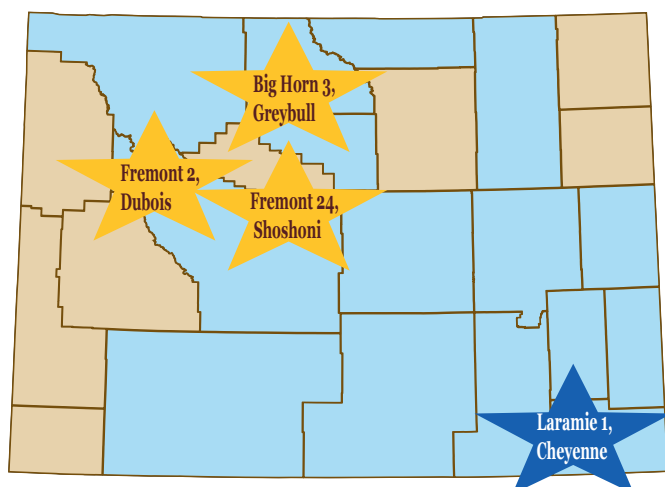


Partnership Welcomes Three New School District Members



The map presents Wyoming's 23 counties. The blue shading indicates the counties with the Partnership's 24 school district members. Big Horn 3, Fremont 2, and Fremont 24 joined the Partnership for 2016-2017. Laramie 1 also returned this year.

The Partnership is thrilled to welcome three new Wyoming school district members for the 2016-2017 year, Big Horn 3, Fremont 2, and Fremont 24, as well as returning member Laramie 1.

In January 2016, the Partnership adopted a new dues structure for school district members based on enrollment in each district. The new structure aims to make membership more equitable and affordable for the small districts in Wyoming.

The Partnership's 2016-2017 year is from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. The Partnership collected 2016-2017 membership dues throughout the summer. To learn more about the current Partnership members and the executive board, go to page 2.

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Watts Selected to Direct the UW Trustees' Education Initiative

Rebecca Watts begins work September 19 as the executive director of the University of Wyoming Board of Trustees' Education Initiative.

"I am anxious to work with university faculty, Wyoming educators and district leaders, parent organizations, researchers, and policy-makers on the Trustees' Education Initiative," said Watts. "While the roles and perspectives of these key partners are varied, all share a common goal of supporting the future success of Wyoming's elementary and secondary students."

The Illinois native is an experienced higher education administrator, most recently serving as associate vice chancellor of P-16 initiatives with the Ohio Department of Higher

Education.

Watts earned a bachelor's degree from Sangamon State University in Springfield, Ill., a master's degree from the University of Illinois-Springfield; and a Ph.D.

from Ohio University, Athens. During the last four years working in the Ohio Department of Higher Education, she focused on college access, college readiness, and educator preparation. She spearheaded Ohio's successful GEAR UP proposal and served as



Rebecca Watts, Trustees' Education Executive Director, will begin work Sept. 19.

UW's LRCC and Partnership Excited to Host Renown Children Authors at Literacy Conference, September 23-24, Laramie

UW's Literacy Research Center and Clinic and the Partnership are excited to host the 9th annual Fall UW Education Literacy Conference September 23-24 at UW, Laramie. This year's focus is ***Writers and Writings***.

The conference kicks off Friday with "Making Sense of the World: Writing Nonfiction for Children" by Steven Jenkins and a book signing.

Saturday morning will start with keynote address, "Taking the Chill out of the Writing Workshop," by author Ralph Fletcher. Saturday will also include author's workshops with Louise Jackson,

Eugene Gagliano, and Steve Jenkins, as well as a variety of break-out sessions, and will conclude with a panel discussion with Jenkins, Jackson, and Gagliano.

Registration is free, but required. Participants or their sponsoring institutions are responsible for any traveling or lodging expenses. UW EDCI 5959 graduate credit and PTSB renewal credit will be available. For more information about the conference and to register, contact Kara Duggan, 307.766.3274 or kduggan1@uwyo.edu, or go [to the conference's webpage](#).



From top left clockwise: Ralph Fletcher, Steven Jenkins, Eugene Gagliano, and Louise Jackson, reknown children's authors, will present at the UW Education Literacy Conference, September 23-24.

Writers and Writings

September 23-24, UW, Laramie

[Register now!](#)

Partnership 2016-2017 Members and Executive Committee

2016-2017 Partnership Members

Albany #1	Platte #2
Big Horn #1	Sheridan #1
Big Horn #2	Sheridan #2
Big Horn #3	Sweetwater #1
Campbell #1	Washakie #1
Carbon #2	Casper College
Converse #1	Central Wyoming College
Fremont #1	Eastern Wyoming College
Fremont #14	Laramie County Community College
Fremont #2	Northern Wyoming Community
Fremont #24	College District
Fremont #25	Northwest College
Fremont #6	Western Wyoming Community
Goshen #1	College
Laramie #1	UW College of Arts and Sciences
Natrona #1	UW College of Education
Niobrara #1	Professional Teaching Standards
Park #1	Board
Park #6	Wyoming Department of Education
Platte #1	Wyoming Education Association

Partnership Executive Committee

Chair	Boyd Brown	Superintendent, Campbell County School District #1
Chair-Elect	David Nicholas	Superintendent, Washakie County School District #1
Past Chair	Diana Clapp	Superintendent, Fremont County School District #6
Member	Ray Reutzel	Dean, College of Education, University of Wyoming
Member	Audrey Shalinsky	Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Wyoming
ex officio	Audrey Kleinsasser	Director, Wyoming School-University Partnership

CCW, WY Community College Academic Affairs Council, and Partnership to Hold English and Math Meeting, October 7, Casper

Complete College Wyoming, the Wyoming Community College Academic Affairs Council, and the Partnership have come together to host Partnering for Student Success and Transition, October 7, 2016 at Casper College.

At this meeting, high school, community college, and UW faculty in math and English as well as advising and counseling staff will come together to engage in course-level discussions and strategies about the gateway classes, English 1010 and Math 1000 and Math 1400. Together, participants can discuss and explore the transition from secondary to postsecondary education, expectations and challenges at both the K12 and college level, and ultimately strategies to improve college readiness and student success.

Registration is free, but required. To register, contact Joe McCann, joe.mccann@wyo.gov by September 23. Participants are responsible for any travel or lodging expenses. Lunch will be provided.

Partnering for Student Success and Transition

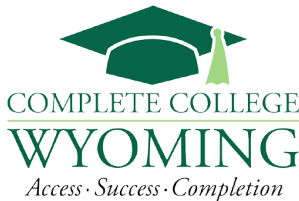
October 7, 2016

Gateway Building, Casper College

Registration is free, but required. To register, contact Joe McCann at 307.777.6290 or joe.mccann@wyo.gov by September 23.

Condensed Agenda

- 9:30 - Registration and morning refreshments
- 10:00 - Welcomes and overview of the day
- 11:00 - Breakout Session - Discussions about transitions, student college readiness, and expectations in English 1010 and Math 1000 and 1400.
- 12:15 - Lunch, panel to showcase success strategies and their outcomes, review of English and math comparison charts
- 1:45 - Breakout Session - Continuing the discussion, planning next steps.
- 3:30 - Closing comments



What is Complete College Wyoming?

by Joe McCann

Complete College Wyoming (CCW) began in late 2012 with a strong team committed to student success in Wyoming. Involvement with Complete College America has allowed Wyoming leaders to learn a significant amount about best practices and game changers in higher education today and has involved gathering and comparing data on critical aspects of student success.

CCW leaders are committed to developing strategies that work well for students in Wyoming, ones that can be assessed and revised as needed. Faculty and student services personnel will be increasingly involved in guiding the effort and helping to assure the maintenance of high quality and ethical standards, while providing an environment where students can best achieve their educational goals. CCW goals reflect the increasing need in Wyoming for well-educated and skilled workers. This is an evolving effort that can make a significant difference the state. To learn more about CCW, visit their website at <http://www.completecollegewyoming.org/>

CCW Goals

1. Increase completion at the community colleges significantly by 2022.*
2. Ensure that every degree-seeking student completes gateway courses in English and mathematics within their first 30 credit hours at Wyoming community colleges.
3. Create statewide stakeholder buy-in for achieving Wyoming's completion goals.
4. Develop capacity and support for guided pathways to success strategies.
5. Identify the progress and success metrics that are important to Wyoming.

*The community college goal, established in October 2013, is to increase community college certificate and associate degree recipients by 5% annually, with a base year of 2011-12 and a time period of 10 years. The 2011-12 base year provides a comparison point for measuring goal attainment and effectiveness of success strategies implemented after that year. The UW President and UW Board of Trustees support the goal to increase the number of baccalaureate degrees conferred at UW by 2% annually (base year of 2011-2012) beginning in the academic year 2016- 2017 and ending in the academic year 2021-2022.

Members of League of Democratic Schools to Present at NNER Conference, October 27-29, 2016, Arlington, Texas

At the NNER fall conference, the League of Democratic Schools plans to showcase its members and their challenges and successes with developing knowledge, skills, and attitudes required for successful participation in the nation's social and political democracy in children and youth.

League Presentations

Deliberative Democracy in the Classroom, Donnan Stoicovy; Lori McGarry

Engaging the Students in Critically Examining the Multiple Perspectives of Controversial Dilemmas, Joan James

Identifying and Building Academic Climates of Belonging and Engagement: Good for All PK-16 Learners and Critical for the Most Vulnerable, Audrey M. Kleinsasser; Margaret Hudson; Donnan Stoicovy

Integrated Project-Based Learning to Fuel Engagement and Stewardship, Meredith McLaughlin; Wendy Winchell and Lisa Peterson; Jim Gaither and Jenny Marshall

Development of a Democratic School in a Public School District, Jon Downs

Learn more about the 2016 NNER conference at its website,

<http://www.nnerannualconference.org/>

Learning in Context-- Partnerships between K-12 Schools and Colleges of Education, Jayne Hellenberg; Margaret Hudson; Joan James

School-Based Experiential Outdoor Education: A Neglected Necessity, Theresa Williams; Joan James; Julie Kortum

Successful Service Learning: A Civically Engaged School, Lori McGarry; Donnan Stoicovy

Thriving Democratic Schools: Their Characteristics, Successes and Challenges, Dusty Andres; Jon Downs & David Rockower; Jim Gaither and Jenny Marshall; Margaret Hudson and Meredith McLaughlin; Dorothy Lloyd; Donnan Stoicovy and Lori McGarry; Wendy Winchell and Lisa Peterson

e-Volution: Innovations in Learning Environments Monday, October 3, 2016

Keynote Speaker: Michelle Miller

The conference is open to all, both on an off campus.

The University of Wyoming is excited to host the 8th annual e-Volution Conference at UW, Laramie and online, Monday, October 3, 2016. This year's theme is **Teaching for Rich Learning**. To learn more about the conference, go to <http://wyoforum.org>.

The e-Volution conference is accepting proposals in the following areas: how-to; best practices for innovative teaching techniques; hands-on workshops, research, and other innovative ideas. Presentation formats include workshops, 20 minute presentations, and Technology Petting Zoo. To submit a proposal, go here: <http://www.wyoforum.org/call-for-proposals.html>

e-Volution is presented by the University of Wyoming Outreach School, UW Ellbogen Center for Teaching and Learning, UW Libraries, Laramie County Community College, and the Wyoming School-University Partnership.

e-Volution:
innovations in learning environments

Free Tech Forum | Laramie, Wyoming | UW Campus
Online Access from Anywhere | Session Recordings Available

UW's Biodiversity Institute Organizes Inaugural WY Citizen Science Conference, December 1-2, Lander

by Brenna Marsicek

What is the 2016 Wyoming Citizen Science Fair?

To address the challenges of facilitating citizen science, brainstorm solutions, network with other programs, and see how volunteers can get the most out of participating in citizen science, the UW Biodiversity Institute is organizing the first-ever Wyoming Citizen Science Conference on December 1-2, 2016 in Lander, Wyoming. Plenary sessions, concurrent talks, poster sessions, workshops, meals and receptions will all be used as ways to explore how we can make citizen science in Wyoming flourish.

Organizers are accepting presentation, poster, and workshop proposals until Sunday, September 18 at www.wyobiodiversity.org/wcsc. Registration will open in October, available through the same link.

Citizen Science: Games of "I Spy with a Purpose"

Citizen science is a buzz word. The idea of researchers and the public working together to ask scientific questions, collect high quality data, and test hypotheses is just too good to pass up. As a result, there are a multitude of citizen science programs that have been going on for decades and even more newly popping up around the world, and Wyoming is no exception. Moose, amphibians, butterflies, eagles, bees, flowers, invasive weeds – just about every animal kingdom is represented in Wyoming's games of "I Spy", and what makes them most appealing is that these games are useful.

Wyoming Citizen Science Conference December 1-2, 2016

Lander, WY

**Submit a proposal by September 18.
Registration opens in October!**

Learn more about the conference and the proposal submission process at the [conference's webpage](#), or contact Brenna Marsicek, brenna.marsicek@uwyo.edu



Top: Lelia Johnson writing down data at a Biodiversity Institute event. Left: Amy Pocewicz holding a frog.



The mission of the Biodiversity Institute is to foster the understanding, appreciation, and conservation of biological diversity through innovative research, education, outreach, and by engaging a broad audience in the scientific process. Learn more at www.wyobiodiversity.org.

The practice of citizen science has been around for centuries. It involves a member of the public with no particular scientific training observing and collecting data about the world around them. Scientists use this information to expand their understanding and answer scientific questions. Benjamin Franklin, Beatrix Potter, Charles Darwin, and many others who were curious about nature and took notes of what they observed contributed to the expansion of our biological knowledge. Of course, citizen science isn't just for nature enthusiasts; archeology, astronomy, geology and many other scientific fields have experienced the same involvement from the public.

We have seen an expansion in the number of organized citizen science programs created within the last decade or so, and for good reasons. An increasing disconnect between people and the natural world results in organizations seeking to re-instill a sense of wonder and responsibility in especially children. Budget cuts in many institutions and agencies make conducting large scale (either in time or space) data collection expensive and challenging, enhancing the incentive for collaboration with the public. Federal funding agencies have made "making science relevant to the public" a high priority for distributing grants, which encourages scientists to involve communities in the research they are funded to do.

Wyoming follows this trend. And in Wyoming, citizen

Partnership Governing Board Members Share Updates: Accomplishments from Last Year, and Hopes and Goals for 2016-2017

To kick off the new school year on an up-beat note, the Partnership asked several of its members to showcase some of their recent successes and a major goal they are excited about implementing this school year.

For more information about specific organizations or people mentioned in the announcements, check out the hyperlinks in the Partnership's online version the newsletter!

Have something to share?

The Partnership is always interested in sharing newsworthy stories, announcements, and accomplishments from our members! If you have a suggestion, please contact Kara Duggan at kduggan1@uwyo.edu.



PARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #6, Cody by Ray Schulte, Superintendent

With a commitment to providing students higher quality work and staff working collaboratively, Cody Schools eagerly joined the first Wyoming Instructional Leadership Network WILN the fall of 2013. The WILN program was a structured professional development model designed to access and improve classroom instruction. The Cody Schools used the WILN program to delve deeper into conversations about student work, engagement, and effective collaboration. The Cody School administrators were collaborating to a greater degree than ever before.

After the 2014-15 school year, the WDE didn't have sufficient funds to support WILN. When it was learned that WILN would go away, Superintendent Kevin Mitchell at Park 1 and Superintendent Dave Nicholas at Washakie 1 suggested we run our own WILN, a Big Horn Basin WILN. As the initiative is not a component of accreditation, there was no state requirement. It wasn't a grant requirement because there was no grant. It was simply an understanding and observation that each of the districts would learn and grow, become better places for children and staff, if we collaborated.

For the past 18 months the administrators in Park 1, Park 6, and Washakie 1 have converged on a host school to visit a wide variety of classrooms. Following the observations principals debate instructional strategies and provide the host principals with a deluge of information. Along with rich conversations about teaching and learning, the Big Horn Basin administrators are developing strong professional contacts that lead to more collaboration. The work continues on Sept. 7 as Washakie 1 will host the first visits for 2016-17.

FREMONT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #25, Riverton by Terry Snyder, Superintendent

Getting kids off to a good start is critical to their success in school both socially and academically; so, we have reconfigured our elementary design. Aspen Early Learning Center has been established as a preschool and kindergarten center for the district and community. We have expanded our kindergarten program to include a two-year KinderBoost program. This program will meet kids where they are developmentally and nurture them so they are ready for first grade. The preschool program and a one-stop-shop of early childhood services for the community will be researched and implemented next year. We have also opened an additional elementary building. Going from the highest K-3 student-teacher ratio district in the state five years ago, we are now in compliance for the 16-1 requirement. Our goal is to have all students reading at grade level by the end of third grade. We think our expanded program will help us attain that goal.



Partnership Governing Board Members Share Updates: Accomplishments from Last Year, and Hopes and Goals for 2016-2017



WASHAKIE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1, Worland by David Nicholas, Superintendent

Washakie 1 celebrated a successful accreditation visit with an Index of Education Quality (IEQ) score that exceeds norms in all areas. Much of our success has to do with the countless hours working on the power of collaboration through professional learning communities.

Congratulations to
David Nicholas, elected
Partnership chair-elect, 2016-2018!

This year, to ensure students treat others with respect, the district is in Year 1 of implementing a [Olweus Bullying Prevention Program](#), with two principals fully certified as national Olweus trainers. They are scheduled to showcase the district's efforts at the Wyoming AvancED School Improvement Conference this September. In addition, the district is moving forward with system wide Response To Intervention/Multi-Tier System of Supports efforts. We have joined other districts participating in [Wyoming's MTSS Coaching Project](#). Expanding staff knowledge of the RTI process can only move us forward.



GOSHEN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1, Torrington by Jean Chrostoski, Superintendent

This past year's state testing results demonstrated small, but steady improvement in our scores. This year's 4th grade reading scores surpassed the state average by 14 percentage points. We are excited about future possibilities of success.

In August, the district hosted [Ken O'Connor](#), who spoke to all staff about a belief change when it comes to student grading. Teachers this year will be deciding which of the "15 Fixes for Broken Grades" that they can come to collective commitment on and what is right for our students. The biggest challenge will be how to live in both worlds of grading at the high school level, when some colleges still have the expectation that letter grades and percentages are important. Also, we are excited to have Luis Cruz coming to assist with meeting the needs of our Hispanic population. Last, we are preparing to launch a Goshen County Chapter for [Teammates Mentoring Program](#), founded by the well respected Tom Osborne. It's an exciting year in Goshen County!

WYOMING EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

by Kathy Vetter, President

This past year, our staff worked with the [University of Wyoming ECHO project](#) to provide professional development for school leaders in Wyoming. We developed a training around how to develop a quality "Plan of Improvement" that is beneficial to the employee, employer, and students. We hope to continue to partner with the UW ECHO project in developing future professional development opportunities for school leaders.



Also, we plan to continue the collaboration with the Wyoming Education Coalition; a coalition of entities including WEA, Wyoming School Boards Association, Wyoming School Administrator Association, school principals, and others. Our goal is to ensure appropriate and adequate funding for Wyoming's K-12 schools and community colleges. We thank all of our partners who work on this important issue.

WDE Reports Key 2015 Accomplishments, Stats, and Data

The Wyoming Department of Education created a snapshot to share important information about Wyoming K12 students and teachers. The snapshot includes key accomplishments, statistics, and 2015 PAWS and ACT results, along with information about the WDE's strategic plans.

To see the complete WDE snapshot, go the [online version](#) of the report.



Key Accomplishments

79.4% Graduation Rate

\$15,952,312 awarded Hathaway Scholarships

2,898 2016 grades enrolled at WY university or community college

58 WY students earned Congressional awards, including **7** gold medal awards.



National Comparisons

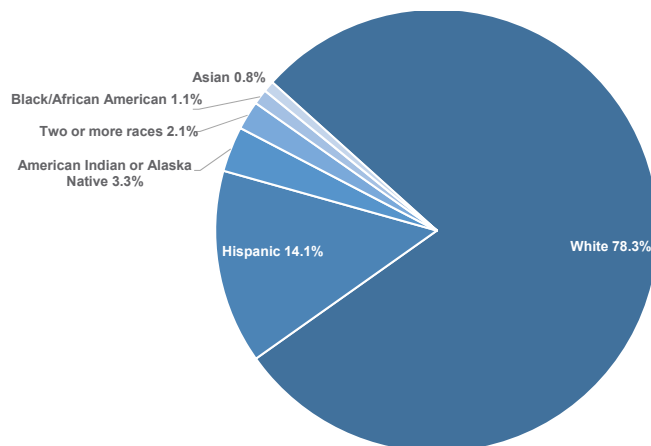
WY is one of **23** states that the U.S. Department of Education has determined meets the requirements and purposes of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Education Week's 20th annual report card ranked WY **8th** in the nation for education quality.



Wyoming K12 Students By the Numbers

94,002 students on Oct. 1, 2015



37.4% Receive Subsidized Meals
13.8% Receive Special Ed. Services
3,604 English Language Learners
1,495 Homeless Students

Test Scores

Results on the 2015 National Assessment of Education Progress, or NAEP, show WY's 4th and 8th grade students **continue to outperform national averages test scores** in reading and mathematics.

Results from the 2016 statewide high school assessments, the ACT and ACT Aspire show that 11th grade students **showed improvement in every subject tested** compared to previous years.



Presented here are some stats that stood out to the Partnership, reprinted with the WDE's permission.

WY National Board for Certification Initiative Announces 2016-2017 Activities

by Mary Garland

National Board Initiative Announces Candidate Support Provider Training

The Wyoming National Board for Certification Initiative is a unique private-public collaboration between the John P. Ellbogen Foundation and the Wyoming Department of Education now more than 10 years old. The coming school year offers opportunities for individual teachers and schools to participate.

The WY NBCI is excited to announce that it will be hosting a Candidate Support Provider (CSP) training for all Wyoming NBCTs interested in becoming a CSP. The training is designed to provide the knowledge, skills, and tools to successfully support teacher candidates for National Board Certification. It will take place in Casper, Sept. 24-25, 2016. Registration and details can be found at the WNBCI website, [here](#).

In addition to the training for new CSPs, the initiative is also hosting a refresher course for all current Wyoming CSPs interested in updating

their skills and becoming familiar with the new format. The refresher course will also occur in Casper, Sept. 25, 2016.

Educators will be interested to know that the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards has revised the certification process, with 2016-2017 roll-out year. This is an opportunity for new and experienced CSPs to learn about the requirements for candidates. Registration and details can be found [here](#).

Attendees should note that Sept. 25 coincides with the school improvement conference in Casper.

Initiative Launches Support for NBC Professional Development Schools

National Board professional development school cohorts provide learning opportunities that emphasize a demonstration and reflection of accomplished teaching and improved student learning through completion of the National Board certification process.

This school-based professional development opportunity is designed to build upon the strengths of each school community. It creates a professional learning community focused on collaborating with colleagues to use information about students to enhance teaching practices.

Grounded in the National Board's Five Core Propositions that describe what teachers should know and be able to do, the certification process requires teachers to provide evidence of accomplished teaching based on the National Board standards. Each candidate is required to complete four components within a three-year period. The WY NBCT initiative will support a limited number of schools in any given year based on our capacity. For more information go to <http://www.wnbc.org/> and <http://boardcertified-teachers.org/for-candidates>.

Contact Mary Garland, mleg0@yahoo.com with any questions.

Exemplary Status Achievement Open to Ellbogen Meritorious Schools

This new level of excellence is available to those schools that have achieved Ellbogen Meritorious School status.

Schools will increase the percentage of teaching staff who have achieved National Board certification by 10% from the initial Ellbogen Meritorious School Award. Teachers will be encouraged and supported by the WY NBCI and by their school and district.

Exemplary status awardees will be eligible for a cash award ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 in discretionary grant funds payable per school when program requirements are met. Use of the award will be determined by all teachers in

collaboration with the building principal(s). The award will be paid at \$500 per new National Board certified teacher within the \$1,000 – 5,000 range.

Such schools will receive an Exemplary Status Achievement plaque in recognition of the National Board certified teachers in the school. Ellbogen Foundation staff will make an on-site presentation of the award at the request of the school.



News from the UW American Heritage Center

Kean retires; WY History Day project coordinator to be hired. This summer, Richard "Dick" Kean retired from the position as Wyoming's History Day project coordinator. From Cheyenne, Dick taught in the International Baccalaureate program at Cheyenne East High School prior to his work with UW's American Heritage Center. In addition to History Day, Dick was an enthusiastic proponent of We, the People and Project Citizen. The position was posted in August and the coordinator will be announced this fall. The collective Wyoming humanities community thanks Dick for his steadfast leadership of these programs and their benefits to students and their teachers. For more information about these initiatives go to Wyoming History Day's [website](#).

Bridget Burke assumes directorship of UW's American Heritage Center. On July 1, Burke began her position directing the AHC succeeding Richard Ewig. In addition to being one of the nation's premier repositories of manuscript collections, the AHC is the site of events ranging from popular Wyoming mystery writer C.J. Box reading from his latest book to short research residencies supported by a grant application process. The AHC is resource for students and teachers at all levels, including K12. Many of the holdings have been digitized and are available online. To access those resources go to <http://www.uwyo.edu/ahc/>.

John Anderson to Direct Sublette County BOCES

John Anderson, emeritus professor of political science at the University of Nebraska at Kearney and senior part-time lecturer for the UW, will become the Director of Sublette Board of Cooperative Educational Services in Mid-September.

Sublette BOCES serves the northern portion of Sublette County and is very active in its support of P-12 education, community granting and adult education. With over 35 years in education and experiences that range from public schools to universities and out-of-the-box thinking about education everywhere, Anderson hopes to work toward continually renewing the quality of educational experiences provided by the organization.

Anderson can be contacted at jander61@uwyo.edu, or the Sublette BOCES office at 307.367.6873.

Wyoming State Science Fair 3rd Annual Logo Contest

Call for Entries!

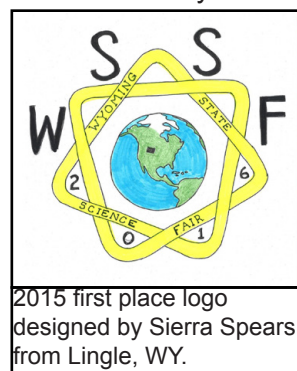
Submit by November 1.

What is it? Students **draw** an original logo for the 2017 T-shirt and for buttons worn by contestants. Designs may be drawn by hand or on computer, but all elements must be the student's own creation.

Winning designs will be featured on the 2017 WSSF T-shirt (1st prize). First, second, and third place designs will be featured on buttons/pins that are worn by contestants at the Wyoming fair and traded by students at the International Science and Engineering Fair. Winners will be announced during the WY State Science Fair in Laramie on March 5-7, 2017.

Who is eligible? K-12 students attending a school in Wyoming

For the complete guidelines for the logo contest or WSSF, visit <http://www.uwyo.edu/sciencefair/> or contact Erin Stoesz, coordinator at wyoatefair@gmail.com



Citizen Science continued from page 7

science program organizers face particular challenges when recruiting participants in a rural state, sending volunteers into remote locations, tackling the 2015 law limiting citizen science work done on private lands, how to fund these seemingly free but actually quite expensive endeavors, and more.

Brenna Marsicek is the Outreach Coordinator for the UW Biodiversity Institute and organizer of the Wyoming Citizen Science Conference. Learn more about the Biodiversity Institute at <http://www.wyomingbiodiversity.org/>

**The Partnership is a
BRONZE Level Sponsor
of the WY Citizen Science Conference!**

NNER Initiates Strategic Planning Work

The National Network for Educational Renewal, parent organization of the Partnership, has begun strategic planning work. The work started July 18-19 in Albuquerque, NM and involved representatives from each setting. Audrey Kleinsasser represented Wyoming and Margaret Hudson (UW Lab School) represented the League of Democratic Schools.

The two-day meeting was facilitated by Susanna Murphy, current AdvancED director for New Mexico. She used a set of systems analysis activities from Langford (Quality Improvement Tools, 1999). Key components of the activities included: defining the system (strengths and challenges); revitalizing the mission; revisiting our enabling actions; re-energizing the enabling actions; and re-imagining the network capabilities. Participants met in large and small group configurations, created lists, posted and shared them, all of which Murphy collected and further distilled.

According to Kleinsasser, the meeting produced a list of actionable next steps and recommendations designed to grow the NNER. Those next steps included the following:

- articulate a clear mission with a 5-year plan;
- overhaul the governance structure;

- reconsider all aspects of membership;
- re-examine dues structure;
- identify a succession plan;
- streamline name/brand;
- update language describing the organization;
- deepen engagement with prek-12 practitioners, increase diversity;
- embrace technology to communicate and market more effectively (purchase services);
- rededicate ourselves to research/inquiry to measure our efforts and disseminate results based on empirical data; and,
- seek out connections with like-minded organizations in order to collaborate (e.g., ASCD-Professional Learning and Community for Educators, National Association of Professional Development Schools).



The work in Albuquerque will be reported out and further discussed during the NNER's annual fall conference, October 27-29.

Watts continued from page 1

the state's director. She also directed Ohio's federal Improving Teacher Quality grant and serves as the state lead on the Complete College America Mathematics Pathways Initiative.

Watts has already spent considerable time in Wyoming, meeting with university and college leadership and also representatives of the initiative's backer, the Denver-based Daniels Foundation. Prior to the start of UW's fall classes, Watts met and talked with the College of Education leadership council and participated in an all-college retreat. She is slated to meet with the Wyoming School-Uni-

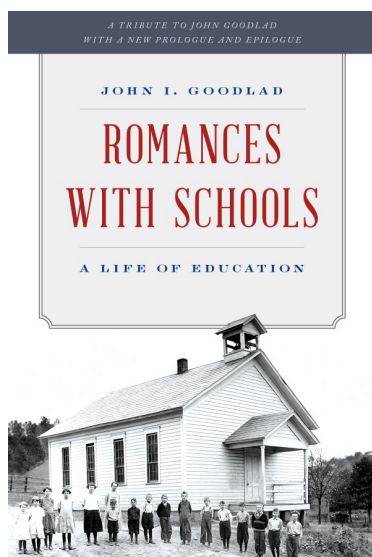
versity Partnership's governing board at its November 3 meeting in Casper.

"Bolstered by the tremendous support of the Daniels Fund, the Trustees' Education Initiative offers a unique and exciting opportunity for the future of Wyoming," said Watts. "Set in the context of intense scrutiny on education at the state and national level, this work is timely and without question will be challenging. In rising to that challenge we will build shared trust among all stakeholders with a common focus on continuous improvement."

Watts was selected after an extensive, nationwide search conducted by Storbeck/Pimentel Executive Search Consultants and two separate interview visits to Laramie.

The initiative was established two years ago and is aimed at elevating the UW College of Education to national per-eminence in preparing K12 teachers, counselors, and administrators. The Daniels Foundation is funding the five-year, \$5 million effort.

To learn more about Rebecca Watts, read UW's press release [here](#).



Romances with Schools

A Life of Education

John. I. Goodlad

Continued by Stephen J. Goodlad

First published in 2004, *Romances with Schools* was re-released in July with a new prologue and epilogue.

In *Romances with Schools*, John Goodlad steps out from behind the public persona of distinguished scholar and advocate for public schooling to offer a moving personal account of a life devoted to educating the young. He deftly interweaves fascinating personal details with reflections on many of the larger issues in education that he has explored throughout his career. Stephen Goodlad, John's son, has written a moving prologue to the book that provides behind-the-scenes insight into John's life. An epilogue by Roger Soder, a long-time colleague, places John's work of school renewal in the context of political change.

John I. Goodlad is the author of *A Place Called School*, the groundbreaking study of the effectiveness of the American system of education. For over sixty years, he has been a leading force in improving public schooling in North America. John died in November 2014.

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Watch for upcoming
Partnership events featuring
Romances with Schools

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location
September 9-10	Re-visioning the Laboratory: Sci-Art Symposium	UW, Laramie
September 23-24	UW 2016 Fall Literacy Conference: Writers and Writing	UW, Laramie
September 26-27	AdvancED Wyoming Fall 2016 Continuous Improvement Conference	Plaza Parkway Hotel, Casper
October 3-4	UW e-Volution Conference (onsite and online)	UW, Laramie
October 6-8	2016 Wyoming Foreign Language Teachers Association Conference	Ramkota Inn, Casper
October 7	Partnering for Student Success and Transition	Casper College, Casper
October 27-29	NNER Annual Fall Conference	University of Texas-Arlington, Arlington
November 3	Partnership Governing Board Meeting	UW-Casper, Casper
December 1-2	Wyoming Citizen Science Conference	Lander, WY
January 26	Partnership Governing Board Meeting	UW-Casper, Casper

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