

Fremont #6 Receives 2016 Magna Award from the National School Board Association

The National School Boards Association (NSBA) named Wyoming's Fremont County School District #6 the grand prize-winning program in the under 5,000 enrollment category.

The award honors outstanding programs in school districts across the country. Winners are selected by an independent panel of school board members, administrators, and other educators. This year, the winners were selected from nearly 200 submissions.

NBSA's press release applauds the launch of the district's mobile preschool as an innovative program that highlights the district's passion for improving quality of life and education for students.

The program not only brings preschool to isolated families and helps students with literacy and language skills, it builds trust and positive relationships between the school district and the families.



Piloted in 2013, the purple mobile preschool travels to isolated areas of the school district to help students with literacy and language skills.

Inspired by the book mobile model, Fremont #6 overhauled an old school bus by removing the seats; installing

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League of Democratic Schools Organizes; Stoicovy Named Part-Time Director

Donnan Stoicovy, the principal of an award winning Park Forest Elementary School in State College, PA, and long-time League of Democratic Schools leader, will be the part-time director for the League of Democratic Schools through December 2017.

Adding to its list of accomplishments, Park Forest Elementary was recently named a 2016 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School. To learn more about Principal Stoicovy, go to the school's website www.scasd.org/parkforest.

Members confirmed her nomination in early May. Next steps for the League include a

Thank you to Partnership Chair Diana Clapp!



The Partnership gives Diana Clapp a heartfelt thanks for her excellent leadership as Partnership chair for the past three years (2013 - 2016).

May 19 ZOOM video meeting, participation in the National Network for Educational Renewal's July 18-19 strategic planning meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and a presence at the NNER annual conference in Arlington, Texas, October 27-29.

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Year in Review

Partnership Co-Hosts Ten Events in 2015-2016 Academic Year

At the Lost in Transition World Languages Colloquium, a participant praised the event as “a great way to meet people and see commonalities and get a fresh perspective.” Partnership events received similar comments throughout the 2015-2016 year.

This year, the Partnership has coordinated with other departments, colleges, and organizations to host five Lost in Transition events in five different content areas, life sciences, English and language arts, world languages, mathematics, and social sciences.

The Partnership has also co-hosted and supported numerous other events, including the UW Literacy Conference, the inaugural All Sciences K16 Summit, an American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) workshop with UW’s Modern and Classical Languages Department, UW World Languages Day, and the inaugural *Just in Time: Excellence in ESL Teaching* conference with the UW Department of Educational Studies.



Participants at various 2015-2016 Lost in Transition events.

For more information about each event see the summary below, visit www.uwyo.edu/wsup, or contact Kara Duggan at 307.766.3274 or kduggan1@uwyo.edu.

By the Numbers

Meeting	Date and Location	Total Number of Participants	Overall Average Rating (1-10 scale)	Teachers who earned PTSB credit
Fall Education Literacy Conference	October 2-3, Laramie	101	8.4	19
K16 Life Sciences Summit	February 19, Casper	32	8.85	10
All Sciences K16 Summit*	February 19-20, Casper	*51	*9.4	6
ACTFL workshop	February 20, Laramie	36	NA	16
Teaching Writing in Wyoming and Literature Summit	February 28-29, Riverton	28	9.5	8
UW World Languages Day	March 4-5, Laramie	248	7.9	NA
World Languages Colloquium	April 1, Casper	18	9	6
Mathematics Institute**	April 15-16, Torrington	**51	NA	**3
Just in Time: Excellence in ESL Teaching Conference	April 29-30, Casper	87	8.9	32
Social Sciences Institute	May 9, Casper	39	9	10

*The All Sciences Summit did not have a sign-in sheet. Total number of participants is registration number. Also, the summit used a 1-5 scale rather than a 1 -10 scale. Overall average (4.7) has been adjusted to fit 1-10 scale.

**Due to changes to the agenda caused by poor weather, the Mathematics Institute was unable to collect the usual evaluation data. The participation number is the number registered. Also Mathematics Institute participants earned 1 PTSB renewal credit. All other Transition events were worth .5 credit hours for participation.

NNER Annual Conference Set, Proposals Accepted through June 30

The annual fall conference of the National Network for Educational Renewal is set for October 27-29, hosted by the University of Texas-Arlington. K-12 teachers and administrators, teacher educators, and general education educators participate and present.

This year's theme is ***Progress through Purpose: Sharing our Journey Towards Renewal***. Four conference strands unpack the theme. They include a) toward partnership through collaboration; b) toward the Agenda for Education in a Democracy; c) toward leadership and policy; and, d) toward instruction and assessment. Attendees will experience school tours, round table discussions, poster sessions, organized symposia, and a newcomer's session.

Keynote speakers include Dr. George C. Wright, President of Prairie View A&M University and historian, also Shanna Peebles, the 2015 National Teacher of the Year, a UT-Arlington alumna.

Proposals are due June 30. To learn more about submitting a proposal, registration, travel, and lodging, go to www.nnerannualconference.org or email nner2016@uta.edu.



Governing Board Approves Change in School District Dues Structure

During its April governing board meeting, Wyoming School-University Partnership governing board members approved the 2016-2017 Partnership budget. In approving the budget, the board put into place a significant change in the way yearly dues for school district members are assessed.

Previously, school district membership was a flat \$2,500, regardless of school size based on student enrollment. In order to make Partnership membership more affordable for Wyoming's smaller districts, an ad hoc committee investigated possible options and proposed a sliding scale which the governing board approved. Dues for each Wyoming district will be based on \$1,000 plus the number of K-12 students enrolled. School district dues are capped at \$4,000.

Following the April board meeting, Partnership members received their dues invoice. At the same time, all non-member school districts received an invitation to consider joining, with the new dues structure delineated.

Congratulations to Boyd Brown, Wyoming Association of School Administrators Superintendent of the Year 2017!



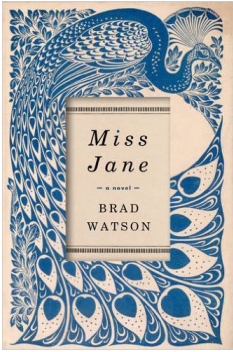
Boyd Brown, Campbell County 1 superintendent and Partnership governing board chair-elect. Dr. Brown is completing his second year as superintendent. He has been with Campbell County school district for over 22 years.

Partnership staff will collect dues through the late spring and summer.

The change in dues structure for Wyoming school districts is the first dues change in a number of years. For more information about joining the Partnership, contact Audrey Kleinsasser at 307.766.6358 or dakota@uwyo.edu.

Read for enjoyment

Summer reading recommendations from around the Partnership



Miss Jane
by Brad Watson
(coming out July 2016)

Recommended by: Jason Burge,
Assistant Director, Wyoming
Humanities Council

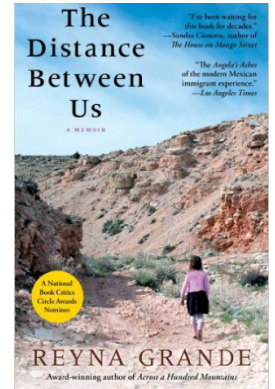
Partnership connection: Jason
presented at the Lost in Transition
Social Sciences Institute.

Why Jason recommends Miss Jane: Brad Watson (National Book Award and Pen Faulkner finalist), a professor in UW's MFA program, is a master writer. He's the reason I moved to Wyoming and though he's been critically lauded for a long time, this should be the book that finally makes him. Don't miss it.

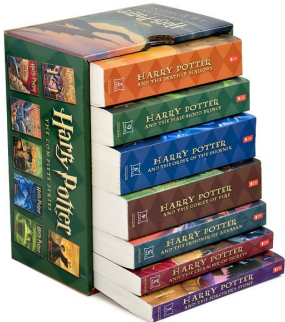
**The Distance Between Us:
A Memoir**
by Reyna Grande

Recommended by: Joy
Landeira, Head, Department of
Modern and Classical Languages
Department, University of Wyoming

Partnership connection: Joy has
been instrumentally involved in
several Partnership co-sponsored
events, including planning and presenting at the Lost in
Transition: World Language Colloquium.



Why Joy says you should read The Distance Between Us: This book has been recommended by the Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research, a group of people interested in the humanities.



Harry Potter Series
(all seven books)
by J. K. Rowling

Recommended by: Andrea
Bryant, Executive Director,
Wyoming Professional Teaching
Standards Board

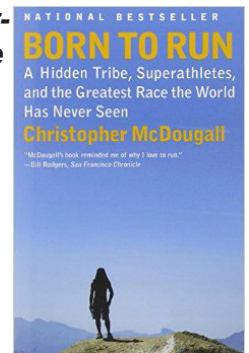
Partnership connection:
Andrea is on the Partnership
governing board.

Why Andrea says you should read the Harry Potter series: I re-read the Harry Potter series every year... I love to be immersed in the world of Hogwarts and the magic. The movies cannot come close to the descriptions in the book.

Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Super-athletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen
by Christopher McDougall

Recommended by: Gregory Lyng,
Head, Department of Mathematics,
University of Wyoming

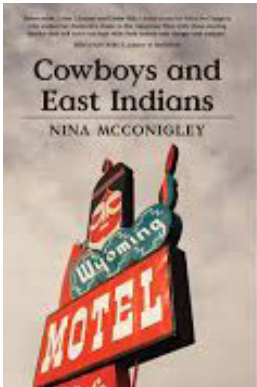
Partnership connection: Greg
helped plan the Lost in Transition
Mathematics Institute.



Why Greg says you should read A Hidden Tribe: Superathletes, and the Greatest Race the World has Never Seen: This fun and easy read blends science, crazy characters, and a compelling narrative. Interwoven with the scientific discussion of the evolution of running in humans and stories of ultra runners is an inspiring message about the limits of human capabilities. I'm not much of a runner, but this book makes me want to be one.

Read for enjoyment

Summer reading recommendations from around the Partnership



Cowboys and East Indians by Nina McConigley

Recommended by: Kara Duggan, Office Associate, Wyoming School-University Partnership

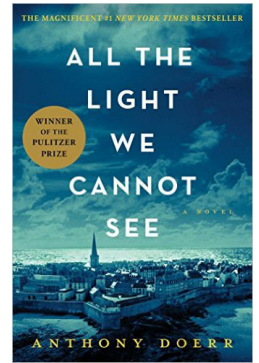
Partnership connection: Kara is wrapping up her first year as the Partnership's office associate.

Why Kara says you should read *Cowboys and East Indians*: I loved reading McConigley's stories. Not only were they beautifully written, they were thought-provoking. Through her complex and compelling characters, I was able to see Wyoming and the American West through the eyes of outsiders and how the landscape of the American West can shape and change a person's identity.

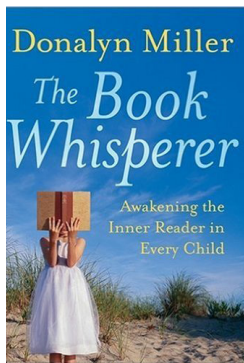
All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

Recommended by: Diana Clapp, Superintendent, Fremont County School District #6

Partnership connection: Diana has been the Partnership governing board chair for three years (2013 - 2016).



Why Diana says you should read *All the Light We Cannot See*: This novel is an intimate look into lives lived, not as expected, but as imposed by a fractured world at war. This is not a light read, but beautifully written, multi-layered, and an impactful look at young lives shaped and dreams forever changed. In honor of my father, a former WWII POW at the age of eighteen, I recommend *All the Light We Cannot See*.



The Book Whisperer: Awakening the Inner Reader in Every Child by Donalyn Miller

Recommended by: Dennis Fischer, Superintendent, Platte County School District #1

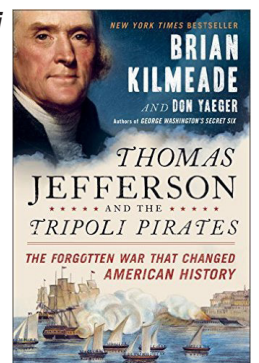
Partnership connection: Dennis is on the Partnership governing board.

Why Dennis says you should read *The Book Whisperer: Awakening the Inner Reader in Every Child*: Miller's inspiring book describes her strategies to help children love to read, rather than seeing reading as a chore.

Thomas Jefferson and the Tripoli Pirates by Brian Kilmeade

Recommended by: D. Ray Reutzler, Dean, College of Education, University of Wyoming

Partnership connection: Ray is wrapping up his first year as College of Education dean, and member of the Partnership governing board.



Why Ray says you should read *Thomas Jefferson and the Tripoli Pirates*: For my recent birthday (April 28), my mother gave me this book. I love history and this one looks really good!

Stoicovy, continued from page 1

Richard Clark and John Goodlad originated the League, reasoning that there were many elementary and secondary schools committed to democratic engagement and a focus on civility, but unable to be part of a larger school-university partnership network due to cost.

When the Institute disbanded several months ago, League assets were transferred to the University of

Wyoming Foundation with the Wyoming School-University Partnership assisting as a fiduciary and organizational home.

League membership is at the school level with yearly dues currently \$250. If you would be interested in your school's becoming a member, please contact Donnan Stoicovy at dms11@scasd.org or



Pictured left, Donnan Stoicovy, League part-time director and principal of Park Forest Elementary School, State College, PA.

Stoicovy was named as part-time director for the League this May.

Audrey Kleinsasser at dakota@uwyo.edu for information.

Current League Members

Bend, Oregon

Westside Village Magnet School

State Forest, Pennsylvania

Park Forest Elementary
Delta Program

Spokane, Washington

Pasadena Park Elementary
West Valley City
Spokane Valley High
Orchard Center Elementary

Wyoming

UW Lab School, Laramie
Woods Learning Center, Casper
Star Lane Center, Casper
Guernsey-Sunrise High, Guernsey

Dinner and Lots of Math Talk Proves Valuable for Natrona County and Casper College Faculty

Debra Swedberg, mathematics department chair at Casper College, carried out an idea that combined the best of being sociable and accomplishing hard work: a working dinner.

Banking off the Partnership's now 10-year old, statewide Lost in Transition initiative aimed at bringing together secondary and postsecondary faculty by discipline, Swedberg invited the mathematics and statistics faculty at the three Casper high schools to join Casper College mathematics and statistics faculty for a working dinner May 9, at Poorboys Steakhouse from 5:30-8:00. Swedberg invited the Partnership's Audrey Kleinsasser to facilitate the meeting. Including Kleinsasser, there were 18 participants at the working dinner.

The purpose of the working dinner was twofold: to better understand each other's teaching lives and to identify possible opportunities and

barriers for collaborating and communicating. Some participants had known each other for years, while for others, the meeting was a chance to start professional friendships.

Kleinsasser asked everyone to share a high and low about current math teaching. As comments were shared, it became clear that across secondary and community college levels, the highs and lows were almost the same. For example, high school and college faculty loved seeing students succeed in math after failed attempts, and were vexed by student work ethic and broader institutional pressures. Faculty in both groups were concerned about course sequence and mastery. Advising, both formal and informal, came up again and again.

Small, mixed groups identified possible next steps and opportunities for open communication. Among the topics addressed, dinner attendees noted the following. High school faculty were

interested in seeing data showing how successfully students progress in math after high school. Given in-town proximity, several suggested the importance of campus/classroom visits, perhaps taking advantage of different spring break schedules. Attendees wanted to know more about technology use, especially online course delivery and the kind of versatility students need in order to be successful.

Kleinsasser wrapped up the meeting by asking each to respond anonymously to one of two questions: *What question did tonight's dinner answer for you? What question would you like answered?* While more than a few respondents wanted to see student achievement data, according to another person, "It was helpful to learn that student motivation is also a huge issue at both the college and high school. Engagement seems to be one of the biggest areas of concern."

UW Education Literacy Conference Announced, Proposals Accepted through June 1

The 9th annual UW Fall Education Literacy Conference will be held September 23-24, 2016, in Laramie, WY. This year's theme is **Writers and Writing**.

Conference planners are currently accepting proposals for the event. Proposals may be on any aspect of writing and writing instruction. If you have a teaching idea or strategy that has been successful with your own students, consider sharing it at the conference. Sessions should be interactive and are 50 minutes in length. Keep in mind the intended audience is teachers and other education professionals. Proposals will be blind reviewed. Deadline for submissions is June 1, 2016.

If you are interested in proposing a session for the conference, the submission site can be found: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1h-J127z6ZGxuXF1z8YFuRdzDrES-suhLKRhwZck45Cig0/viewform>.

The conference keynote speaker will be Ralph Fletcher, an American writer and an educational consultant, and author of books for both children and professional educators on the craft of writing.

The conference will also feature authors Steve Jenkins and Louise Jackson. Steve Jenkins is the creator of many acclaimed books for children. He is the recipient of a Caldecott Honor Award, a New York Times Ten Best Illustrated citation, and a Boston Globe-Horn Book Award for Nonfiction. He lives in Colorado with his wife and their three children. Louise Jackson is a former UW literacy faculty member and author of young adult and children's books.



LITERACY
CONFERENCE



Fremont 6, continued from page 1

carpeting, furniture, and supplies; and painting it purple. The mobile preschool program was piloted in 2013, with the teacher and driver going to children's homes for 30-minute sessions with students.

As a grand-prize winner, Fremont County 6 received a \$5,000 contribution from Sodexo, the award's supporter, at the NSBA's annual conference in Boston, April 9-11.

To read more about Fremont #6's mobile preschool and the vision for its future, go to <https://www.nsba.org/newsroom/american-school-board-journal/magna-awards/grand-prize-winners/preventing-achievement-gap>

Calling all Teachers!

Submit a proposal for a session at the 9th Annual UW Fall Education Literacy Conference!

Proposals may be on any aspect of writing and writing instruction and should be interactive.

For more information, visit <http://www.uwyo.edu/education/lrcc/conferences%20and%20events/14falllitconf.html>

Registration for the conference will be free, but required. UW EDCI 5959 credit and Wyoming PTSB renewal credit will be available. For more information, go here <http://www.uwyo.edu/education/lrcc/conferences%20and%20events/14falllitconf.html>

If you have questions, please contact Amy Hollon, 307.766.3156, ahollon@uwyo.edu.

Wyoming Geographic Alliance Summer Institute

June 27-29, Laramie

Wyoming educators have a remarkable opportunity for continuing education this summer. Our 2016 summer institute will feature three strands to choose from:

Geographic Information Systems (high school)
National Parks, Public Lands and the WY Landscape (elementary)
National Parks, Public Lands and the WY Landscape (middle/high)

Lunch, parking, and workshop resources are provided for participants. In addition, all attendees will receive a \$100 stipend to help cover the costs of lodging and travel.

PTSB credit and UW Outreach credit will be available. To learn more, go here www.uwyo.edu/wga.

Statewide ESL Conference Draws more than 100 Attendees

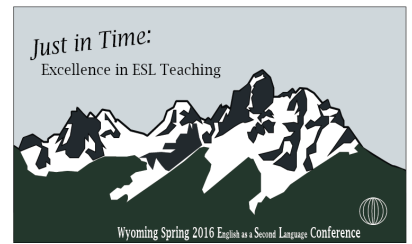
Despite the wintry weather, the April 29-30 *Just in Time: Excellence in ESL Teaching*, the inaugural Wyoming English as a Second Language conference, was an overall success and an valuable experience.

Friday evening and all day Saturday, educators from secondary and post-secondary levels, ESL teachers, administrators, instructional facilitators, pre-service teachers, and community members from around

the state came together in Casper to share work, discuss best practices and experiences, network, and learn from one-another about teaching English language learners.

From the comments and feedback from participants and presenters, it is clear the conference was an overall success. One participant commented that the conference had “engaging speakers that gave both broad future goals and specifics to apply to the classroom on Monday.” Another said, “The speakers and material covered were of the highest quality! Everything I’ve been learning in my ESL courses was touched on, and even expanded, which was awesome!” One of the presenters commented, “It was empowering to present to other teachers and present our challenges and successes.”

The conference was co-hosted by UW’s Department of Educational



Studies and the Partnership, with numerous sponsors and supporters.

For more information about the conference, including materials from some of the presenters, please visit www.uwyo.edu/wsup/events/esl_conference.html

For information about UW’s ESL graduate certificate program, go to www.uwyo.edu/esl or contact Jenna Shim, 307.766.3126, jshim@uwyo.edu.

By the Numbers

115	Registrants
87	Participants
47	K-12 Educators
33	UW Faculty, Staff, and Students
3	Community College Educators
4	Other
10	Breakout Sessions
3	Keynote Speakers
2	Featured Presentations
\$0	Cost of Registration



From the right: Keynote presenters Rachel Salas and Cindy Brock with two participants at the Friday night banquet.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location
June 27-29	Wyoming Geographic Alliance Summer Institute	Laramie, UW
June 29	Partnership Governing Board Meeting	Casper, University of Wyoming-Casper
July 18-19	NNER Strategic Planning Meeting	Albuquerque, NM
July 25-29	Transforming Learning: Summer Teaching Institute	Laramie, UW
September 7	Service-Learning Symposium	Laramie, UW
September 9-10	Re-visioning the Laboratory: Sci-Art Symposium	Laramie, UW
September 23-24	UW 2016 Fall Literacy Conference: Writers and Writing	Laramie, UW
October 27-29	NNER Annual Fall Conference	Arlington, TX
December 1-2	Wyoming Citizen Science Conference	Lander, WY

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