

Nominee's name: Dr. Tom Buchanan

Nominee's title: President of the University of Wyoming

Number of years with the institution: 30 years

It is our pleasure to nominate President Tom Buchanan of the University of Wyoming for the Outside the Classroom Presidential Leadership Award.

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

The University of Wyoming (UW) is the only four-year institution of higher education in Wyoming, the least populated state in the nation. Situated in Laramie (population 27,204, including students), in the southeastern corner of Wyoming, UW enrolls roughly 9,963 students on the Laramie campus, approximately 76% of whom are Wyoming residents. Given the rural nature of Wyoming and the cowboy culture of "work hard, play hard," the consequences of college students' alcohol abuse are especially apparent. Within the past twelve years, three high profile tragedies launched UW into the national spotlight, including the beating death of UW student Matthew Shepard in 1998, a drunk driving collision that killed eight UW track athletes in 2001, and a double homicide/suicide involving UW students in 2006. While the details of these incidents are unique and complex, they all took place within a context of alcohol use and abuse.

Further complicating the challenge of addressing collegiate alcohol abuse in Wyoming is the fact that alcohol use frequently begins before college. For example, according to the 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) 79.2% of Wyoming high school seniors reported lifetime alcohol use and 51.5% of high school seniors reported recent (past 30-days) alcohol use. Furthermore, 26.1% of respondents reported drinking more than sips before the age of 13. Therefore, UW officials inherit the challenge of effectively addressing alcohol abuse.

Until recently, UW students have contributed more than their equal share to national collegiate alcohol use statistics. Data from the National College Health Assessment (NCHA), collected biennially at UW since 2001, suggest that UW students have historically exceeded national figures of students drinking and driving, binge drinking, fighting after drinking, having unprotected sex after drinking, and in alcohol having a negative impact on their academic performance. It has only been recently, under UW President Tom Buchanan's leadership, that UW has seen significant improvements in college student drinking.

PRESIDENT TOM BUCHANAN

Tom Buchanan's career in higher education has spanned more than 35 years, as a student, teacher, and administrator. A native of New York, Buchanan attended the State University of New York at Cortland where he graduated with his undergraduate degree in 1973. He earned his master's of science from the University of Wyoming in 1975 and a Ph.D. from the Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1979.

After completing his doctorate, Buchanan returned to Wyoming as an assistant professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Wyoming. Over the next 30 years, he rose through the faculty ranks to full professor, and has held various administrative positions including department head, Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Vice President for Academic Affairs. On July 1, 2005, he was appointed the 23rd president of the University of Wyoming.

PRESIDENTIAL PHILOSOPHY OF COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

The University of Wyoming's commitment to changing the culture of college drinking was initiated by President Buchanan's predecessor, Dr. Phil Dubois. Dr. Dubois provided the impetus that created conditions to mobilize the campus community around the issue of collegiate alcohol abuse prevention. Multiple initiatives were implemented, including a campus-community coalition, and the formation of the Alcohol, Wellness Alternatives, Research, & Education (AWARE) Program.

President Buchanan came into the University of Wyoming presidency committed to the values of alcohol abuse prevention previously established, and has enhanced this commitment and encouraged further growth. For example, President Buchanan approved a mandatory alcohol education program (Alcohol Edu) for all incoming freshmen, and since 2008 he personally sends a letter to every incoming UW freshman each summer encouraging them to complete it. We believe that this presidential support and promotion of the program contributes to our incredibly high (95%) completion rate.

President Buchanan has communicated a collective sense of responsibility regarding this issue so that a single office or individual does not "own" the task of preventing alcohol abuse. Rather, he has fostered a spirit of initiative and cross-campus collaboration, and ultimately a sense of "we" around this important issue on university campuses. As a result of Dr. Buchanan's leadership, UW has received three prestigious awards in the past three years for our work in this area. These awards include a "Model Program" award from the U.S. Department of Education in 2008, an award in 2009 from the Governor of Wyoming for the Prevention and Education of Impaired Driving, and a "Silver Excellence" award from NASPA in 2010. Much of this work has been coordinated through the AWARE Program.

AWARE PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The AWARE Program is the hub for alcohol and other drug abuse prevention at the UW, and is staffed by a program coordinator and three graduate assistants. AWARE's mission is *"to utilize best practices in providing drug and alcohol education and prevention programming for the University of Wyoming campus and community through guidance, education, research, and campus/community collaboration."* The goals of the AWARE Program are to 1) reduce alcohol use by UW students; 2) reduce problems resulting from alcohol use by UW students; 3) reduce risk factors associated with alcohol abuse among UW students; and 4) increase protective factors associated with alcohol abuse prevention among UW students.

AWARE was designed based on recommendations from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) Task Force on College Drinking, and reflects current, theory-based best-practices. Consequently, the AWARE Program directs services at three populations: 1) the individual student; 2) the student population as a whole; and 3) the surrounding community. Specific prevention activities implemented within these populations are outlined in greater detail later in this paper.

In the spirit of President Buchanan's philosophy of shared responsibility, the University of Wyoming has been proactive in addressing alcohol abuse prevention and has made significant achievements in this area. **UW takes an active stand on alcohol, conveys clear expectations, and makes alcohol prevention a priority in the strategic plan for the institution.**

We understand the importance of collecting data on alcohol issues and have administered the American College Health Association's (ACHA) National College Health Assessment (NCHA) every two years since 2001. This is done with the support of the Division of Academic Affairs and UW faculty, as the survey is administered during randomly selected academic classes. Data is also routinely collected in the residence halls and through the Dean of Students Office regarding alcohol use, perceptions, and violations. Additionally, data is collected on students that go through the AWARE Program as a result of an alcohol-related violation.

Conducting this survey on a biennial basis has allowed us to regularly assess areas of need for prevention focus, guide our strategic planning, and evaluate our progress. This capability is particularly critical during times of economic challenges and budget cuts, and has assisted President Buchanan in allocating sufficient resources to address alcohol at UW. President Buchanan's commitment to alcohol abuse prevention at UW was reaffirmed in 2009, when an unprecedented 45 people were laid off from UW and several programs and departments were dissolved. However, funding for the AWARE Program and staff remained intact. And despite temptations to accept sponsorship from the alcohol industry, President Buchanan has remained firm on his stance of not allowing alcohol sponsorship on campus.

It has also been a priority at UW to establish clear written policies and communicate them adequately. In 2006, a committee worked on updating the UW Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy which was subsequently approved by the UW Board of Trustees. This policy is distributed to all students and employees on an annual basis. Behavioral expectations regarding alcohol use are conveyed from the beginning of a student's experience on the UW campus, with the AWARE Program Coordinator presenting to all incoming freshmen and their parents during New Student Orientation. Behavioral expectations are also communicated at orientation during the Safety Panel by the Dean of Students, UW Chief of Police, the Director of the University Counseling Center, and the Associate Director of Residence Life & Dining Services.

Under Dr. Buchanan's leadership, the UW community has been mobilized to create a climate of support for an environmentally-focused approach to alcohol prevention.

Multiple stakeholders across campus are involved in changing the culture of alcohol abuse at UW. Much of this work is conducted through a campus-community coalition called the A-team. The mission of the A-team is "to develop, recommend, and assess best practices in policy,

prevention/intervention, and enforcement to reduce underage drinking and excessive alcohol use.” The A-team meets on a monthly basis with an average of 17-25 people at each meeting. The coalition is chaired by the AWARE Program Coordinator and members include the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Dean of Students, representatives from Residence Life & Dining Services, UW faculty, Admissions, Athletics, Greek Life, UW Police Department, Laramie Police Department, University Counseling Center, Student Educational Opportunities, Associated Students of UW, Wyoming Technical Institute, and Albany County Coalition to Prevent Substance Abuse.

The A-team developed and is guided by its strategic plan. Noteworthy accomplishments of the A-team include research into the feasibility of a medical amnesty policy; conducting an environmental scan; and bringing students, administrators, faculty, and law enforcement to the table on a regular basis to discuss alcohol issues.

In addition, A-team members have been involved in campus policy changes, local ordinances, and state laws. Members participated in the revision of the UW alcohol policy and serve on local and statewide committees. The Dean of Students serves on the Governor’s Task Force to Prevent Impaired Driving; the Assistant Dean of Students served on the Wyoming Alcohol Laws Legislative Review Committee; and the AWARE Program Coordinator testified in front of the Wyoming Legislature on behalf of the A-team in support of stricter underage drinking laws. Other A-team members have presented to the Laramie City Council in support of proposed local ordinances including mandatory beverage server training, keg registration, and social host laws.

A-team members have also attended and presented at conferences including the US Department of Education’s Annual Meeting on Alcohol, Other Drugs, and Violence Prevention; the American College Health Association; NASPA’s Alcohol Abuse Prevention Strategies Conference; and several residence life conferences. The AWARE Program Coordinator serves as the Wyoming State Coordinator for The Network, a national organization that addresses collegiate alcohol and other drug issues. The AWARE Program model and evaluation was highlighted in the *Student Affairs Today* national newsletter for higher education professionals (May 2007).

In addition, A-team members have played a key role in the planning and organization of the Wyoming Higher Education Mental Health and Substance Abuse Summit, an annual conference for educators and administrators throughout Wyoming’s higher education system focused on mental health and alcohol issues. We are presently planning the fourth annual Summit to be held in March 2011.

UW has also worked with the community to implement programs, policies, and public education campaigns that promote student success and discourage student alcohol abuse. For example, the AWARE Program has worked with the Municipal and Circuit Court judges to provide alcohol education to UW students cited for an alcohol violation. Both courts refer students to AWARE and offer a discounted fine for completing the program. In addition, UW has created SafeRide, a free public transportation system for UW students and Laramie

community members. SafeRide has been a tremendous success among UW students, with over 4,000 riders during the fall 2009 semester, some of the highest numbers in the nation.

Under Dr. Buchanan's leadership, UW has offered new initiatives to help students become better integrated into the intellectual life of the school and change student norms away from alcohol use.

As part of his commitment to changing the culture of alcohol abuse at UW, in 2008, President Buchanan approved the implementation of a mandatory alcohol education program (Alcohol Edu) for all incoming freshmen. To communicate the importance of this program, President Buchanan personally sends a letter to every incoming UW freshman each summer encouraging them to complete it. During the past two years of implementation we have had a very high completion rate, with 95% of all freshmen completing Alcohol Edu. Students who do not complete the program have their registration status for spring semester classes bumped to the last day. Achieving this high completion rate has been a collaborative effort across campus that includes the president, faculty, academic advisors, the office of the Registrar, Admissions, the Vice President of Student Affairs, the Dean of Students, and Information Technology.

Another initiative at UW focused on changing student norms away from alcohol use is a peer education program called Cowboy CHOICES 180 Proof Peer Education. This student organization focuses on promoting the safe, legal, and responsible use of alcohol among UW students through educational campaigns and activities.

UW has developed a campus culture of providing numerous non-alcoholic events that are well-attended by UW students. Late-night alternative programming is offered at no charge to UW students through "Friday Night Fever" every Friday night and every other Saturday. With everything from comedians, inflatable games, mentalists, craft nights, cooking shows, and free movies, there are alcohol-free activities for everyone.

Another strong partnership exists between the AWARE Program and the Department of Residence Life & Dining Services (RL&DS). With approximately 2,000 students (mostly freshmen) living in the residence halls, this relationship provides a unique opportunity to effectively reach a large number of students.

The RL&DS educational efforts related to alcohol use and abuse are coordinated by the Graduate Assistant for Alcohol Education. This position is an intentional collaboration with the AWARE program and provides both primary prevention as well as intervention services. Alcohol education programs in the halls typically focus on social norms marketing and targeted education during high risk drinking periods such as the first six weeks of fall semester and spring break. Programming during the first six weeks focus on promoting a healthy relationship with alcohol, specifically enabling students to calculate their BAC, identifying and limiting risky drinking behaviors, and identifying campus resources related to alcohol use/abuse. These programs are presented to every floor of every hall, so all of our residential students have the opportunity to learn about alcohol at the beginning of the year. The social norms marketing campaign efforts come in a variety of mediums. The social norming survey is completed in the beginning of the semester by the current residents. The data is then examined and then

presented to students via posters, T-shirts, and bulletin boards. The goal for the social norms marketing campaign is to combat the perception of alcohol use at UW with the actual facts related to alcohol use.

EVIDENCE OF EFFECTIVENESS

As previously stated, data from the NCHA, collected biennially at UW since 2001, suggest that UW students have historically exceeded national figures of students drinking and driving, binge drinking, fighting after drinking, having unprotected sex after drinking, and in alcohol having a negative impact on their academic performance. It has only been recently, under UW President Tom Buchanan’s leadership and with our comprehensive approach to addressing the issue, that UW has seen significant improvements in college student drinking.

The table below presents data from alcohol measures on the NCHA since 2001. Of note are the improvements over the years in the following measures: percentage of abstainers, 30-day alcohol use, binge drinking (past 2 weeks), use of a designated driver, keeping track of number of drinks, setting limits on alcohol use, pacing drinks to 1 or less per hour, doing something they later regretted, blacking out, unprotected sexual activity, physical injury of self, driving after five or more drinks in the last 30 days, academic performance impacted, and injuring someone else.

National College Health Assessment

2009 UW sample size: 516

2009 USA sample size: 87,105

Alcohol Use Behavior	UW 2001	UW 2003	UW 2005	UW 2007	UW 2009		USA 2007	USA 2009
Abstain:	18.1%	18.2%	20.1%	17.2%	21.0% ☺		18.6%	18.3%
30-day alcohol use:	70.6%	70.6%	69.2%	70.9%	65.6% ☺		67.5%	68.8%
Binge drinking (2 weeks):	45.7%	43.7%	47.7%	47.5%	36.2% ☺		38.2%	36.6%
Mean number of drinks:	5.35	5.46	5.77	5.57	6.13		4.26	5.04
Mean estimated BAC:	.081%	.081%	.09%	.08%	.10%		.07%	.07%
Harm Reduction Behaviors*								
Used designated driver:	71.4%	74.7%	82.2%	81.2%	82.9% ☺		79.0%	82.8%
Keeping track of number of drinks	48.7%	52.8%	51.7%	49.0%	54.9%		65.2%	64.2%
Alternate alcohol/non-alcohol drinks	23.8%	19.4%	24.0%	28.7%	20.9%		30.6%	25.9%
Avoid drinking games:	37.9%	39.1%	32.0%	33.1%	34.9%		37.8%	40.0%
Eat before/during drinking:	71.6%	75.2%	77.2%	76.5%	74.9%		80.1%	77.1%

Setting limits on alcohol use:	29.5%	28.4%	31.5%	30.2%	33.7%		38.9%	36.0%
Pace drinks to 1 or less per hour:	21.8%	22.0%	23.3%	24.8%	27.5%		29.0%	28.8%
Negative Outcomes*								
Doing something later regretted:	44.2%	42.2%	46.2%	43.3%	35.6%		36.1%	35.5%
Blacked out:	31.9%	32.1%	38.8%	35.1%	30.0% ☺		31.4%	30.6%
Unprotected sexual activity:	22.9%	24.9%	23.6%	20.2%	17.2%		15.8%	16.2%
Physical injury of self:	21.6%	20.0%	25.0%	23.5%	13.6% ☺		19.3%	16.3%
Driving after 5 or more drinks in last 30 days	17.4%	14.8%	14.3%	12.2%	7.2%		5.8%	4.1%
Driving after <i>any</i> alcohol in last 30 days					31.6%			25.6%
Academic performance impacted:	13.6%	11.8%	13.4%	11.6%	8.2%		7.7%	5.2%
Physical fight:	12.6%	12.2%	14.8%	11.0%	N/A		7.3%	N/A
Injured someone else:	7.1%	6.6%	7.7%	7.2%	4.4%		4.7%	2.7%

**Students responding "N/A, don't drink" were excluded from this analysis.*

We have seen particularly significant improvements among the UW freshmen population. The table below illustrates changes on selected measures among a stratified random selection of UW freshmen from the 2007 and 2009 NCHA survey (N=171 and N=158, respectively). Freshman showed a statistically significant decrease ($p < 0.05$) in four behavioral measures of alcohol use on the NCHA: binge drinking, the number of drinks consumed, driving after consuming five or more drinks, and negative alcohol-related impacts on academic performance. We believe that these results are particularly meaningful because in the fall of 2008 and the fall of 2009, freshman students received AlcoholEdu for College.

Table 2. Freshman Student Responses to Selected NCHA Measures on Alcohol Use

Measures of freshman students				Change between 2007 and 2009
		2007	2009	
Percentage of students consuming five or more drinks in one sitting, one or more times in the last two weeks.	% Within Year 95% C.I.	40.9% 33.6% - 48.3%	28.0% 21.0% - 35.1%	-31.5%*
Number of drinks of alcohol consumed the last time student "partied"/socialized.	Mean within Year	5.50	3.92	-1.58**
Percentage of students driving after consuming five or more drinks of alcohol.	% Within Year 95% C.I.	21.9% 15.7% - 28.1%	1.3% 0.0% - 3.0%	-94.1%***
Percentage of students experiencing a negative consequence to academics as a result of drinking alcohol.	% Within Year 95% C.I.	9.7% 5.2% - 14.2%	2.5% 0.0% - 5.0%	-74.2%***
*Statistically significant difference, Pearson's chi-square, p = 0.014.				
**Statistically significant difference, independent-samples t test, p = .018.				
***Statistically significant difference, Fisher's exact test, two-tailed p < 0.05.				

Among freshmen, the following decreases occurred:

- **Binge drinking** (i.e., the percentage of students reporting that in the last two weeks they had consumed five or more drinks of alcohol in one sitting) showed a statistically significant decrease (Pearson's chi-square test, p = 0.01) , from 40.9% in 2007 to 28.0% in 2009, a decrease of 31.5%.
- The mean **number of drinks of alcohol the last time "partied/socialized"** fell from 5.5 drinks in 2007 to 3.9 drinks in 2009 (independent samples t-test, p = 0.018), a decrease of 1.6 drinks.
- In 2007, 21.9% of freshman reported **driving in the last 30 days after consuming five or more drinks of alcohol**. In 2009, this percentage showed a statistically significant decrease to 1.3% (Fisher's exact test, p < 0.01), a decrease of 94.1%.
- In 2007, 9.7% of freshmen reported that **alcohol negatively affected their academic performance**, as compared to 2.5% in 2009, a statistically significant decrease of 74.2% (Fisher's exact test, p < 0.01).

As evidenced by the outcomes of the University of Wyoming's comprehensive approach to addressing alcohol abuse, we feel that President Buchanan is well deserving of the Outside the Classroom Presidential Leadership Award. We are honored to work under his leadership in this important field and respectfully submit this nomination for consideration.

ABSTRACT

It is our pleasure to nominate President Tom Buchanan of the University of Wyoming (UW) for the Outside the Classroom Presidential Leadership Award.

Under President Buchanan's leadership, UW has effectively worked to change the culture of college drinking through a philosophy of collective responsibility and the implementation of comprehensive alcohol abuse prevention initiatives. These include:

- Mandatory alcohol education (Alcohol Edu) for all UW freshmen
- Alternative, late-night programming
- Safe Ride transportation service
- Collaborative relationships between multiple campus departments and community partners
- A vibrant campus-community coalition called the A-team that has been involved in campus policy changes, local ordinances, state laws, an environmental scan, strategic planning, and information dissemination
- A nationally-recognized alcohol education and intervention program called *Alcohol, Wellness Alternatives, Research, & Education (AWARE)*
- Social norms marketing and educational programs in the residence halls
- Clear policies that prohibit alcohol sponsorship
- Peer education

As a result of President Buchanan's leadership in these initiatives, UW has seen significant improvements in student alcohol behaviors and consequences such as:

- A decrease in binge drinking from 47.5% in 2007 to 36.2% in 2009
- An increase in abstainers from 17.2% in 2007 to 21% in 2009
- A decrease in students driving after 5 or more drinks in the last 30 days from 12.2% in 2007 to 7.2% in 2009
- A decrease in students reporting physical injury of self from 23.5% in 2007 to 13.6% in 2009
- A decrease in students reporting alcohol negatively affecting academics from 11.6% in 2007 to 8.2% in 2009



August 26, 2010

Presidential Leadership Award
c/o Outside The Classroom
250 First Avenue, Suite 201
Needham, MA 02494

RE: Presidential Leadership Award

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of President Buchanan and the work he has done at the University of Wyoming, as well as the community of Laramie, in addressing alcohol issues. His leadership has been instrumental in making many changes around the use and misuse of alcohol within the campus community and the surrounding community in which the university is housed.

Laramie is a small community that is proud to have the only four year university within the city limits, along with that pride comes many issues that are directly related to alcohol use and misuse by the many students and visitors to the University of Wyoming. The use and misuse of alcohol comes from a culture of hard working residents who see alcohol use as a way to play and relax and also as a rite of passage. We are working hard across the state to change those social norms, but Wyomingites are a stubborn group. Until those social norms are understood and changed the University and the City of Laramie carry the burden of roughly 10,000 students and several hundred visitors from around the state come to cheer on the Wyoming Cowboys during the school year. Laramie is seen as a fun place for those that come here and it is hard to dispel the myth that alcohol is necessary to have fun.

Educating students, their parent's and visitors alike is the best approach to making the University of Wyoming and the City of Laramie a safer healthier place to live, work and play. With the leadership of President Buchanan the University community and the surrounding community are working together to do just that. The University coalition to prevent substance abuse, A-Team, and the Coalition to Prevent Substance Abuse (CoPSA) work closely on making a change at an environmental level. President Buchanan not only supports both coalitions but he has also taken the initiative to create other mandates that are working towards the same goal i.e., Alcohol EDU. This particular initiative has already shown promise in changing the way students think about their alcohol use. We hope that his continued leadership will aid the community in making more progress towards changing the social norms around alcohol.

Sincerely,

Tracy Young, Coordinator
Coalition to Prevent Substance Abuse

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Front page
of the Laramie
Newspaper

BOOMERANG

NATIONAL EXCELLENCE

UW AWARE and Residence Life receive national excellence award

By CARRIE HADERLIE
Boomerang Staff Writer

Two programs at the University of Wyoming have received joint recognition and a national award for work in alcohol abuse prevention among college students.

UW's Alcohol Wellness Alternatives, Research and Education (AWARE) Program and Residence Life and Dining Services received a Silver Excellence Award from Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA). This award recognizes the excellence and innovation in the programs and initiatives of UW's AWARE/Residence Life partnership.

"We take a comprehensive



University of Wyoming students visit while eating dinner Monday in Washakie's Dining Hall. All incoming freshmen at UW are required to complete an online educational course about alcohol abuse and its effects. This requirement, and other parts of the partnership between UW's Alcohol Wellness Alternatives, Research and Education (AWARE) Program and Residence Life and Dining Services, earned UW a national award for work in alcohol abuse prevention. Robert Monteith/Boomerang photographer

approach to addressing alcohol issues and don't just focus on one strategy. We provide individual education to all students who have received an alcohol violation on or off campus, even on their first offense," Lena Newlin, the

AWARE program coordinator, said in an e-mail.

Residence Life and AWARE work together on initiatives ranging from training resident assistants on alcohol issues to programming and marketing

related to alcohol education. Residence Life refers all alcohol-related judicial violations to the AWARE Program, Tony Earls, Residence Life associate director, said in a press release.

AWARE provides alcohol

education and skills training to UW students and leads a campus/community coalition that works to reduce underage

See Excellence, page 5

Excellence: This is the program's second award

Continued from page 1

drinking and alcohol abuse.

And all incoming freshmen at UW are currently required to take an comprehensive online alcohol education program called AlcoholEdu before the second semester begins.

"Some schools don't intervene with students until their third or fourth alcohol offense. We ... do a lot of education and prevention work across campus, including (but not limited to) requiring the AlcoholEdu program for all incoming freshmen, presentations in academic classes and working with new students and parents during orientation," Newlin said.

Earls and Newlin said the partnership has resulted in more than three years of data demonstrating a reduction in frequency and quantity of alcohol use; reduction in problems associated with alcohol use;

reduction in risk factors associated with alcohol use; and increased protective behaviors reported among college students, such as use of designated drivers and setting drinking limits, according to the press release.

The recognition is the AWARE program's second national award in two years.

In 2008 the United States Department of Education recognized AWARE as a promising model program for preventing alcohol abuse, an honor awarded to only five institutions of higher education.

According to recent data by the Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center, students that complete the AWARE program report drinking less frequently and a lower quantity 30- and 60-days after completing the program, Newlin said.

"Also, across campus, we have experienced a significant decrease

in the percentage of students binge drinking. We used to rank higher than the national average and are now significantly below it," Newlin said.

"We have also experienced a significant decrease in the number of students drinking and driving, as well as the number of students reporting that alcohol is negatively affecting their academics."

These improvements speak to the collaborative, consistent and strategic work between AWARE and RL&DS, Newlin said.

"It is important to provide education to students so that they can make the most informed decisions about alcohol. By educating students about safe and responsible choices regarding alcohol use, we hope to prevent them making poor decisions in the future," Newlin said.

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