

School Community Engagement 2011-2012 Annual Report Wyoming School-University Partnership

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Delaney Powell and Shelbey Prusia helped prepare the first meal for Torrington's community meal program that they call *Comfort Kitchen*.

History of the Initiative

The school-community engagement initiative began in July, 2011. The project's ultimate goal is to expand the idea of empowering youth to improve their communities throughout the Wyoming School-University Partnership and eventually across the NNER.

Three schools in Wyoming participated in the pilot program - Worland High School, Torrington Middle School, and Pinedale High School. John Anderson, former high school social studies teacher and political science professor, facilitates the project. John cofounded a similar project funded by the University of Nebraska Foundation involving seven Nebraska schools and their communities before bringing it to Wyoming.

To help build relationships across these school districts, the teachers, the students, and the university, University of Wyoming partners were asked to aid the students in finding ways to achieve their goals.

Torrington Middle School

Sarah Williams' and Mary Werner's Inquiry Class of 35 students partnered with Mary Kay Wardlaw, the director of UW's Cent\$ible Nutrition program. This class of outstanding middle school students has been working hard to start a community meal program.

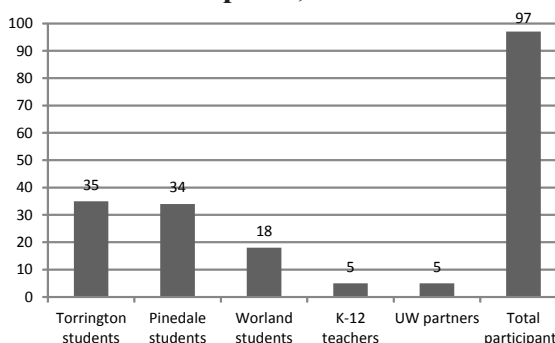
Pinedale High School

Rose DeNinno's Advisory Class consisting of 14 students and Jasper Warembourg's Humanities Class of 20 students worked to get a new statue of their school mascot built and installed at their playing fields. They are also engaged in constructing a bike path to an underserved area of the county, and plan to develop a youth night to serve as a pilot for a young adult center. They've been partnering with Terry Burant, Assistant Professional Lecturer for UW's Department of Educational Studies in the College of Education.

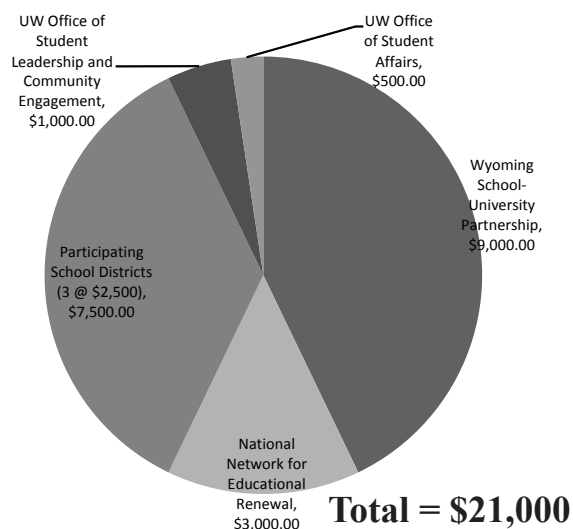
Worland High School

Kitsy Barnes' Biological Field Studies Class of 18 students is involved in improving Riverside Park in Worland over the next five years. Recommendations and help came from UW partners, Greg Brown, director, Dorothy Tuthill, associate director, and Brenna Wanous, office associate, from the Berry Biodiversity Conservation Center. The students have already removed invasive species and planted willows by the Big Horn River for bank stabilization.

Participants, 2011-2012



Support for the Initiative, 2011-2012



The initiative is gearing up for another year, with big plans to continue working in those three Wyoming communities. All three schools have applied to present what they're learning at the upcoming NNER 2012 Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado. And, donations have already begun for the 2012-2013 school year with a \$750 contribution from the UW Office of Student Leadership and Community Engagement.

To read more about the initiative and see pictures and videos of the students in action visit <http://www.uwyo.edu/wsup/community-engagement/weather-reports.html>