



Cheyenne, WY

\$50,000 PRIZE

SECOND-BIGGEST INCREASE

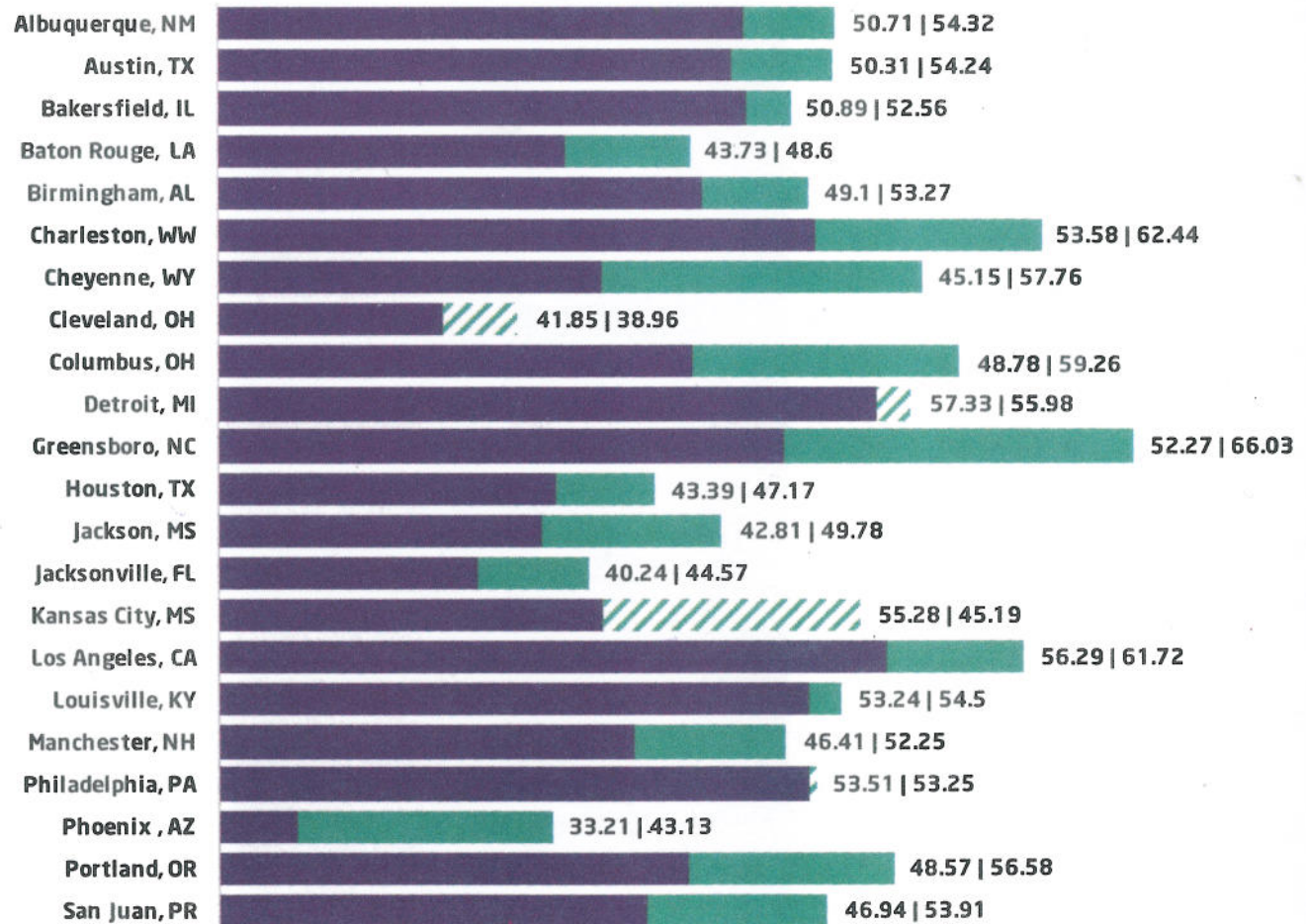
Laramie County Community College was the only two-year institution to receive a grant, but that's not all that's worth noting: Cheyenne's 12.61-percentage-point increase means this Wyoming city demonstrated the second-greatest growth in FAFSA completions!

The Cowboy State's capital city met and finished the Challenge with a FAFSA completion rate of 57.76 percent, well above its 47.71-percent baseline from 2014-15. Why were so many more high school seniors compelled to seek student aid in 2016-17? Partnerships with new stakeholders helped, but "the most effective strategies involved the FAFSA First Program manager's ability to easily visit each high school and have access to students/parents through meetings, classroom visits, and presentations," grantees said. "This may not have been the most innovative strategy, but it was very successful, and is easily replicable," they continued. "Because the program manager was an already recognized individual with expertise within the school district, many hurdles to student-access were overcome fairly quickly." Laramie County Community College's tightly run ship helped officials assist more students in getting money for college – despite Cheyenne requesting and receiving less funding than some grantees (\$41,463 of the maximum \$55,000).

KARINA from
CHEYENNE, WY
about her school
counselor

"She told me I had to go to college. She half-jokingly said, 'I will hunt you down and you will go to college.' And she did. She called me out of class to her office and told me about the FAFSA and the money I could get." Visit FAFSAstories.org for more.

Grantee Cities' FAFSA Completion Rates (%)



■ Baseline Completion Rate ■ Final Completion Rate