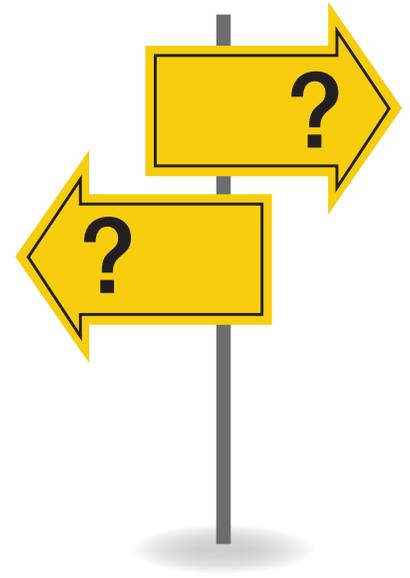


Wyoming is at a crossroads.

It's up to the 67th Legislature to build a future every citizen can count on.



What is House Bill 31?

In 2022, lawmakers passed House Bill 31, the Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarship Program, which supports nontraditional students looking to go to college after age 24, with scholarship opportunities up to \$7,200 throughout four full-time terms.

House Bill 31 created a new endowment, the Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarship Endowment Fund, but included an appropriation of only \$10 million. No student aid distributions will be made until the fund reaches \$50 million.

Fully funding the Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarship endowment is an investment in the state's future, and its benefits will extend well past the individual student.



Every \$1 society spends on education in Wyoming, the cumulative return on investment is \$4.90

(as long as that student population remains active in the state workforce)

Students who are 24 and older often plan to stay in the state at a higher rate than younger graduates, reducing community churn. This benefits Wyoming businesses, both in terms of workforce development and economic growth.

Wyoming's Tomorrow is for those who are past high school and already in the workforce, but looking for a way to expand their career opportunities. The scholarship helps fill a gap in Wyoming's education and workforce support system.

Ellbogen Opportunity Scholarship

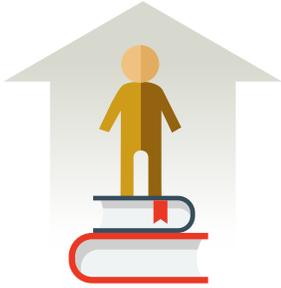
In the fall of 2021, the John P. Ellbogen Foundation funded its Ellbogen Opportunity Scholarship (EOS) by granting each of the eight Wyoming Community Colleges \$100,000 to support a cohort of recipients who were 24 and older. Those students had to demonstrate Wyoming residency for three years preceding application, enrolling in a certificate or degree program in which there was high-demand employment.

Wyoming lawmakers have always prioritized workforce resiliency. The Legislature has supported other educational workforce programs, but none so robust as Wyoming's Tomorrow. The state has funded a scholarship opportunity for overseas combat veterans and their families, and has created a loan repayment program, the Wyoming Investment in Nursing program.

continued on reverse

The scholarship, which is a prototype of Wyoming's Tomorrow, is a proven success. During the 2021-22 academic year:

EOS students...



...had a higher persistence rate and higher GPA



...averaged higher overall financial aid



...participated in high-need programs in Wyoming



EOS cohort had a higher percentage of the populations identified in the equity gap expressly stated in the Education Attainment Goals charge: women, low-income, and minority populations include Native American and Hispanic populations.

67%



of EOS survey respondents have children so results will have a multi-generational impact

94%



of EOS survey respondents plan to work full-time upon completion of their credential or degree

Prior to enrolling in college, **93%** of EOS survey respondents were earning less than \$50,000 per year from working;

after completing their program of study, **81%** of EOS survey respondents anticipate earning more than \$50,000 per year from working.

Prior to enrolling in college, **47%** of EOS survey respondents were homeowners;

after completion of their credential or degree, **79%** of EOS survey respondents anticipate owning a home.



Most closely linked may be the successful Wyoming Works program, which will be folded into the Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarship. Today, Wyoming Works is subject to general fund appropriations. By folding Wyoming Works into Wyoming's Tomorrow, legislators will effectively fund existing programs with the endowment, reducing the need for a general fund allocation every biennium.

Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarship will have an even wider reach than any other program in the state, strengthening the workforce by utilizing educational programming at Wyoming's eight community colleges and the University of Wyoming.