



Wyoming School-University Partnership

2011-2012 Activities Summarized

The Wyoming School-University Partnership seeks to simultaneously improve teacher education and renew public schools through the collaborative efforts of the member school districts, community colleges, the University of Wyoming, the Wyoming Department of Education, and the Wyoming Education Association. Membership dues help to support all events.

(Summary document prepared by Beth Wiley, May, 2012.)

Lost in Transition Initiative

Begun in 2006 as a challenge from school district superintendents to provide professional development opportunities that presented a forum to discuss and solve the existing academic gap between high school and higher education.



Two of several small groups discussed curriculum at the World Languages Colloquium.

6th Annual Mathematics Lost in Transition Institute; March 28-29, 2012; Rock Springs
7th Annual Life Sciences Lost in Transition Summit; February 23, 2012; Casper - cancelled due to inclement weather
2nd Annual World Languages Lost in Transition Colloquium; April 12, 2012; Casper
2nd Annual Wyoming Social Sciences Lost in Transition Institute; April 20, 2012; Laramie
4th Annual Teaching Writing in Wyoming Lost in Transition Colloquium; April 22-23, 2012; Casper

Since 2006, the Lost in Transition initiative has received over \$40,000 from the Qwest Foundation, the Wyoming P-16 Education Council, and the University of Wyoming President’s office.

Over 300 Wyoming Educators Attended Partnership Events

87 teachers earned PTSB credit

Here’s what a few participants had to say:

“From these meetings, I take away a general sense of the concerns of instructors at the various levels.”

“All sessions were very informative—I appreciated ideas that I can take to my own classroom.”

“This event is a great idea and opportunity to touch base with colleagues statewide. Let’s keep it up!”

The Partnership Co-sponsored Three Conferences in Laramie

2nd UW College of Education, Literacy Education Conference

September 30-October 1, 2011

2nd e-Volution Technology Conference

September 22-23, 2011

16th Annual Shepard Symposium-Teacher Tea, League of Democratic Schools Regional Meeting

March 30-31, 2012

www.uwyo.edu/wsup

412 Wyoming Hall, 1000 E. University Ave., Dept. 3374, Laramie, Wyoming 82071

Audrey Kleinsasser, director dakota@uwyo.edu 307.766.6358

Beth Wiley, office associate ewiley2@uwyo.edu 307.766.3274

John Anderson, school-community engagement facilitator jander61@uwyo.edu 307.367.3554

National Network for Educational Renewal

The Wyoming School-University Partnership is a member of the National Network for Educational Renewal (NNER), which works to simultaneously improve the quality of education for citizens of our democracy and the quality of educator preparation for our schools.

The NNER's annual conference will be held in Denver, October 18-20, 2012.

This year's conference is co-sponsored by NNER settings in Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming.

<http://nnerconference.org/>

**The Partnership committed \$20,000
for presenter scholarships available to Wyoming members.**

School-Community Engagement Initiative

In August of 2011, the Wyoming School-University Partnership launched an initiative to engage three schools in the process of doing school or community improvement projects. John Anderson, based in Pinedale, led this effort.



The Torrington Middle School inquiry class pictured above visited the Laramie soup kitchen and the UW campus. Brandon Kosine, associate director of involvement, Service, Leadership, and Community Engagement office (SLCE), spoke with the students. Students also learned about nutrition from Associate Professor Shane Broughton.

Torrington Middle School

The Teachers: Sarah Williams and Mary Werner

The Project: Students are engaged in starting a community meal program.

UW Partner: Mary Kay Wardlaw, director, Cent\$ible Nutrition

Notable quote: Principal Marv Haiman commented that **students** in the class **were empowered** by their teachers **“to be thoughtful, concerned, and motivated young people.”**

Pinedale High School

The Teachers: Rose DeNinno and Jasper Warembourg

The Projects: Students built a new statue of their school mascot. 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.

UW Partner: Terry Burant, Assistant Professional Lecturer, Department of Educational Studies

Notable quote: Principal Fletcher Turcato said, “The community engagement initiative has made such an impact on Pinedale High School that **the culture is shifting toward service learning** and the impact is actually being felt on campus **through student initiatives**. Thank you for bringing this to our school!”

Worland High School

The Teacher: Kitsy Barnes

The Project: Students plan to improve Riverside Park in Worland over the next five years. They've already removed invasive species and planted willows by the river for bank stabilization.

UW Partners: From the Berry Biodiversity Conservation Center: Greg Brown, director, Dorothy Tuthill, associate director, and Brenna Wanous, office associate

Notable quote: After working with the students to remove invasive Russian olive trees, Chuck Russell, Bureau of Land Management Fire Management Officer, said, “You all brought different strengths to the project and **I was pleased to see the whole group come together** and get the job done.”

League of Democratic Schools

For the 2011-2012 school year, the Partnership sponsored membership costs (\$250 per school) for Guernsey-Sunrise High School (Platte #2), University Lab School (Albany #1), Woods Learning Center, and Star Lane Center (both Natrona #1).

The League of Democratic Schools is an NNER organization promoting the idea that education should develop in children and youth the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required for successful participation in the nation's social and political democracy.