



**Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research
Strategic Plan 2017-2022**

**In coordination with UW Plan "Breaking Through"
December 2017**

Preamble

The Humanities are where all people live and engage with their world. They are where we pursue, express and critique the conditions of our lives. Humanities embody, make visible and mobilize the central values of a liberal education.

Vision

As a founding discipline of Wyoming's flag-ship and land-grant university, UW Humanities aim to honor our pasts, presents and futures with rigorous and shared scholarship and understanding toward the public good. We value, support, and aim to energize individual and collaborative striving, and recognize, embrace, support and contribute to the interconnectedness of lives, communities and disciplines.

Mission

Established in 2010, the University's Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research supports and showcases humanities scholarship of the highest quality. It fosters rigorous scholarship through individual, collaborative, discipline-based and interdisciplinary research. Its intellectual community includes UW's students and academics, the university's Community College and State partners, and national and international colleagues. The institute accomplishes scholarship and innovative practice in engagement with our wide community, addressing our cultural pasts, presents and futures to achieve significant and meaningful impact about and for a complex world.

Values

WIHR subscribes to the UW values of Exploration & Discovery; Innovation and Application; Disciplinarity and Interdisciplinarity; Integrity and Responsibility; Diversity and Internationalization; Engagement and Communication.

Goal 1: Drive Excellence in the Humanities

- Promote and strengthen the university as a scholarly and creative enterprise by showcasing, increasing, and operationalizing UW's Humanities excellence, commitment and reach.

Build a national reputation and stature through strategic initiatives:

- Design and complete a national search to identify and hire a recognized academic and administrative leader to serve as the institute's director.
- Establish a cluster of faculty/AP to foreground and lead in Public Humanities, including "professors of practice."

- Host a robust program of visiting speakers and national and international conferences with our University, Community College, and State partners.
- Foster WIHR-faculty/AP funded research projects as engines to build collaboration and reputation for UW.
- Participate actively in relevant academic and public organizations such as the Wyoming Humanities Council, the National Humanities Alliance, the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes and the Aspen-Wye Institute.
- Assist faculty/AP holding regional, national and international responsibilities in Humanities organizations.
- Work with UW departments and schools to strengthen humanities-related graduate programs.

Elevate potential and expectations for research and creative activities:

- Facilitate faculty/AP research by institutionalizing and enhancing WIHR-hosted, funded and mentored grant programs (such as individual, collaborative, discussion group, NEH Summer Stipend substitution awards).
 - Facilitate faculty/AP participation in regional, national and international conferences.
 - Continue to showcase the research of WIHR grantees through works-in-progress presentations
 - Institutionalize the UW Humanities Conference Roundup as an annual event.
 - Coordinate with the Office of Research to improve external funding opportunities for UW Humanities.
- *Facilitate, foreground and operationalize the Humanities' role to bridge disciplines and engage public concerns:*
 - Continue and expand WIHR grant programs in support of collaborative and transdisciplinary research and teaching.
 - Continue and expand engagement and collaboration with Wyoming Public Humanities agencies, such as the Wyoming Humanities Council.
 - Identify and contribute to theme-based programming that connects research directly to community or organization needs and requests within and beyond UW, in collaboration with public constituencies.
 - Provide letters of support, at a candidate's request, during tenure and promotion and extended term review.
- *Enhance local and global relevance, engagement and impact by strategic recruitment of faculty and students in the humanities;*
 - Institutionalize a WIHR International Fellows and faculty/AP exchange program.
- *Achieve consistently excellent teaching and mentoring in the humanities that give students the knowledge, ability, determination and innovation to meet tomorrow's challenges with sustainable solutions.*
 - Maintain support of disciplinary excellence in collaboration with Humanities departments.
 - Encourage inter- and transdisciplinary teaching using Humanities as the gateway.
 - Accomplish support and accomplish recognition for faculty/AP undertaking individualized teaching and mentorship responsibilities.
 - Assist UW Humanities departments and schools to maintain robust graduate programs.
 - Assist UW programs building doctoral opportunities in publicly engaged Humanities.
 - Institute career counseling for Humanities students and for non-humanists aiming to connect in public contexts.
 - Cultivate transdisciplinary teaching, and support its optimal modes (small classes, genuinely transdisciplinary staffing, experiential learning, in resource-rich environments).

Goal 2: Empower students to meet and engage our complex world, strengthening them through the Humanities' knowledge, long perspectives, methods and nuanced modes of understanding, and preparing them for innovation and change in their work and lives.

- Develop a suite of interdisciplinary courses under the HUM prefix that highlight timely and publicly engaged subjects.
- Integrate Humanities courses, disciplines and approaches within UW's new exploratory tracks.
- Institute undergraduate Fellows to WIHR, supported by mentors to undertake research and leadership projects.
- Foreground, anchor and support collaborative, cross-campus engagement projects like One Book, Many Conversations.
- Visibly integrate Humanities research and approaches into any relevant or hospitable course, cultivating students' expansive and integrative sensibility in any circumstance (in collaboration with the ECTL, Synergy, the Honors College, ENR and the Haub School).
- Develop, provide a hub for, and institutionalize "cluster" programs like the UW at Abbotsford/Scotland program, which encourage student research and creativity, internationalization and transdisciplinarity.
- Work with Humanities-related programs at UW, community colleges, and Public Humanities entities in the state, to map, regularize, make available and support internships at the public interface (cultivating experience, entrepreneurship, leadership and service in humanities modes but outside the classroom).

Goal 3: Impact and enhance the well-being of our communities and environments by engaging current and public concerns in WIHR research, teaching and public programming.

- Enhance and demonstrate the active links between Humanities insights and questions of economic development, community life, historical resources, resource use and decision making (through specific research proposals, or shared programming with community organizations).
- Endow the Sandeen fund for WIHR that aims to bring Community College and public practitioners to UW for a semester of their own research and for engagement with the WIHR faculty. (Fund established 2017).
- Coordinate a summit with Community College faculty to identify their needs, discuss shared future ventures, and map the future of the engaged Humanities in Wyoming.
- Coordinate with Humanities agencies and institutions (WHC, WAC, Ucross) to enhance Wyoming humanities by mapping areas of institutional responsibility, of synergy, and of shared engagement.
- Continue to work with the Wyoming Humanities Council and Wyoming Arts Council to develop shared projects, and to leverage visibility and impact for statewide humanities.
- Participate annually in the Casper Humanities Festival.
- Build and continue to cultivate WIHR's External Board as ambassadors and advisors for our engagement with the state.

Goal 4: Extend robust and innovative Humanities scholarship and collaboration at UW through:

People:

- Hire a full-time director to build from WIHR accomplishments to date. The director's leadership role would include developing humanities connections across the campus and state, articulating UW Humanities with our national and international context, program development, fundraising and working with the Foundation, working with the External Board, coordinating with community

colleges, state organizations, agencies, and communities, coordinating and planning with units across campus, and fully participating in UW initiatives to develop WIHR innovations in research, teaching, learning, and service at UW.

- With the Art Museum, institutionalize the position of an Academic Curator, to integrate UW's collections directly into interdisciplinary teaching and learning across campus.
- Hire to supplement a faculty/AP cluster that will lead across campus at the cutting edge of Public Humanities and public practice.
- Mentor incoming faculty/AP in humanities fields, and UW's incoming faculty/AP in general, on UW's humanities commitments, opportunities and collaborations.
- Maintain WIHR's program of individualized mentoring for faculty/AP who are pursuing research, publication and funding opportunities (both internal and external).
- As a visible and significant entity at UW and across the state, actively work to retain and attract excellent personnel in any field who engage with the Humanities.
- Secure appropriate full-time staff to support day-to-day operations, including accounting, web site development and maintenance, reporting, marketing, and event planning.

Infrastructure:

- Secure space for WIHR activities including hosting symposia, classes and community-building events, and to house WIHR personnel, such as the director, support staff, faculty/AP mentors ("drovers"), student fellows, visiting faculty and fellows, and UW fellows.
- With the American Heritage Center, establish a Humanities Laboratory active-learning space oriented toward the public outside the university (to include short-term exhibits, hands-on teaching space, dynamic digital projection and visualization technologies).
- With the Libraries, AHC and SER "Cave," enhance exposure to, and use of big data, digital and visualization resources.

Financial Resources:

- Fundraise for signature programs such as the Environmental Humanities Initiative, and UW at Abbotsford/Scotland.
- Fundraise to endow the Eric Sandeen Fund for WIHR (Community Fellow Fund).
- Fundraise to establish Visiting Fellow and scholar exchange support.
- Fundraise to establish Student Fellow opportunities.

Submitted by the WIHR Executive:

MacGregor Cawley
Nicole Crawford
Isadora Helfgott
Frieda Knobloch
Caroline McCracken-Flesher