

WYOMING  
INNOVATION  
*partnership*



# Building Resiliency in Wyoming Community Colleges Through a Statewide Alignment of Education and Workforce Development

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April 17, 2026



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O8hYB3y4G5Q>

# WIP: Where it Started

- ▶ Created in 2021 by Governor Mark Gordon as an effort to align education, workforce, and economic development
- ▶ Brought together community colleges, University of Wyoming, WY Community College Commission, Department of Workforce Services, Department of Education, and Wyoming Business Council
- ▶ Strategic Investments in key industry areas



“This effort by our higher education institutions is intended to support the state’s overall economic vision. We must not only prepare our workforce for an evolving economy; we need higher education to play a role in generating our own economy.” -  
Gordon

# WIP: Investments

## ▶ Phase I: Start through June 2023

- \$24.67 million through the Governor's Office with ARPA & General funds
- \$27.8 Million when other funds added

## ▶ Phase 2: July 2023 - June 2024

- \$27.4 million through Governor's budget and legislative approval (Initially \$100M)

## ▶ Phase 3: July 2024 – Beyond

- \$15 million through Governor's budget and legislative approval – June, 2026
- Recent move to the Wyoming Business Alliance – governmental, private and foundation investment options

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# WIP: Areas of Focus

Digital  
Infrastructure &  
Technology

Energy

Entrepreneurship

Healthcare

Tourism &  
Hospitality

Agriculture

Manufacturing

Workforce  
Development

# WIP Outcomes

- ▶ Metrics Driven
- ▶ Aligned Metrics Across Areas of Focus and Projects
- ▶ Expanded Education and Workforce Offerings
- ▶ WIP Funds Leveraged for New Funding Opportunities

**1,721**   
Postsecondary  
Enrollments

**39**   
New Programs  
Developed

**245**   
Program  
Completers

**80** Workforce Trainings & **1,931** Workforce Training Participants 

**29,700**   
K-12 Engagements

**1,096**   
K-12 Enrollments

**1,901**   
Industry  
Engagements

**460**   
Internships  
Provided

**635**   
Industry  
Credentials

**55** Seminars & Workshops & **1,800** Training & Workshop Participants 

(includes entrepreneurship workshops, agriculture workshops, blue hydrogen workshops, the WORTH Institute summit and series)

**\$19,445,329** External  
Funds 

# WIP: Looking Ahead

- ▶ **Move to Wyoming Business Alliance**
- ▶ **Expanded Industry Engagement and Partnership**
- ▶ **Collaboration and Coordination on Key Challenges and Opportunities (i.e. Artificial Intelligence and New Economic Sectors)**