



Science Initiative News

Spring 2020

PROGRAM UPDATES

With our largest **WRSP** class to date - over 50 - the program is entering 2020 with a vibrant and productive group of researchers. Many of the students are presenting their work at professional conferences around the country, submitting peer-reviewed articles for publication, and engaging in science outreach throughout the state. Also, the Wyoming Undergraduate Research Coalition, a recognized student organization started last year by Research Scholars, has picked up momentum and has several professional development workshops planned for the spring semester.

This year, the **LAMP** Fellows program welcomed 24 new educators from 10 UW departments and 3 WY community colleges (LCCC, NWC, and Sheridan College). Seven prior LAMP Fellows were also accepted into the brand-new LAMP educators' learning community (ELC). These educators performed original educational research and recently presented their work at the *Original Lilly Conference on College Teaching*.

SERVICE CLUB VISITS

Science Initiative staff and faculty are traveling throughout the state to 13 Rotary and Kiwanis clubs to tell the story of SI to important stakeholders. Service clubs will be visited in Cody, Laramie, Casper, Buffalo, Dayton/Ranchester, Riverton, Lander, Cheyenne, and Sheridan.

BUILDING UPDATE

The Science Initiative building, located at the corner of 9th and Lewis streets, is now under construction, with an anticipated move-in date during Fall 2021.

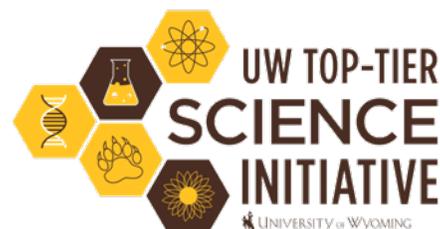
IMPORTANT DATES

- The [application](#) for the 2020/2021 LAMP Fellows program is open and will close **Saturday, March 7**. All UW faculty and PhD students in STEM fields are eligible to apply.
- The application for the Leaving the Light On Educator's Learning Community is open and will close **Wednesday, February 26**.
- 2019/2020 LAMP Fellows will present on the implementation of their active learning strategies on **Saturday, May 2** at the UW Art Museum.
- The Application for Fall 2020 WRSP scholars will be open next week.
- State Science Fair judging will be March 1 and 2. If interested in judging, contact Erin Stoesz at wyostatefair@gmail.com.
- Wyoming Undergraduate Research and Inquiry Across the Disciplines is scheduled for April 24 and 25.

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SCIENCE INITIATIVE ROADSHOW

So far this academic year, the SI Roadshow has traveled to 4 different communities (Riverton, Gillette, Centennial, and Newcastle) and hosted 1 inreach visit, impacting 650 students. This spring, the Roadshow is also planning to bring active learning to more K-12 schools in Riverton, Laramie, Sheridan, Cheyenne, Douglas, and Rock Springs.

The SI Roadshow has also been collaborating with 7th graders and teachers from the Riverton Middle School, the city of Riverton, and Inberg-Miller Engineers on a large, problem-based learning project involving the possible phytoremediation of Riverton's decommissioned landfill. On December 19th, Rachel Watson's Microbiology Capstone class presented 2 posters showing their findings related to the project. LAMP educators from UW will continue to facilitate learning for the Riverton 7th graders, and UW students plan to continue research related to the project this semester.

LAMP SURVEY

47 educators who have taken part in professional development as part of LAMP responded to a survey in late 2019, which asked questions about changes in their teaching and scholarship, collaborations they have built through LAMP, and their continued growth as an educator. Highlights of findings from the survey are below. You can find the full report here: [LAMP Survey Report 2019](#).

COLLABORATIONS BUILT THROUGH LAMP HELP ISOLATED EDUCATORS FEEL LIKE PART OF A COMMUNITY

"I now have a network of 'teaching confidants'. Before LAMP, I was operating in my own world... Now, I have a group of individuals who can help guide me and answer my questions as I continue to work through developing my pedagogy."

COLLABORATIONS BUILT THROUGH LAMP PROVIDE EDUCATORS WITH RESOURCES TO TRANSFORM THEIR COURSES

"[I] collaborated with a Learning Assistant to rework my Marine Biology class. [This] has had a huge impact [on] the teaching of this course."

EDUCATORS WHO PARTICIPATED IN LAMP PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WERE INSPIRED TO FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

7 reported increased understanding and confidence in course development and educational research

7 reported more awareness and understanding of other opportunities for growth

6 reported increased passion for teaching

4 reported desire to be a resource for others

COLLABORATIONS BUILT THROUGH LAMP BOOST EDUCATORS' PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL FULFILLMENT AND HAPPINESS

"The connections I've made are vital to my long term career goal of becoming a tenured professor... This of course has improved my job prospects, and in turn my overall happiness."

PEOPLE IN SI



WRSP Scholar

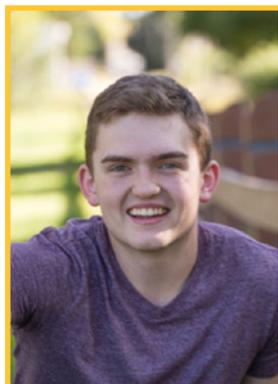
Tyler Myers

Hometown: Sheridan, WY

Major: Chemistry

Faculty Mentor: Michael Taylor

Tyler's research focuses on the development of organic synthetic reactions for studying biological processes and building molecular complexity from feedstock chemicals. He is active in outreach, including traveling with the Science Initiative Roadshow. He plans to pursue a graduate degree after graduating from UW.



LAMP Learning Assistant

Liam Guille

Hometown: Rock Springs, WY

Majors: Molecular Biology, Zoology & Physiology

Faculty Mentor: Chris North

Liam has been a LAMP LA since the kick-off of the program in spring of 2018. He has assisted with General Microbiology and Marine Biology and has developed innovative curriculum for the latter, proposing innovative ideas such as "The Invisible College" to enable team-based learning to become even more representative of the way in which academic scholars collaborate.



LAMP Fellow

Kerry Sondgeroth

Asst. Professor, Veterinary Science

Dr. Sondgeroth was a fellow in the 2017-18 LAMP Fellows Class. She redesigned her Pathogenic Microbiology course and abandoned traditional evaluations by asking students to show their knowledge in authentic ways. One student commented, "I like the active learning in this course a lot. It reinforced the material and I enjoyed going to class every day." In 2019, Dr. Sondgeroth was selected as a member in LAMP's inaugural educator's learning community.