

ENERGY ENTERPRISE

WINTER 2012



School of Energy Resources

CALENDAR

This Quarter

March 6-7

Sustainable Management –
Strategies and Tools for
Energy and Extractive
Industries

UW College of Business
and SER

UW Conference Center
at the Hilton Garden Inn

March 30

ERC meeting

UW College of Business

Coming up

May 18

ERC meeting

UW Conference Center at the
Hilton Garden Inn

June 4-6

2012 Low Carbon Economy
Challenge

Xian, Shaanxi Province, China

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

In December, we marked one of the biggest days in the short history of the UW School of Energy Resources. Sabrina Forbis and Kyle McDonald – both from Wyoming– shared the distinction of being the first SER graduates. Both earned bachelor's degrees in Energy Resource Science, showing a great entrepreneurial spirit in signing on to a brand-new curriculum in a brand-new school at the University of Wyoming.



We have been unquestionably fortunate in what we have accomplished in the five years since the School of Energy Resources opened its doors. We could not have done it without the leadership of the University of Wyoming, the Energy Resources Council – our governing board, Wyoming elected officials and our industry partners across the state.

Our work this year focuses on three main objectives: creating balance in investments among energy sectors; balance between technologies that protect existing markets and technologies that add value to Wyoming's energy resources; and creating distinction for energy programs at UW in strategically important areas for Wyoming's energy economy. You can read more about that on page 3. You can find out more about Sabrina and Kyle inside this newsletter as well.

Thanks for reading Energy Enterprise, the inaugural issue of the UW School of Energy Resources newsletter. I look forward to telling you about our accomplishments in the months to come.

Mark Northam

Mark A. Northam
Director, School of Energy Resources

SER CELEBRATES FIRST TWO GRADUATES

Two students at the University of Wyoming carry a unique distinction.


Sabrina Forbis and Kyle McDonald are the first two graduates of the UW School of Energy Resources. They earned bachelor's degrees in Energy Resource Science in December. Both Wyoming residents say the School of Energy Resources gave them a great learning experience.

Forbis, of Riverton, heard about the program from her younger brother, who had seen a presentation at his high school. At the time, she was a sophomore enrolled in petroleum engineering.

McDonald, of Jackson, found Energy Resource Science when he transferred from the University of Montana. "I didn't realize how big a role Wyoming played in the energy field. This program pushed me to understand that." McDonald has used his experience to recruit other students to the program. He's now pursuing a master's degree in the area of water quality.

Forbis said she's had a full-time job offer, but she'll complete a bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering. She's completed two internships that her education prepared her well for. "I thought I would be in the office,

running calculations," she says. She was also able to do a variety of things including field work.

"We're extremely proud of Sabrina and Kyle," SER Director Mark Northam says; they showed both initiative and entrepreneurial spirit in being the first to follow the curriculum. SER's mission includes building a nationally competitive academic program to give UW students and education that gives them tools to solve significant energy challenges. Nearly four dozen students are currently enrolled, and a master's degree program is now in development. 






SCHOOL OF ENERGY RESOURCES CRAFTS STRATEGY

The School of Energy Resources has charted its path for the next five years with its strategic plan, endorsed by the Energy Resources Council and approved by the University of Wyoming Board of Trustees.

With goals for creating balance and creating distinction, the School of Energy Resources is focusing investment in three key areas over the next five years to accomplish these important objectives:

- Exploiting unconventional reservoirs that contain fossil energy resources that do not flow at economic rates or produce economic volumes of oil and natural gas without stimulation or other enhanced recovery processes
 - Climbing the value chain by creating essential consumer products such as liquid fuels and petrochemicals through conversion and other manufacturing activities that add value to and create new markets for energy resources that are now sold as commodities
 - Developing wind and solar energy technologies that improve efficiency, mitigate the impacts of variable supply and convert output to higher-value products
- This plan will deliver broad and significant benefits for Wyoming, UW and the energy industry. Chief among them are:
- Growth in energy-based revenue streams for Wyoming
 - Improved performance in production and profitability for Wyoming's most valuable energy assets
 - A hedge against boom and bust economic cycles
 - Enhanced competitiveness at UW for student and faculty recruiting, corporate partnerships and funding
 - Mutual gain for UW and industry from collaborative relationships. 



School of Energy Resources

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The Energy Innovation Center, funded through private donations and state matching funds, will assist UW and the SER in accomplishing the mission to ensure Wyoming becomes a global leader in building a secure and sustainable energy future.