

# Higher Education Assistance Authority

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## Mission and philosophy

The Wyoming Higher Education Assistance Authority (WHEAA) is responsible for administering the Wyoming Investment in Nursing (WYIN) program created under W.S. 9-2-123.

## Results of outcomes

Since WHEAA has no authorized personnel, the Wyoming Community College Commission (WCCC) continued its second year of providing fiscal oversight for WHEAA funds appropriated by the Legislature, and as well as, necessary administrative support to implement the nursing student loan program for the University of Wyoming and the six colleges which offer nursing programs.

A statutory amendment transferred administration of the WYIN program from WHEAA to the Community College Commission. This transfer was effective July 1, 2005. Six WHEAA members accepted the Commission's invitation to continue as an advisory committee.

### Funds received

The legislature appropriated \$1,000,000 for the 2005-06 biennium (July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2006) to assist undergraduate students in nursing programs at the colleges and the University. The funds also provide loan assistance to nursing faculty at Wyoming's community colleges and the University of Wyoming to pursue graduate degrees. A small amount (\$25,000) paid for loan servicing charges to the financial institution contracted for this purpose and minor costs for the quarterly meetings of the WHEAA board of directors.

### Loans issued (July 2004 through June 2005)

Individuals authorized to receive funds from the WYIN program "shall continue to receive funding for the program so long as the person remains eligible" (W.S. 9-2-123 (p)(i)).

- Undergraduate students. As a result of this provision and the level of appropriations, fewer loans could be issued compared to the potential need.
- In the second year of providing undergraduate loans, 105 students were assisted with \$780,332. This was only 17 percent of the total student nursing capacity of 632 at the seven institutions. The average two-year loan at UW was \$7,432 while it was \$6,627 at the community colleges.

### General information

Dr. Fay Whitney, Chairman

### Agency contact

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### Year established

1996

### Statutory references

W.S. 21-16-701-722, Wyoming Higher Education Assistance Authority  
W.S. 21-18-317, Authority to Provide Educational Program  
W.S. 9-2-123, Wyoming Investment In Nursing Loan and Grant Program

### Number of authorized personnel

None

### Clients served

Wyoming Higher Education, Wyoming nursing students

### Budget information

Annual undergraduate and graduate student nursing loans  
\$500,000

### Number of members

9

### Meeting frequency

Quarterly

- Graduate students. Three nursing faculty at two community colleges were assisted with graduate loans. The total committed was \$75,384 which was the amount needed to support them until their anticipated graduation. Graduate programs can vary from two to three years in length.

**Status of all outstanding loan commitments and repayments**

During this reporting period (July 2004-June 2005), the first group of undergraduate students, who received loans for two years, graduated May 2005. Employment data will not be available until Fall 2005. The second group completed their first year of being supported with WYIN loans. The monthly report for the period ending June 30, 2005 from Western States Learning Corporation indicated 150 borrowers from these two groups received at total of \$640,071. Retention is high. Only nine students (6 percent) did not complete their programs. All were making repayments of their loans.