

we  
can  
do

**MORE**

**TOGETHER**

EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES OF A DOWNTURN  
WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES  
2016 POLICY SUMMIT

Over the last five years WACCT has gathered leaders from across the educational continuum in Wyoming, as well as from industry, state agencies, and the legislature, to focus on ensuring that students are prepared for college when they arrive and that they are ready to be productive members of society when they leave.

We have introduced seminal research that clarified the need for improved rates of college completion. We learned that in about five short years, two out of every three jobs in our country would require some form of postsecondary educational credential. We introduced national partners from Complete College America who offered a roadmap for improved completion and challenged us to set aggressive goals. And we heard from a high school principal and university president about the need for greater collaboration among all players in the educational continuum.

This year's WACCT Policy Summit takes the conversation one step further – education and economic development opportunities during a downturn. The panels will focus on the need for continued effective collaboration between the K12 system, the community colleges, the University of Wyoming, and also employers.

We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Davis Jenkins, whose keynote address will set the tone for our Summit. We've planned a full, thought-provoking day that we hope continues to drive us all toward improved completion results, more successful students, and a stronger Wyoming economy. Thank you for joining us in this important conversation. We can do more together!

~ *Erin*

Erin Taylor  
Executive Director  
Wyoming Association of Community College Trustees



# thursday **OCTOBER 20**

3 p.m. – 5 p.m.  
UWCC Salon DE

**Impacts and Opportunities of the Economic Downturn Across the Region**

**Moderator – Anne Alexander – Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Education**

Dr. Philip Parnell – Western Wyoming Community College  
Commissioner Jim Willox – Converse County  
Dr. Laurie Nichols – President, University of Wyoming

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
UWCC Salon ABC

**Networking Dinner Reception – Hosted by**

**TRONOX**

# friday **OCTOBER 21**

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.  
UWCC Salon DE

**Impacts of Decreased Revenues to Wyoming's Education System**

Alex Kean – Administrator, Department of Economic Analysis  
Dr. Stefani Hicswa – President, Northwest College  
Donna Little-Kaumo – Superintendent, Sweetwater #2 District  
Representative Mary Throne, HD11

10:15 a.m. – 12 noon  
UWCC Salon DE

**How Employers Are Responding and Finding Opportunities**

Greyson Buckingham – Director of Policy, Mesa Natural Gas Solutions  
Director John Cox – Wyoming Department of Workforce Services  
Shawn Reese – CEO Wyoming Business Council  
Michael Lange – Executive Director, Wyoming Arts Council

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**CLOUD PEAK**  
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# keynote **ADDRESS**

**12:15 p.m. – 3 p.m.**  
**UWCC Salon ABC**

In many colleges, students have to navigate a complex and often confusing array of programs, courses and support services mostly on their own. Many students do not see a clear path to their end goals, and--without someone monitoring their progress and providing feedback and support--become discouraged, and drop out. Moreover, students' programs often lack the sort of coherence that research on learning indicates is essential for building skills across the curriculum. Research also indicates that, rather than build students' skills for college, remedial education as it is generally delivered serves to divert students onto a remedial track. This lack of clear program maps and guidance along the pathway is a big reason many students fail to complete college.

Davis Jenkins from the Community College Research Center at Columbia University will discuss the efforts by a growing number of community colleges and universities across the country that are redesigning academic programs and student services to create more clearly structured and educationally coherent program pathways in order to improve student learning and completion and increase labor market and transfer success for students. They are rethinking the new student intake process and indeed the entire first-year experience to help students explore career options and choose and enter a program of study suited to their interests and aptitudes as quickly as possible, and monitoring student progress to make sure they are staying on plan.

Davis will discuss the research evidence in support of this "guided pathways" approach and present specific examples of colleges and universities and that are implementing the model on a large scale—and that are beginning to "move the needle" on completion rates.

**Davis Jenkins, Senior Research Associate**  
**Community College Research Center**



**Davis Jenkins** is a senior research associate at the Community College Research Center at Columbia University's Teachers College. He works with colleges and states across the country to find ways to improve educational and employment outcomes for students, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Davis's research and thinking have informed the development and spread of innovative approaches to improving student success, including career pathways, adult technical bridge programs (such as

Washington State's I-BEST), and guided pathways to success (GPS). Together with Thomas Bailey and Shanna Jaggars, he is the author of *Redesigning America's Community Colleges: A Clearer Path to Student Success* (Harvard University Press, 2015), which is based on CCRC's research on strategies for improving student completion and learning. He is currently leading research projects aimed at improving the effectiveness of 2- and 4-year institutions in enabling community college transfer students to earn college degrees and on identifying strategies for helping students enter a program of study suited to their interests and aspirations. He earned a Ph.D. in public policy analysis from Carnegie Mellon University and a BA in religion from Princeton University.

### **Responsive Panel – How We Can Do More Together**

Ken Cramer – Board Member, Albany County School District

Pete Gosar – Chair, Wyoming State Board of Education

Dr. Joe Schaffer – President, Laramie County Community College

Dr. Sara Axelson, University of Wyoming VP for Student Affairs

Dr. Jackie Freeze – Complete College Wyoming

Dr. Laurel Ballard - Career Readiness Initiative, State Team Lead & Supervisor, Student and Teacher Resources Team

Wyoming Department of Education

# about **WACCT**

The Wyoming Association of Community College Trustees, a membership organization of Wyoming's 49 community college trustees, is dedicated to promoting the continued quality, strength, vitality and effectiveness of Wyoming's community colleges. Each college appoints two representatives to the WACCT Board of Directors.



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