9:00 AM • College in Prison: Transforming the Lives of Incarcerated Wyomgingites
Susan C. Dewey, Professor of Gender & Women’s Studies/Associate Director, School of Culture, Gender, & Social Justice
Alec J. Muthig, Information Technology Training Manager, University of Wyoming
More people are in prison today than at any other time in U.S. history. Most are there only a few years. How can their chances for success upon release be improved, for their benefit and for the benefit of the community? Susan Dewey and Alec Muthig found Wyoming Pathways from Prison to provide those incarcerated in Wyoming with the foundation of a college education. The program’s success both in reaching prisoners and involving faculty instructors makes this award-winning program a model for the nation. Come and learn how higher education in prison changes lives for the better.

10:15 AM • “Fake News! Fake News!” What is it? Why do we fall for it? What can we do about it?
Dr. Kristen Landreville, Associate Professor of Communications and Journalism, University of Wyoming
In a polarized political environment, where many people have difficulty agreeing on basic facts, what affect does fake, false, and misleading news have on our ability to carry out our democracy? This talk explores the psychological reasons that explain why we believe misinformation and then why we share it. Dr. Landreville will offer strategies for identifying and combating misinformation that will contribute to a healthier political dialogue.

11:30 AM • Energy Transitions and Legacies: The changing structure of Wyoming’s energy portfolio and its Policy Implications
Professor Roger Coupal, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Wyoming
As energy markets and technology change the demand for Wyoming energy, the economic development opportunities for Wyoming’s communities shift as well, sometimes for better and sometimes for worse. When the country transfers to other energy sources, it can affect local economic development and raise concerns about social and environmental problems—to say nothing of incurring new costs as communities transition to the new future. These shifts can be anticipated, so energy-dependent communities and the state need to plan for the fundamental shifts that are coming. Professor Coupal will provide discuss what is affecting the nation’s energy requirements and suggest ways Wyoming can best meet approaching changes.

PRESIDENTIONS FOLLOWED BY A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH SPEAKERS OVER FREE LUNCH.