Meet the Wyoming Quantum Learning Facilitators

Jeanie Iberlin, Christine Olson, and Keather Pieranton are the three Wyoming Quantum Learning Facilitators (WQLFs) who are authorized under the GEAR UP WYOMING site license agreement with Quantum Learning Network to provide professional development to Wyoming secondary educators. These three, enthusiastic facilitators introduce teachers to the energetic, applicable teaching methods of the Quantum Learning curriculum which is designed to prepare students for college and careers as well as encourage students to build strong character and citizenship traits.

Jeanie Iberlin has 30 years of experience in the educational field. Currently, she is in her 17th year as an administrator and serves as the associate superintendent of Johnson County School District #1 in Buffalo, Wyoming. She has served as a middle school principal and a high school English teacher. Jeanie earned her doctoral degree in education administration from Montana State University and her master's degree in education administration from the University of Wyoming. She earned a bachelor of science degree in education from Chadron State College in Chadron, Nebraska.

Christine Olson has devoted over 30 years to performing, directing, and inspiring young people in all aspects of the performing arts. Christine earned a bachelor’s degree in K-12 music education from Montana State University and a master’s degree in education administration from Azusa Pacific University. She is currently director of bands and advanced placement music theory at Laramie High School.

GEAR UP Students Receive Daniels Fund Scholarships

Twelve GEAR UP WYOMING participants received Daniels Fund Scholarships this year. The Daniels Fund, a private foundation in Denver, provides competitive college scholarships for graduating high school seniors in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming who “demonstrate strength of character, a well-rounded personality, and a record of accomplishment in giving back to the community.” The scholarship covers full college costs not met through other types of financial aid and is renewable for up to four years.

GEAR UP WYOMING is proud that of the 24 Wyoming high school seniors who are 2015 Daniels Scholars, half are from GEAR UP. Congratulations to:

- Christopher Hugh Bruce, Cheyenne East High School
- Ciara Ronelle Blain, Douglas High School
- Kyla Rae Christensen, Kaycee School
- Ashley Marie Dillon, Powell High School
- Allison Elizabeth Emery, Torrington High School
- Caleb Monroe Flake, Mountain View High School
- Cole Garret Moncur, Lovell High School
- Timothy Robert Uttenhove, Douglas High School
- William Brooks Van Buren, Campbell Co. High School
- Joshua David Walmsley, Douglas High School
- Evan Michael Wilhelm, Glendo High School
- Jacob David Zaragoza, Evanston High School

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Eastern Wyoming College Students Visit South Dakota

While other students spent their Easter break sleeping in and staying home, seven Upton Middle School students took advantage of an opportunity to make homemade candy, see a herd of bison, and explore a massive cave on Thursday, April 2, during a field trip to South Dakota arranged by Eastern Wyoming College GEAR UP (EWC GU).

“This was a great opportunity for our students to do some career exploration and see some of the sights that the Black Hills has to offer,” EWC GU outreach coordinator Tom Milstead said.

“We really wanted to show these kids that they can do fun things with their lives, as long as they have the right drive and determination.”

– Tom Milstead, EWC GU outreach coordinator

The day started with a tour of Jewel Cave National Monument in Custer, South Dakota. A park ranger led the students through the underground formations, and the students took the opportunity to ask questions about how they could someday be park rangers and explore caves.

After a buffet lunch at Pizza Hut, the group visited the Custer County Candy Company, where Lee Lampert, the owner and operator, taught them how to dip pretzels and marshmallows like a professional. The visit gave them a glimpse into how a small business operates and succeeds.

Afterwards, the students visited Custer State Park. They were lucky enough to see numerous bison, deer, mountain goats, and pronghorn.

“Overall, I think the trip was a great success,” Milstead said. “While our main goal was to have a good time, we also learned a lot – like how caves are discovered and how a small business can gain a foothold in a community.

“We really wanted to show these kids that they can do fun things with their lives, as long as they have the right drive and determination. I think it really rang true with the group.”

Upton Middle School students Nate Moreland, Sydney Davey, Yasmine Donner, Skylei Bliss-Christensen, DJ Till, and Heidi Juhala pose after climbing a series of hills during a hike in Custer State Park.

Follow GEAR UP Wyoming on:

For extra practice before the exam, check out the ACT® question of the day at: www.act.org/qotd

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The ACT® is an important college entrance exam. Scores can affect college entrance and scholarships.

All Wyoming eleventh-grade students will take the ACT® in April at their schools. Students who want to take the test again can visit the following ACT® website to register for the test and to locate testing centers: www.actstudent.org/regist/dates.html

GEAR UP Wyoming students may contact their GEAR UP coordinator to obtain an ACT test fee waiver. (GEAR UP Wyoming cannot pay for or waive late fees.) Also, GEAR UP Wyoming students have free access to ACT® preparation programs.
Mary Runner Receives University of Wyoming Award

Mary Runner, office associate, senior, for GEAR UP WYOMING (GUWY), received the Unsung Hero award from the University of Wyoming Staff Senate. The award is given to outstanding staff members who go beyond the call of duty.

Mary’s willingness to help out where needed, often beyond the responsibilities in her job description, helped GUWY’s staff to stay motivated and move forward during a time of transition. At her own initiative, Mary has taken on responsibility for some of the major duties of two currently vacant staff positions.

In addition to her regular duties, Mary has organized much of Camp GEAR UP, including coordinating an introduction to college life track for students. She also works closely with GEAR UP WYOMING’s eight partner sites.

“Mary truly understands that the mission of our program is to serve the students the best that we can.” – Jenny Ingram, GUWY grant manager

Mary Runner is presented with the Unsung Hero award from the University of Wyoming Staff Senate.

In December, Tracy Stibitz joined the Wyoming Department of Education as a liaison with GEAR UP WYOMING. Tracy earned her bachelor of arts in psychology from the University of Wyoming and her master of business administration from Colorado State University.

Her work experience with Cathedral Home for Children: Laramie Youth Crisis Center, Corinthian Colleges: WyoTech, and the Wyoming Department of Education has created a passion within Tracy to help others. This has led to a career focused on meeting the needs of youth and at-risk families.

She’s excited to bring all of her experiences together in one place to help support Wyoming students.

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in Laramie, Wyoming. Christine was first trained as a Quantum Learning teacher 15 years ago and has subsequently become a WQLF through GEAR UP WYOMING. She has been a WQLF for nearly nine years. In addition to her teaching duties, she serves as student engagement specialist in Albany County School District #1.

Keather Pierantoni resides in Star Valley, Wyoming, where she began her teaching career eighteen years ago. She is an instructional facilitator for Lincoln County School District #2 and a Quantum Learning facilitator. With a master’s degree in elementary education and a K-12 reading endorsement, she is passionate about the teaching of language arts.

Contact Chrissie Henschler, GEAR UP professional development coordinator, at (307) 766-6736 or chensch@uwyo.edu for more information about scheduling professional development with a WQLF.

GEAR UP WYOMING Welcomes Tracy Stibitz

GEAR UP WYOMING served 2331 students in 118 schools and reached 1323 teachers through professional development.
GEAR UP Wyoming is a statewide program that serves 2,000 7th-12th grade, income-eligible students each year. Wyoming’s seven community colleges provide services to these students and encourage them not only to complete high school, but to enter and succeed at a postsecondary institution. GEAR UP Wyoming also supports students through their first year of college.

GEAR UP Wyoming is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education totaling $3,548,876 annually with an additional $3,548,876 annually provided by in-kind and scholarship contributions.