



**WIND Advisory Committee
Meeting Booklet
March 7, 2023**



WIND Advisory Committee Function

1. Connect WIND to key individuals in the university and in the state who can assist in carrying out WIND's education, research and service missions;
2. Help WIND expand its resource base;
3. Increase WIND's visibility within the university and within the state to assist WIND in becoming more integrated in both;
4. Advise WIND on overall annual program goals; and
5. Increase disability awareness on campus and throughout the state.

Background

The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities is a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and an academic unit in the College of Health Sciences, University of Wyoming.

Established in 1994, the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities demonstrates excellence in providing interdisciplinary, pre-service education, continuing education, community training, technical assistance and services as they related to individuals with developmental and other disabilities.

Contact Information

Wyoming Institute for Disabilities

1000 University Avenue, Department 4298 Laramie, WY 82071

Phone: (307) 766-2761; Toll Free: (888) 989-9463; TTY: 800-908-7011; Fax: (307) 766-2763

E-Mail Address: uwwind@uwyo.edu

Website: <http://www.uwyo.edu/wind>

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Meeting Details

The WIND Consumer Advisory Council meeting and the WIND Advisory Board Meeting will be held in-person on March 7, 2023 at the UW Conference Center, Salons A, B, and C, located at 2221 E. Grand Avenue in Laramie (located on the west side of the Hilton Garden Inn).

9:30 - 11:50 a.m. - Consumer Advisory Council meeting, Salon A & B

12:00 - 12:50 p.m. - Lunch in Salons A & B

1:00 - 3:30 p.m. - WIND Advisory Committee Meeting, Salon C

WIND Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

March 7, 2023

University of Wyoming Conference Center at the Hilton Garden Inn
Salons A, B, & C

- Noon Lunch for all members, including presentation of 2022 Keith A. Miller awards
- 1:00 p.m. Convene meeting, Jacob Warren, Dean, College of Health Sciences
- Welcome
 - Introductions, all
 - Approval of agenda
 - Approval of prior meeting notes
- 1:20 p.m. Meeting orientation, booklet review and updates, Sandy Root-Elledge
- 1:30 p.m. WIND Site Visit Report,
- Dawn Rudolph, Senior Director for Technical Assistance and Network Engagement, AUCD
 - Daniel Crimmins, Georgia State University Clinical Professor Emeritus and founding partner in Crimminz & Associates, LLC
- 1:50 p.m. Sandy Thiel, Chair, WIND Consumer Advisory Council Update
WIND Committee Reports,
- Michelle Jarman, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
 - Betsy Bress, Accessibility
- 2:10 p.m. Canyon Hardesty and Amy Rieser, WIND
Case Managers Training, Review, and Input, All
- 2:35 p.m. Zebadiah Hall, UW Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Mission and Vision
- 3:00 p.m. UW and CHS updates, Jacob Warren

Member updates, All
- 3:30 p.m. Adjourn

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Noon - 3:30 p.m. - UW Campus, Laramie

WIND Consumer Advisory Council Meeting Agenda

March 7, 2023

UW Conference Center
Hilton Garden Inn, Salon

- 9:30 a.m. Welcome and Introductions
- Sandy Thiel, Chairperson, Consumer Advisory Council
Sandy Root-Elledge, Executive Director, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities
Sandy Hubert, Coordinator, WIND Consumer Advisory Council
Introductions of CAC members and guests
- 9:45 a.m. Sandy Root-Elledge, comments and updates
Sandy Thiel, report on the February COLA meeting
- 10:00 a.m. WIND CAC discussion and planning next steps for the transportation initiative
- Leo Levensgood
--Aleyta Zimmerman
--Abe Lentner
- 11:50 a.m. WIND CAC meeting ends and members break for lunch
- 12:55 p.m. WIND CAC members join the meeting with the WIND Advisory Committee

Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

September 13, 2022

WIND Advisory Committee Meeting

Wildcatter Club, Laramie, WY

In attendance, members:

Jacob Warren, Chair
Sandra Root-Elledge, ex-officio
Lee Grossman
Shannon Buller
Eleanor Downey
Carleigh Soule
Christina McDonnell
Tiffany Hunt
Kayc DeMaranville
Sandy Thiel
Julie Andrew
Sammy Andrew
Chele Mecomber Porter
Kylie Porter
Jennifer Figenser
Lori Regnier
Tammy Aumiller
Bill McDonald
Aleyta Zimmerman
Leo Levensgood
Brandon Douglas

In attendance, WIND:

Canyon Hardesty
Eric Moody
Betsy Bress
Michelle Jarman
Sandy Hubert
Abe Lentner
Cheryl Chesebro
Kayleigh Edgar
Tatiana Warden

In attendance, guests:

Maggie York, Linden Communications
Joel York, Linden Communications
Alison Quinn, Linden Communications
Danielle Webber, Association of University Centers on Developmental Disabilities
Dawn Rudolph, Association of University Centers on Developmental Disabilities
Daniel Crimmins, Clinical Professor Emeritus and Emeritus Director of the Center for Leadership in Disability at Georgia State University
David Jones, Administration for Community Living, Dept. of Health & Human Services

Meeting called to order at 1:00pm by Dr. Jacob Warren, Dean of the College of Health Sciences. The meeting agenda and minutes from the prior meeting were approved. Introductions and announcements were held.

Comments and Vision by Jacob Warren, College of Health Sciences Dean

Dean Warren reported that WIND was one of the major factors that attracted him to this position as Dean of the College of Health Sciences at the University of Wyoming. He pointed out that WIND's ability to affect real evidence-based change is astonishing. Some of his goals for the college align with WIND. He hopes to see the whole college move in the direction set by WIND in areas such as community engagement; he would like to see individuals with disabilities engaged in learning opportunities in the College of Health Sciences.

Dean Warren encouraged members to review and provide comments on the University of Wyoming strategic plan that is available for public comment. He pointed out that while the College of Health Sciences has faced some budget cuts, it has been affected far less than other colleges at the University.

Meeting Orientation, Sandra Root-Elledge, WIND Executive Director

Referencing the meeting booklet, Sandy provided an overview of materials and orientation to the meeting. She reported that WIND received an especially strong review score of 97 on the plan, ranking it 8th highest out of 42 submissions this year. She briefly reviewed some FY 2022 key accomplishments. She pointed out that the disabilities study program continues to grow at WIND, that WIND conducted a number of significant research and grant proposals, and that WIND continues to focus on building capacity in the state. WIND demonstrated phenomenal reach of trainings for professionals throughout the state. The fiscal report shows the overall sources of WIND funding. In some cases, the University reduces its indirect costs for grants and contracts, which represents a contribution from the University to WIND. Michelle Jarman explained that Pages 24 and 25 in the book provide a list the disciplines of the trainees who have been involved in disability studies coursework. These students come from diverse backgrounds and share a passion for serving individuals and communities with disabilities.

Sandy added that the meeting booklet contains bios of the site visitors and a discussion piece from Linden Marketing that will be the subject of discussion in today's meeting.

Consumer Advisory Council updates, Sandy Thiel, Chair

Sandy Thiel explained that the WIND CAC is composed mainly of self-advocates, family members and providers to promote inclusion state-wide. The CAC strives to represent families and advocates and give WIND a state-wide voice. The Council provides lived experience and expertise to WIND, collaborating with agencies and advocacy groups around disability issues and policy in the state of Wyoming. The diversity of members' experiences is an important strength. Sandy pointed out that the CAC's voice helps enrich the wide range of activities that WIND is engaged in.

Reporting on CAC activities over the past year, Sandy explained that the CAC developed a plain language, accessible brochure. Members were engaged in the Family to Family program, adding that as families ebb and flow through the lifecycle supporting individuals with disabilities, there are different needs. She pointed out that Council members can advocate for views from this perspective. Further, the CAC helped to raise awareness about WIND and its resources around the state. In some areas of the state, there are opportunities to improve awareness about WIND's resources. The CAC plays a key role in this effort. The CAC also played a role in crafting the 5-year plan for WIND.

Sandy indicated that in the coming months, the CAC will be examining issues like rural transit services for individuals with disabilities. This effort may require creative problem-solving and communication. The CAC will also engage in justice, equity, diversity and inclusion efforts to add its voice to other organizations and voices in the state. The CAC wants everyone to have representation and get the best out of their own life.

Following are overviews of guest presentations:

Linden Marketing and Communication, Joel and Maggie York and Alison Quinn

We are here to discuss our findings and listen to you about how we can serve WIND.

Linden is a full-service marketing company based in Fort Collins and Cheyenne. We do branding, strategy, creative, print and digital marketing. We are a small and nimble firm with strong expertise in what we do. Linden is engaged in a discovery process to get to know WIND and learn all we can. Our deliverables for WIND include

- A key findings report from our discovery process
- A marketing strategy
- Some brand identity recommendations
- Developing templates to refine the messaging and provide a cohesive identity moving forward.

Today is our final discovery meeting. In the coming weeks, Linden will conduct some independent research on partners, audiences, and community demographics to develop recommendations for WIND.

Open discussion about the discovery process:

David Jones, (ACL): At the federal level, one of the things we try to capture is the individual stories of individuals with disabilities, and this can be a powerful way to communicate what WIND does.

Site Visit information and Discussion, led by Dawn Rudolph and Danielle Webber

Dawn Rudolph, AUCD: I started work as a direct service provider, then at a DD Council and now at AUCD to work on issues at a national level. We wanted to share what we see as strengths of WIND as a UCEDD. I am incredibly impressed with the depth and breadth of WIND's programs, especially for a state with such a small population. The partnerships and relationships that WIND has established are deeply impressive. WIND is a connector, a convener, and a change maker for the state. Some of the things that are stunning to me is that there are so many services for a state with such a small population. With about \$5million per year in funding, WIND is exceeding expectations. There are UCEDDs in much larger states, with much fewer resources. WIND is a national model for the use of telehealth. Wyoming might have been the last state to get a UCEDD, but I have never seen a UCEDD grow, like WIND has under Sandy's leadership.

WIND is very active in committees and leadership with AUCD and SIGs to promote expertise and contributions coming from WIND. We are happy to be here and to help ensure the success of this UCEDD in the future.

David Jones, ACL: I joined ACL in 2020, and this is my first UCEDD site visit. A successful UCEDD is a knowledge engine. WIND is very successful at doing that because WIND is collaborative. WIND is like a glue that ties different areas together. WIND is also collaborative in the community, which makes WIND very special. I want to acknowledge Sandy's leadership. What WIND has done with telehealth and the ECHO model, has helped support the collective knowledge across all 68 UCEDDs, which ACL deeply values.

UCEDDs are charged with 4 key functions: (1) research, (2) education, (3) service, and (4) dissemination

I have seen how WIND has undertaken research and engaged stakeholders in that research.

WIND is just one of 25 UCEDDs with an academic unit within the university, which is very special.

I am so glad to see that you are thinking strategically about dissemination. I think highlighting individual stories is extremely important to conveying the message. Additionally, conveying the numbers and outcomes is important.

I have been impressed at how you have been able to leverage funds. The CAC is very passionate and committed, and it is great to see the DD network working together for a common goal.

Dan Crimmins,

Running a UCEDD is like running a non-profit inside a university. A UCEDD is highly entrepreneurial. We looked for opportunities to address needs and areas where we knew more about the topic than anyone else. How do we support people to lead the most complete, full lives they can?

WIND is ahead of the game on telehealth and the possibilities of ECHO of a model of support broadly. There is no story without data, and there is no data without a story. As long as those stories describe a situation people can relate to, and then the data can demonstrate the magnitude. We react to the personal, but we have to operate according to the evidence.

Dawn Rudolph, Strengths, Weaknesses and Opportunities.

Please provide things we can share as a site visit team. These ideas will be incorporated into a report that makes recommendations to WIND and the College of Health Sciences.

Danielle Webber,

Strengths:

Assistive Technology, Telehealth, ECHO

The willingness to go the extra mile

Practicum students in disabilities studies

Expertise, the people, the partnerships

Collaboration across the state

Representation from across the state

Ability to design projects to address needs

Challenges

Transportation

Cultural Diversity

Leadership succession

More education for medical staff working with adults with disabilities

CAC taking advantage of enough other resources

The capacity to get it done

Recruiting and retaining talent

Creating awareness

Follow up on joint projects

Maintaining relationships with turnover in funding and personnel

Limited resources and broadband access

DSP waiver

ECHO is still the best kept secret, could use stronger marketing to get the word out

Opportunities

Rates improving for providers

Alignment of messages

Disabilities studies

Self-Advocate support groups

Telework and employment

Self-Advocacy

Innovating new models for addressing needs

More fully engaging in different communities

Parent involvement

Partnerships to solve problems

Building collaborative research projects

Connecting students to communities

Help develop a time away respite program

Next meeting will be March 7, 2023, on campus.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:10pm.

WIND Consumer Advisory Council Member Directory

Sandra Thiel, Council Chair
Advocate
516 S. Thurmond Street
Sheridan, WY 82801
307-752-2794
Sandythiel58@gmail.com

Julie Andrew
Advocate
4441 E. 24th Street
Casper, WY 82609
(H) 307-265-6968; (C) 307-262-4947
sjandrew2@bresnan.net

Samantha Andrew
Self-Advocate
4441 E. 24th Street
Casper, WY 82609
(H) 307-265-6968; (C) 307-262-4947
sjandrew2@bresnan.net

Tammy Aumiller
Special Education Teacher
Albany County School District #1
509 S. 9th St.
Laramie, WY 82070
307-721-0103
taumiller@acsd1.org

Brandon Douglas
Advocate
107 Land 9 1/2
Powell, WY 82435
(307) 254-2273
bdouglas@primeres.com
brandondouglas23@gmail.com

Jennifer Figenser
Executive Director,
WY Parent Information Ctr.
145 N. 1st East Street
Green River, WY 82935
(H) 307-253-8934
(O) 970-260-1989
jfigenser@wpic.org

Thomas "Abe" Lentner, ad hoc member
Advocate
Wyoming Institute for Disabilities
1000 E. University Ave., #4298
Laramie, WY 82071
(307) 766-2813
tlentner@uwoyo.edu

Leo Levengood
Owner
Lions Pride Care
2617 E. Lincolnway, Suite J
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307) 274-7850
lionspridecare@yahoo.com

Bill McDonald
Advocate
1953 Edwards Drive, Unit A
Sheridan, WY 82801
(307) 751-3372
billymac@bresnan.net

Chele Mecomber Porter, ex officio member
Chair, Wyoming Assistive Technology Advisory
Committee
4675 Road 213
Burns, WY 82053
(307) 214-9925
rokoranch@gmail.com

Kylie Porter
Self-Advocate
4675 Road 213
Burns, WY 82053
(307) 214-9925
rokoranch@gmail.com

Lori Regnier
Senior Program Administrator
Protection & Advocacy
7344 Stockman Street
Cheyenne, WY 82009
(307) 632-9436
wypande@wypanda.com

Aleyta Zimmerman
Project Coordinator
Governor's Council on Developmental
Disabilities
320 W. 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307) 777-3339
aleyta.zimmerman@wyo.gov

WIND Advisory Committee Member Directory

Jacob Warren, Ph.D., Chair
Dean, College of Health Sciences
University of Wyoming
1000 E. University Avenue, Dept. 3432
Laramie, WY 82071
(307) 766-3495
jacob.warren@uwyo.edu

Amy Burns
Executive Director
Wyoming Independent Living
1050 N. 3rd St., Suite B1
Laramie, WY 82072
(307) 721-4071
aburns@wilr.org

Shannon Buller
Executive Director
Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities
320 W. 25th Street, 1 East
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-7332
Shannon.Buller@wyo.gov

Kayc DeMaranville
Vice President, Education
Ark Regional Services
1150 N. 3rd Street
Laramie, WY 82072
(307) 742-6641
kayc@arkrs.org

Valerie Thompson-Ebanks
Acting Dept. Head, Division of Social Work
University of Wyoming
1000 E. University Ave., Dept. 3632
Laramie, WY 82071
(307) 766-5639
vthomps4@uwyo.edu

Jeff Gardner
Executive Director
Wyoming Community Service Providers
P.O. Box 2990
Cheyenne, WY 82003
(307) 760-8137
jeff@wyomingcsp.org

Lee Grossman
Administrator, Developmental Disabilities
Section
Behavioral Health Division
Wyoming Department of Health
6101 Yellowstone Road, Suite 220
Cheyenne, WY 82009
(307) 777-7460
lee.grossman1@wyo.gov

Zebadiah Hall
Vice President for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
University of Wyoming
1000 E. University Ave., Dept. 3434
Laramie, WY 82071
(307) 766-6672
zhall2@uwyo.edu

Nicky Harper
Administrator, WY Division of Vocational Rehab
851 Werner Court, #120
Casper, WY 82609
(307) 261-2171
nicky.harper@wyo.gov

Ann Marie Hart, Ph.D.
Professor, DNP Program Director
Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing
University of Wyoming
1000 E. University Ave., Dept. 3065
Laramie, WY 82071
(307) 766-6564
annmhart@uwyo.edu

Tiffany Hunt, Ph.D.
Assoc. Lecturer, College of Education
University of Wyoming
1000 E. University Ave., Dept. 3374
Laramie, WY 82071
thunt@uwyo.edu

Christina McDonnell, Ph.D.
Asst. Professor, Dept. of Psychology
University of Wyoming
1000 E. University Ave., Department 3415
Laramie, WY 82071
(307) 766-4106
christina.mcdonnell@uwyo.edu

WIND Advisory Committee Member Directory

Danielle Marks, MSW, MPH
Senior Policy Advisor
Wyoming Department of Family Services
2300 Capitol Avenue, Hathaway Building
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-7734
danielle.marks1@wyo.gov

Margee Robertson
Special Education Programs Division Director
WY Dept. of Education
122 W. 25th St., Suite E200
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-2870
margee.robertson@wyo.gov

Sandy Root-Elledge, ad hoc member
Executive Director
Wyoming Institute for Disabilities
1000 E. University Ave., Dept. 4298
(307) 766-2764
sre@uwyo.edu

Feliciana Turner
Unit Manager, Maternal and Child Health Unit
Public Health Division
122 West 25th Street, 3rd Floor West
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-3733 (office)
feliciana.turner@wyo.gov

Wyoming Institute for Disabilities Faculty and Staff Meeting Participants

Betsy Bress
Coordinator, Information Dissemination
(307) 766-2561
bbress@uwyo.edu

Canyon Hardesty
WIND Associate Director
Director, Community Education, Training
(307) 766-5003
canyon@uwyo.edu

Sandy Hubert
Coordinator, Consumer Advisory Council
(307) 766-2935
shubert1@uwyo.edu

Michelle Jarman, Ph.D.
Director, Disability Studies
(307) 766-5060
mjarman@uwyo.edu

Thomas "Abe" Lentner
Business Manager
(307) 766-2813
tlentner@uwyo.edu

Eric Moody, Ph.D.
WIND Associate Director
Director, Research and Evaluation
(307) 766-2932
eric.moody@uwyo.edu

Kayleigh Edgar
Office Associate, Senior
(307) 766-2995
kscherm1@uwyo.edu

Wyoming Institute for Disabilities

Five Year Plan, 2022-2027

Abstract

The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities at the University of Wyoming will improve the education, early intervention, health and wellness, employment, and assistive technology outcomes of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families throughout the five-year project period, 2022-27. Our **mission** is to assist individuals with developmental and other disabilities and their families by promoting and supporting full community inclusion, community membership, independence, productivity and social participation. Project goals include: 1) providing interdisciplinary, family curriculum in leadership; 2) educating undergraduate and graduate students in disability studies; 3) providing training to professionals and communities; 4) providing best-practices based services; 5) conducting basic and applied research, evaluation and/or public policy analysis; 6) disseminating knowledge-based and accessible information; and 7) ensuring our business practices support diversity, equity and inclusion. Anticipated **outcomes** related to the goals include increasing: 1) the percentage of URLEND and Disability Studies students from underrepresented populations; 2) knowledge, attitude, and skills of undergraduate, graduate, post-graduate students; 3) the number of faculty engaged in the disability studies academic program; 4) the number of collaborations in Wyoming, other states and globally; 5) knowledge, skills and use of best-practices among professionals; 6) diversity among trainees; 7) telehealth capacity in Wyoming; 8) the number of topics for which technical assistance is provided; 9) the number research proposals, funding awards and dissemination of findings; 10) engagement of our Consumer Advisory Council with program development, implementation, and evaluation; 11) the number of accessible products produced and disseminated; and 12) procurement and dollars awarded to contractors from underserved populations.

Featured Staff Member Tai Baker, M.S.

Meet Tai Baker, the health emphasis program manager at WIND. Tai joined the team in 2019 managing a variety of programs at WIND, including Project SCOPE, a program supporting children of the opioid epidemic; the Equality State Research Network, Wyoming's community, and practice-based research network; and the Wyoming Telehealth Network. In addition, Tai works with ECHO networks across health and education and supports the implementation of networks across the nation. Tai graduated with a B.S in Criminal Justice and Psychology from the University of Wyoming and a M.S. in Health Service Administration through the School of Pharmacy from the University of Wyoming.

"I'm passionate about the rural and public health work that our programs engage in, especially working with the community partners across the state, allowing us to be successful and truly making an impact on people's lives in Wyoming," adds Tai.

Prior to joining WIND, Tai worked for four years at Albany County, Wyoming as the Grants Manager; overseeing all state and federal funding to support County infrastructure, program development and management. Additionally, Tai worked for six years at the Wyoming Department of Health implementing core public health programs throughout Wyoming, specifically in communicable disease prevention.

Tai is a proud Laramie resident and loves to find adventure with her family of five; whether it's camping in the Snowy Range or traveling the world. During her spare time Tai serves on a variety of community committees including Laramie Main Street Organization, the Pilot Hill Land Purchase Finance Committee, and she is an alum of Leadership Laramie.

"Wyoming has been my home almost my entire life. I love Laramie and I love the state, and it's a privilege to be able to do what I do."



New WIND Faculty and Staff

Brittany Brigham is a Project Coordinator with the Project ECHO health emphasis team. She graduated from the University of Wyoming in 2015 with her bachelor's degree in psychology and social sciences, and then graduated with her master's degree in social work from Colorado State University in 2019. Prior to joining the WIND team, Brittany worked as a Learning and Development Specialist at an insurance company where she assisted with delivering trainings and creating eLearning materials.



Ally Dudley is a Research Associate II for the WIND Research team. She received her B.A. in Counseling Psychology and Social and Behavioral Sciences from Morningside University in 2020 and her M.A. in Clinical Psychology from Minnesota State University, Mankato in 2022. Her work at WIND includes program evaluation and statistical analysis for Project ECHO and Wyoming Telehealth Network, along with supporting WIND's research agenda.

Emily Kirsch is a Project Coordinator, Senior at WIND, working primarily with the health emphasis programs. Emily earned her B.S. in public health from Saint Louis University's College of Public Health and Social Justice in Missouri. Before joining WIND, she spent multiple summers providing direct care to youth with autism and served as the medical coordinator and volunteer coordinator at a children's home in rural Honduras serving children and young adults who had experienced extreme trauma.

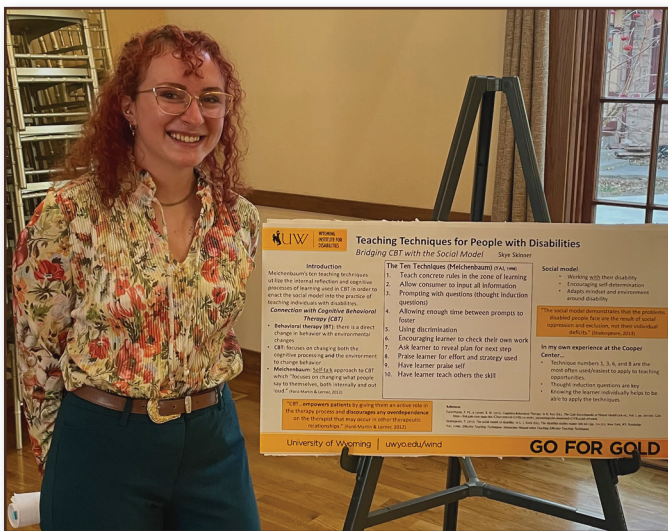
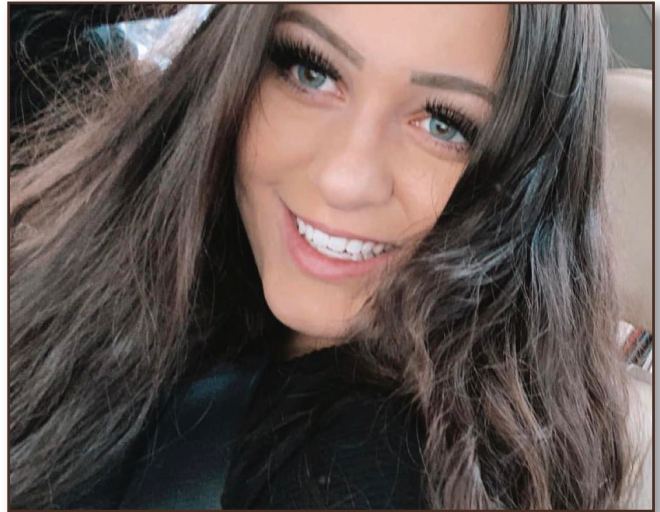


Featured Disability Studies Minor Students

In November of 2022, the College of Health Sciences, participated in two nationally-recognized events to celebrate UW students. The First Generation College Celebration was held on November 8, recognizing first generation students at the University of Wyoming. National Rural Health Day was November 17, honoring students from the region committed to rural health care work. WIND took to social media, honoring several disability studies minor students and their accomplishments within the College of Health Sciences.

Hannah Olin is a senior from Stasburg, Colorado, and is a speech, hearing, and language sciences major and disability studies minor. Sharing her thoughts on UW during the First-Generation College Celebration, Hannah notes, "It was important for me to come to the University of Wyoming because I knew that the university could provide me with the environment I needed to succeed in my studies, as well as foster my passion for helping others through healthcare.

I want to make a difference working with disabled individuals in rural and underserved communities where healthcare may not be accessible. As I near my last semester, this goal is closer than ever and I couldn't be more excited and grateful to the University of Wyoming for the opportunities that I have been given!"



Skye Skinner is a senior from Cheyenne, majoring in social work and with a double minor in disability studies and psychology. Speaking on National Rural Health Day, Skye shared, "I was drawn to a career in Health Sciences because I think it is so important to help people thrive and push through whatever hurdles that may come up in their lives while still reaching the goals they have set for themselves. If people don't get the assistance they may need at first, we have all seen how easy it is to fall behind where we want to be.

My favorite part of my hometown, Cheyenne, is that no matter where I go, someone will always ask how I am doing. And since I lived there most of my life, chances are I saw someone I knew almost everywhere I go which is both a blessing and a curse."

Keith A. Miller Award - 2022

Chele Porter



Chele Porter was nominated by her two daughters, Kylie and Eylisch and her husband Doug. Chele has had many roles in her work with WIND. She and Kylie have been members of the WIND Consumer Advisory Council since 2018. She has also been a member of the Wyoming Technology Access Program (WYTAP) advisory committee since the program was launched in 2003, the Wyoming AgrAbility advisory committee for the 6 years of the program duration, and the Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources (WATR) program advisory committee for over ten years, including serving as the chairperson most recently. Chele's nominations were a tribute to how vast and impactful the scope of her work has been over the years.

In a six-week time period in 1994, Chele became the caregiver of a niece who received a traumatic brain injury in a car accident, and the mother of an infant who had a stroke at birth. Since then, Chele has fought on all fronts for better services, supports, and opportunities for individuals with disabilities, while at the same time, gaining greater understanding of the unique needs of her own family members with disabilities.

Chele has been a parent coordinator, patient educator, a certified Red Cross instructor, as well as a school district educator and paraprofessional. She has been recognized by the Laramie County Library System, the Laramie County 4-H Organization, the Cheyenne Little Theatre, and the Cheyenne Civic Center as an extraordinary volunteer for her work on inclusion for the disability community.

She has volunteered in a myriad of ways in her community and has also advocated to the Wyoming governor and legislature for legislation to support people with disabilities and assistive technology users. As noted in her nomination letter, "She is a devoted volunteer and advocate, and she always has a voice available to lend to those who are in need of one."

Keith A. Miller Award - 2022 Jeff Gardner

Jeff Gardner was selected for the 2022 Keith A. Miller Award for being a force fighting for people with disabilities. Jeff Gardner was nominated by Bob Sell, Tina Conley, Michaela Rank, and Shawn Griffin - all directors or CEOs of Wyoming organizations providing community-based services for people with developmental disabilities in Wyoming.

While Jeff sits on the WIND advisory committee, his nominations recognize the breadth of his service and advocacy contributions on behalf of people with developmental disabilities, including case managers and direct support professionals, striving for full community inclusion and independence.



Jeff has been working in the field since 1989, including at ARK Regional Services in Laramie. He is currently the CEO of Magic City Enterprises in Cheyenne. He has served as the executive director of the Wyoming Community Service Providers and in advisory and leadership roles on the Wyoming Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, Wyoming Protection & Advocacy System, Inc., the Wyoming Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council, and the WIND advisory committee. He has also worked closely with the Wyoming Department of Health Home and Community Based section to improve waiver services and supports, funding, rule development and advocacy issues.

Jeff has also served with national organizations committed to improving the lives of people with disabilities. Notes Bob Sell in his nomination letter, "The last few years have been the most challenging I have seen since joining this field. Most providers, families and people served have no idea how much Jeff did for them over the past year. Increases in funding, improvements in policies, better communication, broad awareness of the overwhelming needs of people, and statewide advocacy are just a few of the successes Jeff has influenced."

The Wyoming Institute of Disabilities has dedicated our annual award to its founder, Dr. Keith A. Miller. Professor Miller received his Ph.D. from Bowling Green State University and worked for many years at the University of Wyoming in Social Work before he began laying the groundwork for a University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) in 1986. After several years of planning, the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities was officially launched in November 1994, and Dr. Miller served as the director until his retirement in 2007.

Keith A. Miller built his career upon the philosophy that everyone should help communities become more welcoming and supportive of people with disabilities. In his words, "We are an interdependent community; we all rely on others. We all have abilities; we all have disabilities, it's a natural part of life."

It is Dr. Miller's spirit of dedication and desire for excellence in being "a force fighting for people with disabilities" that has inspired the Keith A. Miller Award.

WIND Project Directory

Disability Studies: Undergraduate Minor

Michelle Jarman, Alison Harkin

Disability studies is a diverse interdisciplinary field that investigates broad questions about the nature, meanings, and consequences of disability from interrelated social, historical, cultural, and political perspectives. The undergraduate minor in Disability Studies examines disability issues from multiple theoretical frameworks.

Equality State Research Network

Eric Moody, Canyon Hardesty, Tai Baker, Amy Rieser, Liberty Hicks

The Equality State Research Network (ESRN) is a statewide network committed to engaging in community-based research to improve the overall health of Wyoming residents. The ESRN incorporates community engagement, quality improvement, and scientific inquiry.

Expansion of COVID-19 Vaccine Access for People with Disabilities

Sandy Root-Elledge, Eric Moody, Canyon Hardesty

As a UCEDD, WIND was allocated funding to increase access to vaccines for individuals with disabilities. WIND is partnering with the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities to conduct a statewide study of pandemic and vaccine impacts, perceptions and issues.

Friendships and Dating

Canyon Hardesty, Amy Rieser

WIND's Sexual and Reproductive Health Training for Individuals with Disabilities is designed to decrease rates of pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (STI), and interpersonal relationship violence and measure changes in relationships and social networks among individuals with disabilities.

iCan Connect

Ryan Rausch

Wyoming's iCanConnect program provides communications technology free of charge to income eligible people of all ages who have combined vision and hearing loss. This program will distribute communications equipment to qualified individuals and provide equipment installation, training, and support to help recipients make the most of this technology.

Inventory of Client and Agency Planning (ICAP)

Christian Carter

The ICAP is a standardized measure that yields an estimate of a person's adaptive functioning, the extent of behavior problems that may limit his or her inclusion in various settings, as well as a systematic review of all available evaluation data. ICAP scores are used by the Wyoming Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities Division as part of the basis for determining eligibility for funding within the Developmental Disabilities service system. The Developmental Disabilities Division contracts with WIND to conduct ICAP interviews throughout the state and is responsible for conducting initial, emergency, and continuing eligibility interviews.

Project SCOPE

Sandy Root-Elledge, Canyon Hardesty, Eric Moody, Tai Baker, Amy Rieser

Project SCOPE: Supporting Children of the OPIoid Epidemic, is a national training initiative intended to build nationwide provider capacity and confidence in applying evidence-based practices in screening, monitoring, and interdisciplinary support for children and families diagnosed with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome, or who are suspected of being impacted by opioid use, trauma, or related exposure. WIND partners with the Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University and the University of Cincinnati Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities for this project.

Research and Evaluation

Eric Moody

At the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities, we are committed to the improvement of our programs through continuous evaluation as well as learning how to better improve the lives of those with disabilities through novel, empirical research. WIND's Research and Evaluation team examines important real-world issues through an interdisciplinary lens, combining applied psychological, statistical, educational, medical, and public health approaches to find solutions to these problems.

University of Wyoming ECHO

Sandy Root-Elledge, Canyon Hardesty, Eric Moody, Tai Baker, Cari Glantz, Emily Kirsch

UW ECHO networks are hub-and-spoke knowledge-sharing communities led by experienced teams using multi-point videoconferencing to conduct virtual sessions with stakeholders across the state. These virtual learning communities provide educators, service providers, case managers, administrators, families, and others access to expert advice from professionals throughout the state and country, building capacity in home communities to implement best practices and improve outcomes.

Utah Regional Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and other Disabilities (URLEND)

Canyon Hardesty

LEND is a nationally recognized group of trainees, gaining valuable experience in the disabilities field through participation in the program. URLEND at Wyoming Institute for Disabilities provides leadership and skill building opportunities for Wyoming graduate-level pre-professionals and professionals. Each year, student and professional trainees from a variety of health-related disciplines participate in a training program to increase their knowledge and skills in providing services and supports to children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families.

WIND Consumer Advisory Council

Sandy Hubert

Members of the WIND Consumer Advisory Council, over half of whom are individuals with a disability or family members, consult with the WIND Executive Director regarding the development of the UCEDD's five-year plan, reviews, and comments annually on WIND's progress in meeting the projected goals, and makes recommendations to the WIND Executive Director regarding proposed revisions to the five-year plan.

WyRamp Project

Ryan Rausch

The WyRamp Project, a collaboration between the Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources, Wyoming Life Resource Center, and Goshen County Senior Friendship Center, covering Lander, Laramie, and Torrington provides access to a person's home through the use of temporary ramps, increasing both safety and access.

Wyoming Accessibility Center (WAC)

Sandy Root-Elledge, Canyon Hardesty, Ryan Rausch, Terri Wofford

The Wyoming Accessibility Center (WAC) provides fee-for-services training, technical assistance, services, and assessments to improve the accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

Wyoming Accessible Education Materials (AEM) Clearinghouse

Canyon Hardesty, Ryan Rausch, Shelby Kappler

The Wyoming AEM Clearinghouse works with school districts in Wyoming to provide accessible educational materials to students with print disabilities. We are a designated state authorized user for a federally funded, national repository of accessible educational materials. The Wyoming AEM Clearinghouse can access the repository and provide the source files to districts. The Clearinghouse can help identify resources to convert the source files into individualized formats, appropriate for student access.

Wyoming Act Early

Canyon Hardesty, Peg Monteith

From birth to 5 years there are milestones a child should reach in terms of how he or she plays, learns, speaks, acts, and moves. Act Early Wyoming helps parents, health care professionals, and childcare providers learn about healthy developmental milestones. Enhanced awareness of the developmental milestones leads to more timely assessments, earlier diagnosis, and referrals for early intervention.

Wyoming AgrAbility

Sandy Root-Elledge, Ryan Rausch

Wyoming AgrAbility is an affiliate of the National AgrAbility Project through the United States Department of Agriculture that provides outreach, disability information, coordination of services and on-site assessments. The program is focused on promoting independence for members of the agricultural community who have disabilities resulting from injury, illness, aging, or other causes.

Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources (WATR)

Sandy Root-Elledge, Canyon Hardesty, Ryan Rausch, Terri Wofford, Gisele Knopf, Shelby Kappler and Gayl Bowser

Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources (WATR) is Wyoming's Assistive Technology Act program, established through the AT Act of 1998, as amended in 2004, to increase awareness and access to assistive technology. WATR provides assistive technology training and technical assistance, public awareness, device loans and device demonstrations.

Wyoming Family to Family Health Information Center (WY F2F HIC)

Eric Moody, Canyon Hardesty, Cari Glantz

WY F2F HIC helps provide families of children and youth with special health care needs need greater access to evidence-based and cost-effective health information, family supports, and training to promote optimal health and patient engagement in health care decision making. All information, training, family support, professional education, and advocacy is facilitated through family-professional partnerships that allow families, children, and youth with special health care needs to increase their ability to make appropriate health decisions to improve their quality of life and be satisfied with the information and care received.

Wyoming Information Link for Developmental Disabilities

Sandy Root-Elledge

The Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities, Protection & Advocacy System, Inc., and the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) are sister organizations authorized under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act. The Administration on Developmental Disabilities/ Administration on Children and Families provides funding to each of these organizations. In Wyoming, the three agencies work together to provide a comprehensive array of supports to people with developmental disabilities, family members, providers and state agencies. Each agency brings a unique perspective on services and supports for people with disabilities and is required under federal law to address specific areas of concern. WILDD fosters communication and information exchange among the three organizations. Directors of the three agencies meet monthly to identify and address state priorities, emerging needs, and immediate issues.

Wyoming Technology Access Program

Sandy Root-Elledge, Gisele Knopf

WYTAP is a partnership among Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources (WATR), Wyoming Independent Living, Inc. (WIL), and First Interstate Bank of Laramie to provide a financial loan program for individuals to purchase assistive technology devices and services. WYTAP buys down the interest rate to lower than the current prime rate.

Wyoming Telehealth Network

Canyon Hardesty, Tai Baker, Andrea Shipley, Brittany Bringham

The Wyoming Telehealth Network supports healthcare entities, providers, and specialists increase access to care and improve health outcomes for Wyoming residents, through professional development, collaboration, and leveraging of telecommunications technology.