

WYOMING SCHOOL UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP
2004 NNER SETTING ANNUAL REPORT

Setting: Wyoming School University Partnership
Setting Contact: Ed Paradis
Setting Tripartite Representatives: Janet Constantinides, Patricia McClurg and Ray Schulte
(other major contributors: Jim Lowham and Richard Luchsinger)

Setting highlights on progress toward:

Promoting and conducting comprehensive research related to the Agenda for Education in Democracy

1. Reestablishment of the Teacher Policy Institute.
2. Determining what a school looks like when holding to the four tenants of the NNER agenda.
3. Wyoming Collaborative Mentorship Academy.
4. Middle-Level Mathematics Initiative.

Influencing policy

1. Community Conversations Task force will conduct dinner meetings with community leaders to increase knowledge addressing the NNER agenda.
2. Partnership members participate on the Wyoming Assessment Coalition.
3. Partnership members participate on the Executive Boards of the Wyoming Association of School Administrators and the Wyoming School Boards Association.
4. A Partnership member chairs the Inducting and Mentoring New Teachers Task Force established by the WDE.
5. Partnership members participate in state assessment discussions conducted by the WDE.
6. Partnership members participate on the Standards Setting Task Force established by the WDE.
7. Partnership members participate on the Professional Teaching Standards Board.
8. A Partnership member participates on the Wyoming Education Planning and Coordination Council.
9. A Partnership member participates on the Education Commission of the States.

Collaboration with other organizations

1. Collaboration with the Ellbogen Foundation project to increase opportunities for national board certification of Wyoming teachers.
2. Collaboration with the Wyoming School Boards Association to offer a WSUP/NNER information session at the state conference.

3. Collaboration with the Wyoming Department of Education to conduct a WSUP/NNER reception at state School Improvement Conference.
4. Collaboration with faculty in the UW Department of Educational Leadership to consider infusing NNER agenda concepts into degree program curricula.

The NNER statement on equity

1. Statement approved by WSUP governing board 2003.
2. Projects listed under comprehensive research deal with equity.

Reflection on gaps in these areas and challenges facing the setting in addressing them

1. Gap/challenge in comprehensive research projects
 - a. Partnership school districts are often not the districts participating and benefiting from the project.
 - b. The Partnership needs to identify a reasonable number of projects to actively promote.
2. Gap/challenge in influencing policy
 - a. Partnership members are involved in policy influencing through other organizations, but the Partnership, as a unit, should identify policies to influence.
3. Gap/challenge in collaboration with other organizations
 - a. This area seems stronger showing several collaborations.
4. Gap/challenge in the NNER statement on equity
 - a. This area needs examination to determine a focus for Partnership concerns.
5. A challenge is maintaining an informed membership as new personnel replace those who leave. The difficulty is providing sufficient background for those joining the Partnership.
6. We face challenges associated with a statewide purpose and mission supported by a single university in the state.

General reflections on work related to the four-part mission

Reflections are not available at this time.

Highlights of initiatives, changes, and updates within the setting, names and contact information for those working on initiatives

1. Five task forces were formed in April 2004 to plan strategies for furthering the work of the WSUP.
 - a. Community Conversations Task Force will provide a forum for community leaders to increase knowledge addressing the NNER agenda.
 - i. Members: Jim Lowham, Gary McDowell and Ray Shulte

- b. Conferences Task Force will inform stakeholders of the Wyoming School-University Partnership's mission and goals, projects underway, and future plans. Within this information the purpose for the NNER will also be explained.
 - i. Members: Janet Constantinides, Jim Lowham, Rick Luchsinger, Patricia McClurg, and Ray Shulte
 - c. Infusing the NNER Agenda Task Force will infuse the NNER agenda through the development of Wyoming's participation in the League of Small Democratic Schools and by examining programs in the Department of Educational Leadership for the purpose of increasing the NNER agenda in those programs.
 - i. Members: William Berube, Kelly Carroll, Margaret Hudson, and Jeannie Surface
 - d. Study Group Task Force will create a means for interested participants to increase depth of knowledge related to education in a democracy. The result will be a larger core group of individuals with in-depth knowledge.
 - i. Audrey Kleinsasser, Ed Paradis and Allen Trent
 - e. Teacher Internship Task Force will serve as liaisons for the purpose of maximizing the benefits of the internships/pre-service experiences for students among participating PLC's, the participating CTL's, the participating districts, the College of Education and the College of Arts and Sciences.
 - i. The Teacher Internship Task Force consists of one representative from each of the WSUP partner districts (paying members), the Department Chairs of Elementary and Secondary Education and one representative from the college of Arts and Sciences. The superintendent makes district appointments; the deans of the respective colleges make other appointments.
2. Colleges of A&S and Education are collaboratively developing cross-college majors. Contacts: Janet Constantinides and Kay Persichitte.