Budget Bill sponsored made it through with the Governor's request partially funded under Section 300(d): \$20 million transfer from the State General Fund to the Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarship Endowment account. The endowment now stands at \$30 million.

What is Kickstart WTS and Why do we need it?

- ▶ Wyoming needs Kickstart WTS because WTS has not reached full funding, so scholarships may NOT be awarded under WTS.
- ▶ But, wait—there is more:
 - ▶ Section 335: An appropriation to the Commission of \$1,250,000 for the purpose of a higher education scholarship in the fiscal year 2024 pursuant to Wyoming's Tomorrow components and requirements expressed in W.S. 21-16-1901 through 21-16-1904, 21-16-1905(a)(i) through (iii) and (b) through (d), 21-16-1906 and 21-16-1907.
 - ▶ The WCCC can administer a WTS-like scholarship, but cannot call it WTS. And, there are a few provisions that cannot be accommodated.
- ▶ Kickstart Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarship was coined for two purposes:
 - ▶ Immediately fund adult learner scholarships at the eight colleges and UW;
 - ▶ Create a transitional phrase to reduce confusion for students.

Adult Learners Throughout Wyoming 24 years and older



Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarship Rules & Kickstart Wyoming's Tomorrow Implementation

- ▶ 2022 and preparation during session: WTS Rules Promulgation needed to occur to be prepared for full funding and to provide a framework for a transition scholarship if WTS was not fully funded.
- ▶ Two Workgroups to implement the efforts:
 - ▶ 2022 post legislative session WTS Rules and Policies Workgroup
 - ▶ 2023 post legislative session Kickstart WTS Financial Aid and Marketing Workgroup

Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarship Rules & Policy Workgroup

- ▶ Membership: Agency staff convened a working group of 25 members representing:
 - ▶ community colleges and Wyoming Association of Community College Trustees
 - ▶ UW
 - ▶ Department of Workforce Services*
 - ▶ Wyoming Business Alliance
 - ▶ business and industry
 - ▶ Attorney General's Office and
 - ▶ Two Commissioners.
- ▶ Membership provided broad insight, perspective, and knowledge in drafting the rules.
- ▶ Draft rules were adopted in October 2022 with final rules adopted in March 2023.

*Department of Workforce Services—Critical component of WTS rules and processes

- ▶ The WTS statute requires prospective students to register with relevant DWS training programs to be eligible for the scholarship.
- ▶ Based on Workgroup feedback, the WCCC recommended WTS application process must be designed through both program rules and initial Commission policy and guidance language for students to attest to registering with the DWS for training services.
- ▶ Wyomingatwork.com is integrated within the rules and policy.



Kickstart Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarship



- ▶ Higher education scholarship provided in the 2023 supplemental budget bill.
- ▶ Create a transition between WTS, when it is fully funded, and the higher education scholarship provided in the 2023 budget bill.
- ▶ Workgroup implemented to establish processes, procedures, and ensure all FA requirements are met. Also focused on one consistent statewide message to ensure the public received the same information applied to the individual institutions.
- ▶ Workgroup consisted of the financial aid and marketing staff identified by each institution of which several participated on the WTS workgroup. Also included Department of Workforce Services to ensure DWS was represented and that wyomingatwork.com was a part of the scholarship application process.

Kickstart Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarship Available Fall 2023

- ▶ Officially launched May 1, 2023
- ▶ Press releases at all locations and from all entities
- ▶ Rack card: [WWCC rack card](#)
- ▶ Press release: [UW Kickstart Press Release](#)



Victory Is Within Reach!



Questions?



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