



WYOMING INSTITUTE FOR DISABILITIES

Think College Wyoming Pilot

From strategic planning to a successful student outcome

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Our strategic plan

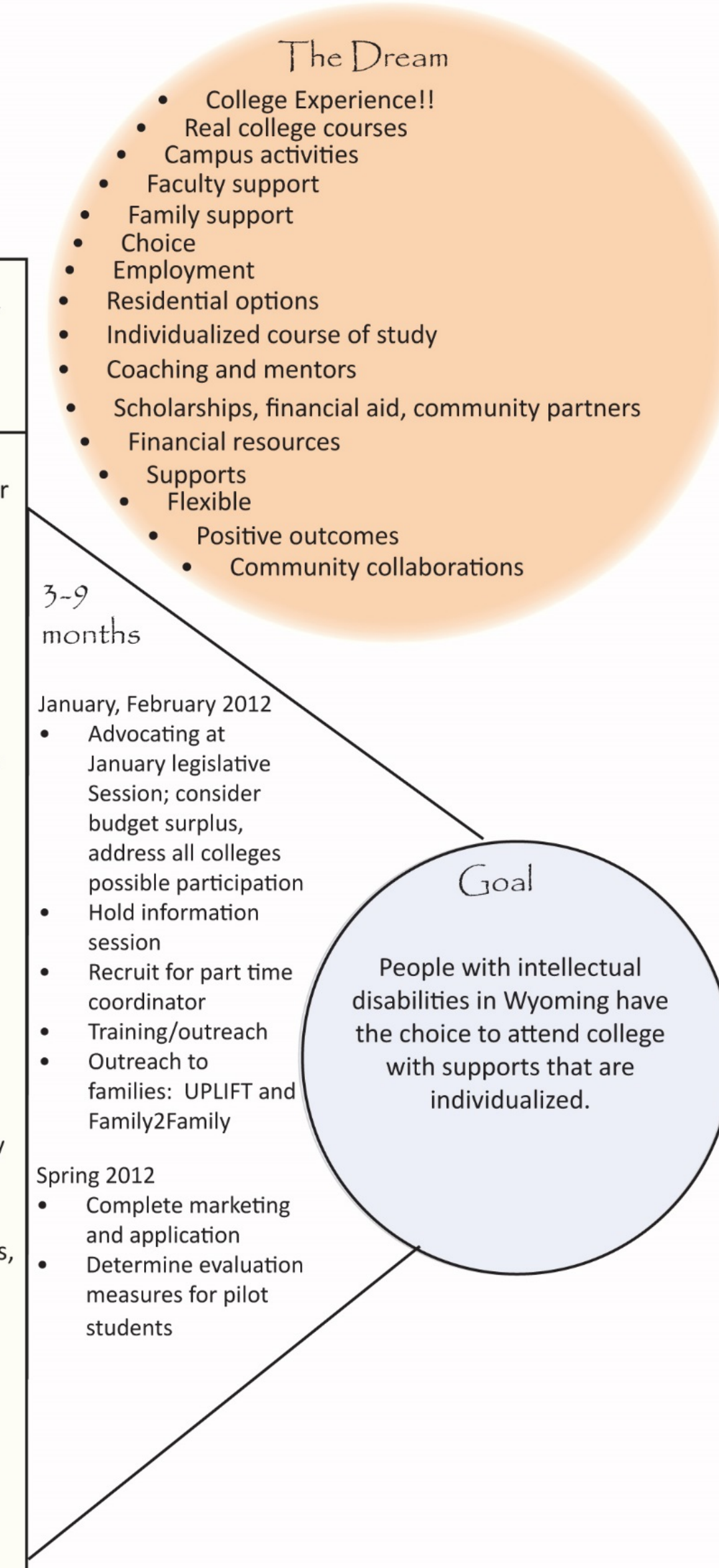
- **Objective I:** Increase awareness about postsecondary education of students with intellectual disability.
- **Objective II:** Gather input from potential students, families, educators, other stakeholders.
- **Objective III:** Develop strategic plan.

PATH

Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope

WY Think College

Now	People to enroll	Ways to build strength	The first step	1-3 months, November 2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think College mini grant • Data • Certificate of employment • VR transition for ages 14 - 24 • Cheyenne transition team • Strong community partners • DD waiver • Positive transition programs in place • Parent/student initiated opportunities • DVR funding kids with intellectual disabilities at college now • Governor's council on board/champion • Seeds planted with Governor • Word out to self-advocates • Support of state Special Services Unit Director 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wyoming integrated employment team • Diversity committees/officers at UW and community colleges • VR Transition teams • State Superintendent of Public Instruction • DVR • Workforce Services • New transition coordinator at DVR • Vice president of UW Student Affairs at UW • Administrators of community colleges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinct services necessary, no duplication • Community and family partners • Strengthen ability to address educational goals with DD agencies • Firm commitment from DVR • Commitment from UW • Commitment from Casper College and/or community colleges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill MacLean to meet with UW President • Committees: Develop list of questions to be answered in order to describe the model • Amy write an Executive Summary of to share with Jim Sandy and Bill: Draft model description that is shared with stakeholder group for feedback/questions, including funding Bill, Sandy, report writing committee: write final report for Think College, due September 30 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated advocacy plan for legislature • Assess current transition practices in Cheyenne, Laramie, Casper • Firm up funding for coordination, UCEDD, DD Council, P & A, DOE • Location for model is confirmed • September meeting of WY Think College "leadership" • Create webinars/modules for key groups: parents, students, educators



Using the Inclusive Individualized Support Model in rural Wyoming for a pilot

- **Location:** No one program base. Program based around student and then the community college. For the pilot, the college was selected based on willingness to try the model.
- **Student:** Pilot student selected based on interest, dedication, maturity, skill-level, and support system in place.
- **Person-centered plan:** An initial person-centered plan was conducted using the STAR Model to determine goals, strengths, and support needs.
- **Courses:** Courses based on a selection of courses approved by college and the pilot student's interests as related to STAR plan, up to two classes a semester.
- **Employment:** Student obtained employment with support of Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) at college cafeteria.
- **Campus membership:** With a student ID, the student regularly attended basketball games. With friends, she participated in off-campus activities such as working out and movies.
- **Transportation:** Using funding from independent living for transportation vouchers and scheduled bus rides to school and work. Walked often from in-town apartment to recreation activities with friends.
- **Housing:** Student lived at home for first year; rented her own apartment in town the second year.
- **Tuition funding:** Student and family paid for courses and college fees and materials.

Impact and Outcomes

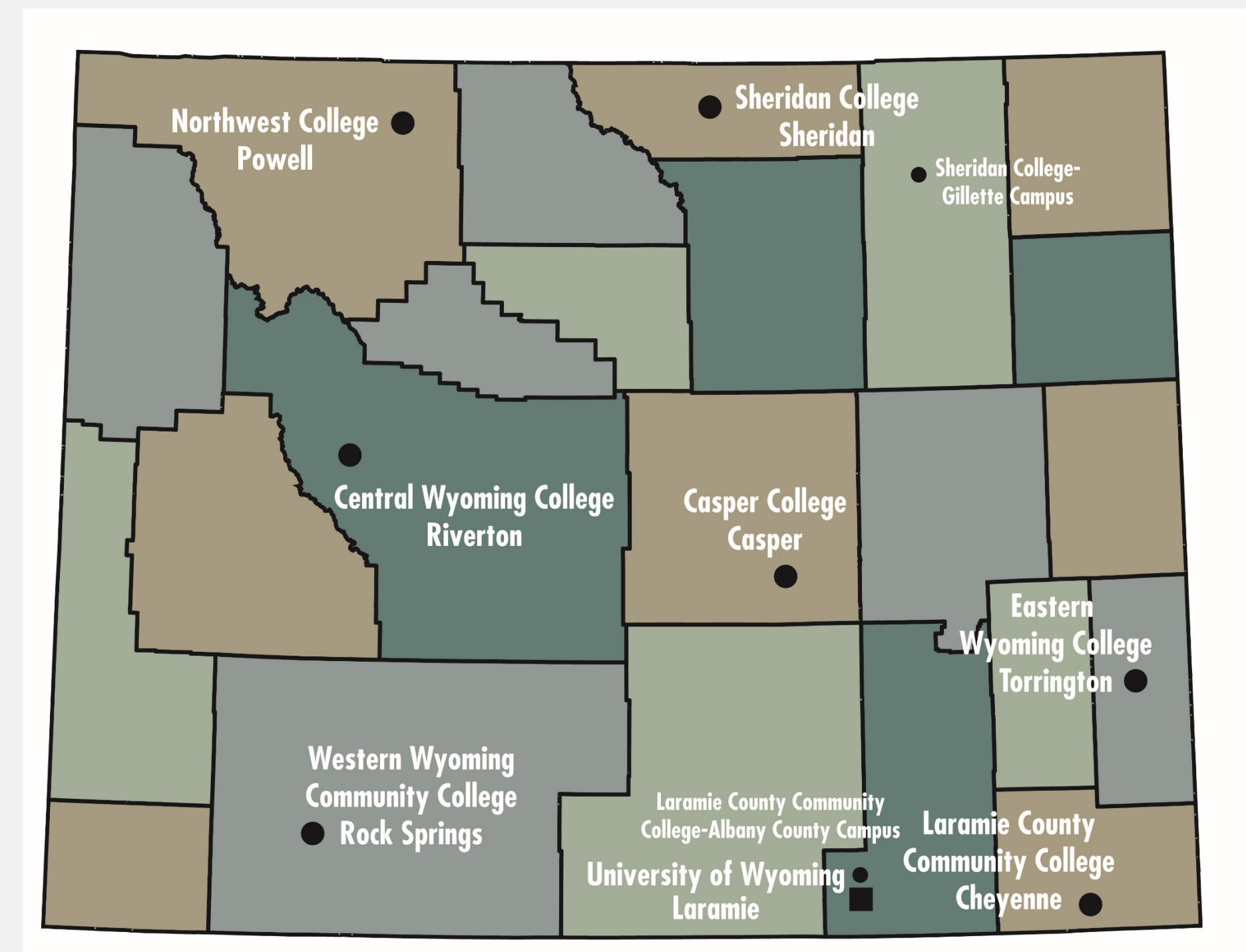
- **Student/Family**
 - **Employment:** Post-secondary programs have been shown to increase employment outcomes; our pilot student maintained employment through her college experience and after completion.
 - **Self-determination:** Think College Wyoming helped our student form and pursue future goals.
 - **Independent living:** After attending three semesters of college, our student is living independently in an apartment.
 - **Community membership:** With a student ID, our student was able to attend basketball games and other activities on and off campus with friends.
 - **Model program:** Future students and families learn about Think College Wyoming from our pilot student's experience.
 - **State**
 - **Formalized program:** Think College Wyoming was established as an option for students with ID after high school. A formalized application process was formed.
 - **Program expansion:** WIND received a grant from the WY Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities to support two students at two new community colleges for 2015-2017, with applications open for two additional students from 2016-2018.
 - **Changing culture:** Community Colleges in WY are opening doors to students with intellectual disability and welcoming and supporting Think College Wyoming on campus.

Meet Anna, our first Think College Wyoming Student



After doing Think College Wyoming, I am more independent. I moved out, and I have confidence. I want to go the University of Wyoming and take classes in dance.

What's next for Think College Wyoming?



- **Expansion:** WIND is working to expand the number of students and colleges in the Think College Wyoming network with the goal of at least one student in each community college location.
- **Funding support:** WIND is exploring unique funding sources to support the program, tuition, and housing costs.

- **Tracking long-term outcomes:** WIND is tracking the long-term outcomes of students who complete Think College Wyoming to see impacts in employment, independent living, and self-determination.
- **Building infrastructure and sustainability:** Though University of Wyoming ECHO in Transition, WIND will build infrastructure to support and continue Think College Wyoming through professional training and case presentations.

Visit our website

See videos, download our materials, and find out how our program is working in a rural state with community colleges.



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