

**NNER SETTING ANNUAL REPORT  
2005 – 2006**

**SETTING NAME** WYOMING SCHOOL-UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

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You may wish to type your answers directly into this template. The report should be approximately 3 to 5 single-spaced pages and address the following topics.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS TOWARD:**

**Promoting and Conducting Comprehensive Research Related to the Agenda for Education in a Democracy (AED)**

To date, we are not engaged in comprehensive research.

With Jane Nelson, submitted a FIPSE proposal. *Examining Pivotal Junctures in Student Learning, Grades 8-14: An Inquiry-based Secondary and Postsecondary Faculty Professional Development Model*. Submitted to the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education. \$503,389.00. (not funded, 10-10-06)

## **Influencing Local and/or National Policy**

- Summer and Fall, 2005; governing board invited three legislators and later, the superintendent of public instruction to participate in a board conversation around the issue of student contact hours.
- Purchased and sent copies of the Education Commission of the States' document, *Prisoners of Time* to all Governing Board members and the superintendent of public instruction.
- Sent copies of *Prisoners of Time* with cover letter to members of the Wyoming Legislature's Joint Education Committee (14 packets).
- Testified (five members of governing board and director) about work of the Wyoming Partnership to the Joint Education Committee September 20, 2006, showing a 10-minute edited version of the 2004 BYU NNER tape and fielded questions.
- Collaborated with the academic affairs deans at the university and community colleges and Wyoming Department of Education to spearhead a K-16 high school to higher education articulation in biology. Work is also starting in mathematics and language arts. This work affects curriculum, instruction, and assessment by inviting a conversation around issues important to teaching faculty at all levels and administrators.
- Celebrated the Partnership's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a joint Wyoming-Colorado conference in Cheyenne, October 12-13. Approximately 125 participated. Attendees received a copy of keynote speaker Larry Cuban's *The Blackboard and the Bottom Line: Why Schools Aren't Businesses*. Other plenary speakers included Christine Sleeter and Carmen Mendecino, "Forging Partnerships for Multicultural Education." We also recognized and honored some of the Partnerships' foundational leaders: Cal Fraser (now deceased), Carol Wilson, Lynn Simons, Wayne Porter, and Ed Paradis.
- Reinstated the Wyoming Leadership Associates Program with a sixth cohort of 18 representing K-12, community college, and the University of Wyoming. The work was funded with \$25,000 from the Sublette County School District. We invited author and naturalist Terry Tempest Williams to join the group at its March 23-24, 2006 Evanston meetings. Participants read her book, *The Open Space of Democracy*. We used *Education for Everyone* as the study text. We received another \$25,000 from Sublette for 2006-2007 and will focus the leadership development program in Professional Learning Community sites in five counties: Albany, Fremont, Natrona, Sheridan, and Sweetwater (seven districts). These districts have signed memoranda of agreements for concentrated field placements for student teachers.
- Supported the participation of five educators at the NNER Summer Symposium, July 25-29 in Seattle: Audrey Shalinsky, Associate Dean, UW Arts & Sciences; Sylvia Parker, UW Science & Math Teaching Center; Tim Blum, UW Prep School; Marty Wood, Torrington High School; Jean Davies, Laramie #1, Cheyenne.
- Participated in the *Leaders for Teacher Preparing Schools* initiative. This initiative focuses on high needs districts. Fremont #14 qualified. Principal Pam Fredricks participated during the 2005-2006 school year and Principals Owen Sinclair and Philip Garhart are participating during 2006-2007. Participants travel to Seattle four times during the year for intensive study sessions. Superintendent Michelle Hoffman also attended the July 28-30, 2006 meetings in Seattle with Pam and Audrey Kleinsasser.
- Kay Persichitte, Director of Teacher Education, worked with her counterpart in the College of Arts & Sciences and others to formalize and finalize a total of 15 secondary concurrent majors

between the two colleges. The Office of Academic Affairs viewed this work as one of the university's most important achievements of the 2005-2006 academic year.

### **Collaborating with Other Organizations to Advance the AED**

- K-16 articulation (biology, math, language arts) with UW's Arts and Science College, the Wyoming Community College Commission (all seven Wyoming colleges), the Wyoming Department of Education, the Wyoming Education Association.
- Provided the administrative home to the National Board Certification for Teachers, the Teacher Policy Institute, and the Wyoming Leadership Academy.
- Partnership received \$15,000,000 from the UW President's Office (plus budget funds) to further K-16 transition work.

### **Forwarding the NNER Statement on Equity**

- Nominated the Shepard Symposium for Social Justice for the NNER's Nicholas Michelli Award for Promoting Social Justice and is the 2006 recipient.
- Over the 2005-2006 academic year, the College of Education dean's office and leadership council worked together to launch a college-wide assessment of our strengths and challenges related to diversity issues. Dr. Patricia Romney and Dr. Rita Hardiman (Romney & Associates) have been to Laramie several times. To date, they have met with the Leadership Council (Spring 2006) and have conducted a series of focus groups and individual interviews (Fall 2006). Additional information about their organization can be found at <http://www.romneyassociates.com/>.

### **Engaging the Community to Advance Educational Renewal**

- Submitted a proposal to and was accepted for participation in the Education, Journalism, and the Public Good meetings, October 26-29, 2006 in Bend, Oregon. Participants include Jim Angell, Wyoming Press Association director; Barbara Deshler, UW Prep School middle school teacher, Jenni Dillon, Natrona County School District community relations facilitator; and Audrey Kleinsasser, partnership director. The team is planning events for early 2007 to occur with the Wyoming Press Association's annual conference and the Spring meeting of the Wyoming School Improvement Conference.
- Invited community members to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Wyoming-Colorado Partnership Conference, Cheyenne, Wyoming, October 12-13, 2006.
- Collaborated with the UW Office of Academic Affairs and others to complete a proposal in response to WICHE's State Scholars Initiative. Four Partnership districts (Fremont #25, Natrona #1, Niobrara #1, Sheridan #2) will partner with four businesses and the university to further develop a K-16 council over the next two years. Submitted November 6, \$300,000.

### **GAPS OR CHALLENGES FACED IN:**

### **Promoting and Conducting Comprehensive Research Related to the Agenda for Education in a Democracy (AED)**

We are looking forward to this challenge, particularly in the context of K-16 articulation work.

### **Influencing Local and/or National Policy**

Interactions with legislative committees over the last year have been positive. We will continue to look for ways to inform this group about our work.

### **Collaborating with Other Organizations to Advance the AED**

The Partnership is poised to provide leadership for K-16 articulation in the content areas, also play a role in strengthening Wyoming's extant K-16 education council (WEPCC).

### **Forwarding the NNER Statement on Equity**

Our site has always focused on this issue, perhaps not with a focus on the NNER's particular needs or challenges, however. The NNER Statement on Equity is not on the minds of people here.

Will participate in the University of Hawaii at Manoa's *First Annual Think Tank Series on Diversity* by supporting the participation of Francisco Rios (College of Education) and Meredith McLaughlin (UW Prep School teacher). Other WY attendees include Carmelita "Rosie" Castaneda and Tim Blum.

### **Engaging the Community to Advance Educational Renewal**

We are poised, through the leadership associates program and the journalism and education initiative to engage the community more visibly and actively. Another opportunity occurs through the League of Small Democratic Schools' initiative.

#### **OTHER SETTING INFORMATION:**

(Provide any additional information, highlights of current initiatives, challenges at the setting, changes in personnel, etc., not included above.)

#### **Executive Board**

Jim Lowham	Superintendent, Natrona #1, (Chair)
Trish Cook	Assistant Superintendent, Converse #1 (Chair-Elect)
Ray Schulte	Superintendent, Goshen #1 (Past Chair)
Pat McClurg	Dean, College of Education, UW
Audrey Shalinsky	Associate Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, UW

Membership reflects approximately 70% of the K-12 students in Wyoming and 30% of the school districts.

Albany #1, Campbell #1, Converse #1, Fremont #14, Fremont #25, Goshen #1, Hot Springs #1, Laramie #1, Natrona #1, Niobrara #1, Platte #2, Sheridan #2, Sublette #1, Sweetwater #1, Uinta #1, Washakie #1

Wyoming Community College Commission  
Wyoming Department of Education  
Wyoming Education Association  
University of Wyoming, Colleges of Arts & Sciences and Education

Dues Structure, 2006-2007 (adopted April 2006)

\$2,000	individual school district
\$2,000	College of Arts & Sciences; Community College Commission, Wyoming Education Association
\$4,500	Wyoming Department of Education

The College of Education supports the executive director's salary and the .5 time office associate's salary. It also provides office space for the Partnership.

**Current Projects and Initiatives**

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, October 12-13, 2006, Cheyenne Holiday Inn

Co-hosted by the Colorado Partnership for Educational Renewal

League of Small Democratic Schools, October 11, 2006 Regional meeting  
and school visits (Laramie, Fort Collins)

Wyoming Leadership Associates Program

Wyoming Leadership Academy, a mentoring program for new principals

Journalism, Education, and the Public Good Study Session,

Program involving a five-member WSUP team of educators and journalists,  
Seattle, 2006-2007

**Policy Issues**

K-16 curriculum articulation

Increasing student contact hours; School year/school day time issues

Mentor Teachers and seven Professional Learning Communities

Albany #1, Natrona #1, Sheridan #2, Fremont # 14 and #25, Sweetwater #1 and #2

Leadership Institute, Agenda for Education in a Democracy

Casper, Wyoming January 24-25, 2007 with a focus  
on the seven Professional Learning Communities

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The report underwent several stages of completion. The director created a first draft which the executive committee read and reacted to. A next draft went to the governing board during its November 2, 2006 meeting. The final draft is based on input solicited from all of the partners.