

# THE PARTNERSHIP

A NEWSLETTER OF THE WYOMING SCHOOL-UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP



## Partnership creates NNER scholarships

The Wyoming School-University Partnership will provide \$1,000 scholarships to 20 presenters at the 2009 National Network for Educational Renewal annual conference [www.nnerpartnerships.org/](http://www.nnerpartnerships.org/). The meetings, set for Oct. 15-17, 2009, in Bellevue, Wash., mark the 10th anniversary of the 1999 In Praise of Education conference.

In preparing a proposal, use these four conference strands: 1) Pursuing Excellence and Equity for All Learners; 2) Preparing Students for Participation in Democracy; 3) Practicing Nurturing Pedagogies; and 4) Stewarding Public Education.

To be eligible, all applicants first must participate in a conference call about the conference themes and the scholarship application process. The calls are scheduled for the week of Feb. 9 and will last no more than one hour.

Go to [www.uwyo.edu/wsups](http://www.uwyo.edu/wsups) to register for a day and time that



**10th Anniversary In Praise of Education: The New Three Rs**  
Reflection, Responsibility, Renewal

fits your schedule. If none of the times work, please contact Audrey Kleinsasser at [dakota@uwyo.edu](mailto:dakota@uwyo.edu) or call 307.766.6358 by Feb. 2.

Wyoming educators affiliated with a Partnership school district, a Wyoming community college, the Wyoming Education Association, the Wyoming Department of Education, and the University of Wyoming are eligible. The scholarship funds are restricted to conference registration, travel, and conference registration.

The Partnership encourages applicants to apply as two- or three-member collaborative teams.

### Scholarship Application Checklist

- Register at [www.uwyo.edu/wsups](http://www.uwyo.edu/wsups) for one of the information conference calls by Feb. 6.
- Participate in your scheduled conference call Feb. 9-11.
- Complete the NNER online call for proposals form at [www.nnerpartnerships.org/](http://www.nnerpartnerships.org/) by March 16, 2009.
- E-mail a copy of the proposal to Tara Reiter-Marolf at [treiterm@uwyo.edu](mailto:treiterm@uwyo.edu) by March 16, 2009. If we do not receive a copy of your proposal, you will not be eligible for a scholarship.

### Required Conference Call

Select one and register at [www.uwyo.edu/wsups](http://www.uwyo.edu/wsups)

Monday, February 9, 12-1 p.m.

Tuesday, February 10, 7:30-8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 11, 3-4 p.m.

# Sweetwater districts team up to prepare teachers

*By Kathleen Bruce, Sweetwater County  
Partner Schools facilitator*

This is my third year as the University of Wyoming Partner School Facilitator for Sweetwater County School Districts #1 and #2.

The partnership in Sweetwater County is a unique model, because it is not a single district. Sharing and collegiality is built between and with two separate districts.

## **Our Partnership**

Green River has a population of about 12,000 people and currently has three elementary schools. However, next year they will be reopening a fourth elementary. There are 10 student teachers doing their residency for the 2008-2009 school year: seven at Washington Elementary and three at Truman Elementary.

Rock Springs has a population of more than 25,000 people and is located about 15 miles east on Interstate 80. They have five elementary schools, and one intermediate school. There are nine more students doing residency in Rock Springs: five at Desert View Elementary and four at White Mountain Intermediate.

This is the third year of a four-year partnership between the two districts, the College of Education and the University of Wyoming. The diverse population of both cities lends itself to an exceptional setting for great learning possibilities for everyone involved. The program has been overwhelmingly accepted in both districts and communities because of the level of communication, support and collaboration that has



*From left, Kathleen Bruce, Sweetwater Partner Schools facilitator, Patrick Manyak, UW literacy methods, and Diana Wiig, UW science and mathematics methods.*

existed since the beginning of the relationship. Administration, mentor teachers, students, parents, staff and community have all been impressed with the level of commitment and preparedness that these student teachers have brought with them from the university setting.

Many of the student teachers began their career in education by attending Western Wyoming Community College in Rock Springs, so it has been great to see some of them coming back to do their work in Southwestern Wyoming. Because of the partnership, the education professors from Western have been able to be included in some of the workshops and seminars we have provided. It has also made for good communication while they help prepare students for the university level of classes once students leave Western.

One of the main reasons this

partnership works so well is because of the collaboration among so many. Two of the people instrumental in helping this particular partnership are Anne Marie Covey, principal at Washington Elementary, and Wanda Heiser, co-principal at White Mountain Intermediate.

## **'A win-win situation'**

Anne Marie has been in education for the past 12 years and is a Rock Springs native. She taught for six years in a variety of settings with diverse experiences with students from preschool through fifth grade, including working with students in the inner-city schools. She also was a building resource teacher in a K-5 building, where she coached and mentored, and taught model lessons. She came to Sweetwater County after being a principal for four years in Colorado. She has been a principal at Washington Elementary for the

past two years and has offered suggestions and resources along with presenting at our mandatory November mentor/preservice workshop in 2008. We currently are using the book Company in Your Classroom from the Developmental Studies Center that she suggested our mentors use. Her presentation “Supporting Learning: How We Talk to Teachers” was well received, and she has been willing to do follow-up with communication for mentors and student teachers.

Anne Marie has implemented the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports and Response to Intervention programs in her building. She feels that she can give our residency students real-life experiences in her classrooms. She is willing to coach, interview, and do anything she can to help move the students along in their preparation to deal with the culture and climate of her school, which is so critical. She also wants to help the students understand the importance of finding the school that fits them when they are job seeking.

She feels that her building and district have a strong core curriculum in reading, writing and math and offer the opportunities and experiences with interventions, and using data to make decisions. She holds monthly “Data Discussions” so that her faculty, along with the student teachers, can make good judgments based on the information gathered. Progress monitoring is also a part of their assessment. Anne Marie says that this has been a huge transformation for this school, and that, since personnel is such a key issue, having the student teachers at her school is



---

**I love planning, scheduling and helping to prepare the student teachers for the greatest profession on earth. It is so much fun and so rewarding to watch them come, early in the fall, and follow them throughout their journey as they grow and develop ...**

---



a win-win situation.

Anne Marie thinks the partnership is key to our profession as educators. She feels we’ve got to give back and mentor others to continue on. She also appreciates the open lines of communication and support she receives from the facilitator and the university.

#### **‘Positive and innovative’**

Wanda Heiser started her journey at the Crippled Children’s Hospital and School in South Dakota and from there went on to get a dual major in elementary and special education at the University of South Dakota. Her varied background runs from special education to second grade, to being a reading specialist in an at-risk school, and she also taught fifth grade in Sioux Falls, SD, and Buffalo, Wyo. She was an interim principal in Kaycee, Wyo., and an assistant principal at White Mountain for five years. For the past two years, Wanda has presented at our November workshop on the “Seven Norms of Collaboration” with an emphasis on classroom applications. She is currently co-principal with Chad Shooley at White Mountain and is working on her Ed.D degree at the University of Wyoming.

Wanda believes that her school demonstrates a unique experience

for student teachers that is open and provides knowledge from a veteran staff with many years of teaching experiences. Her school is also unique because they teach specifically to a fifth- and sixth-grade population. She believes they are practicing the model of professional learning communities and are innovative in providing a one-to-one classroom setting where fifth-graders utilize learning with their own laptops.

Wanda said her district also provides ongoing professional development in thinking strategies, new curriculum, technology, and lab classrooms. Specifically, she believes that she brings a love of learning and of children. Her outlook is one in which she thinks it is critical to be positive and innovative and to pilot new initiatives that improve learning. Wanda’s staff has piloted a new data collection program, new curriculum, new online scheduling system, and more importantly a program with the university to grow new teachers.

Wanda says that it is only through a collaborative approach that we are able to effectively meet the needs of our students and this is happening even in our leadership approach as co-principals this year. It is through modeling this type of

**Please see PARTNERS,  
page 7**



# HIGH SCHOOL ...

*The Wyoming School-University Partnership invites secondary and post-secondary faculty from across the state to come together to improve students' transitions from high school to higher education.*

*The Partnership, in conjunction with several other organizations, will host a series of conferences this spring to support ongoing high school to higher ed collaborations in multiple subjects.*

*Visit [www.uwyo.edu/wsuf](http://www.uwyo.edu/wsuf) today to learn more and register for the following events in the fields of mathematics, life sciences, and writing.*

## Wyoming Mathematics Articulation Conference - High School to College Session

---

### What:

2009 Wyoming Mathematics Articulation Conference - High School to College Session

### When:

Feb. 5-7, 2009

### Where:

Casper

### Deadline:

5 p.m.  
Tuesday,  
Jan. 20 to  
participate in  
the Thursday  
dinner

### Register:

[www.uwyo.edu/wymatyc/registration.asp](http://www.uwyo.edu/wymatyc/registration.asp)

The Partnership will lead two high-school to college sessions in conjunction with the annual Wyoming Mathematics Articulation Conference.

These sessions are targeted for high school and higher education math teachers.

The articulation kicks off Thursday evening with dinner and a book discussion featuring Limbo: Blue-Collar Roots, White-Collar Dreams at Casper's 303 restaurant. Dinner is free, as is Thursday night's lodging for anyone participating in the dinner discussion.

Then, Friday morning, the math articulation continues with an 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. mathematics body of evidence workshop. The session will be guided by an Understanding by Design framework. Session facilitators include Alan Moore and Tom Collins, WDE; Bob Mayes, UW Mathematics and Science Teaching Center; and



*Wyoming faculty from K-12, community college and the University of Wyoming examine student work during a past life sciences summit.*

Bryan Shader, UW Mathematics Department.

On Friday noon, the yearly meeting of Wyoming mathematics, statistics, chemistry, and physics teachers begins, with a variety of breakout sessions and a Friday evening banquet with keynoter.

The meeting concludes Saturday noon.

**\*\* Registration for dinner and a book has been extended through Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009, at 5 p.m.**

**Register now at [www.uwyo.edu/wymatyc/registration.asp](http://www.uwyo.edu/wymatyc/registration.asp). \*\***

## Life Sciences Summit

UW Life Sciences Director Mark Lyford will guide the fourth annual Life Sciences Summit in February.

The summit is for high school, community college, and university faculty. Educators will come together to examine student work to discover what it indicates about teacher expectations, student learning, and student abilities.

The particular focus of this summit will be the

challenges of teaching the scientific process and learners' misconceptions of evolution.

The goal of this summit will be to discuss the teaching of the theory of evolution and how it can be used as an underlying theme throughout all biology, as well as to discuss how understanding the nature of science influences an understanding of evolution.

Several readings will be distributed in advance of the

meeting, and all participants should bring examples of student work to share with colleagues.

Materials, lunch, and refreshments are provided at no cost. Substitutes, travel, and lodging are the responsibility of the participant's school or institution.

Participants should register no later than 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13. Register at [www.uwyo.edu/wsupsup](http://www.uwyo.edu/wsupsup).

### What:

Fourth Annual Life Sciences Summit

### When:

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Feb. 20, 2009

### Where:

UW Outreach Center, Casper

### Deadline:

5 p.m.  
Friday, Feb. 13

### Register:

[www.uwyo.edu/wsupsup](http://www.uwyo.edu/wsupsup)

## Wyoming Writing Colloquium - Teaching Critical Reading

### What:

Second Annual Wyoming Writing Colloquium

### When:

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
April 20, 2009

### Where:

Riverton

### Register:

<http://uwacadweb.uwyo.edu/lrn/tww.htm>

The second annual Wyoming Writing Colloquium is scheduled for April 20 in Riverton.

The colloquium is designed to bring together secondary and post-secondary faculty from multiple disciplines.

The focus of this year's event is critical reading. Topics will include strategies for teaching reading, approaches to helping at-risk readers, research on effective

unit and curriculum design, workshops on student responses to reading-based assignments, and grant opportunities for curriculum projects.

There is no cost to participants, but substitutes, travel, and lodging are the responsibility of the school or institution.

UW and PTSB credit will be available.

Visit <http://uwacadweb.uwyo.edu/lrn/tww.htm>



*Secondary and post-secondary educators meet for the Wyoming Writing Colloquium in Douglas in April 2008.*

for registration, a tentative agenda,

and conference information.

# ... TO HIGHER ED

# Teachers earn National Board Certification

*By Rae Lynn Job, initiative coordinator*

The Wyoming National Board Certification Initiative is proud to announce that 54 Wyoming teachers earned National Board Certification in 2008.

That brings the total of NBCTs in Wyoming to 196, putting the state ahead of the national average of two percent of all teachers earning NBC.

The Ellbogen Foundation will host a celebration dinner Feb. 6 in Cheyenne to honor this distinguished accomplishment for these teachers.

About 20 members of this new group have registered to complete the candidate support provider training also offered in February in Cheyenne, so that they may stay involved with the initiative by providing assistance to current and future candidates.

Also, 47 candidates who did not receive their certification have registered for the advanced

District	2009 Candidates	Total NBCTs	District	2009 Candidates	Total NBCTs
Albany #1	3	5	Niobrara #1		5
Big Horn #1		2	Park #1	1	4
Big Horn #2			Park #6	10	10
Big Horn #3		1	Park #16	1	
Campbell #1	2	34	Platte #1	8	3
Carbon #1			Platte #2		1
Carbon #2			Sheridan #1		8
Converse #1		5	Sheridan #2		2
Converse #2			Sheridan #3	1	
Crook #1	1		Sublette #1	1	2
Fremont #2	4	1	Sweetwater #1	2	12
Fremont #6		2	Sweetwater #2		
Fremont # 25	3	3	Teton #1	4	7
Goshen #1	3	1	Uinta #1	6	3
Hot Springs #1		1	Uinta #4		3
Johnson #1	4	8	Uinta #6	2	2
Laramie #1	13	30	Washakie #1		
Laramie #2		3	Weston #1	2	4
Lincoln #2	1	3	Normative Services	4	
Natrona #1	17	31	Other	1	

candidate workshop, which will be held in Casper on Jan. 16 and 17. They are determined to continue with the process and are taking full advantage of the support and help the initiative provides.

Spring recruiting for the initiative

will begin in March, providing informational meetings in every district in the state regarding the National Board Certification Initiative and the financial and technical assistance available in Wyoming.

## NNER opens submissions for new online journal

The National Network for Education Renewal has created a new journal and is seeking articles.

Education in a Democracy: A Journal of the NNER will be published once each fall in an online format and will be accessible at [www.nnerpartnerships.org](http://www.nnerpartnerships.org). It will be a peer-reviewed publication, and all articles will be refereed using a double-blind review process.

Members of the NNER and others are encouraged to submit manuscripts to the journal.

Articles should address one or more of the following

issues: fostering effective participation in a social and political democracy, ensuring access to the understandings and skills required for satisfying and responsible lives, developing and providing continuing support to educators who nurture the learning and well-being of every student, encouraging educators to be competent and committed stewards of their schools and communities, and informing readers about educational policy issues related to the agenda of the NNER. Collaboration across

educational settings is strongly encouraged.

The first issue of the journal will be available in fall 2009, and those interested in having an article reviewed should submit the manuscript by March 1, 2009.

For more details on the manuscript guidelines, visit [www.nnerpartnerships.org](http://www.nnerpartnerships.org).

To submit a manuscript, e-mail it as an attachment (in Microsoft Word or in rich text format) to [skillijh@muohio.edu](mailto:skillijh@muohio.edu). A separate cover page document also should be attached.



# State Scholars Initiative reaches out to students

*By Glenda Tucker, executive director,  
Wyoming P-16 Education Council*

Glenda Tucker and John Durkee, project staff members, have been on the road, visiting pilot districts during January. The pilot districts include Big Horn #3, Fremont #25, Laramie #2, Natrona #1, and Niobrara #1. Staff members and districts are working together to prepare for business leaders to participate in trainings and conduct eighth-grade presentations in these districts.

In November, several business volunteers in the Casper area participated in a training. Mary Wolf-Francis, a consultant from EDUPartners, provided the training, and Dr. Terese Rainwater, national State Scholars Program



director, represented the national office.

In the presentations, business leaders will talk to eighth-graders about the advantages of completing the State Scholars core course of study, regardless of their plans beyond high school. The presentation is geared to discuss the global economy, introduce an example of a family budget, and discuss the students' future options. In addition, the business presenters will have the

opportunity to share personal experiences with the students.

Meanwhile, recognition events for students completing the State Scholars Program also are in the planning stages, and incentives are being developed to encourage students to stay on track and complete the core course of study.

The State Scholars Initiative also is proud to report that participation in the program is up this year. All five pilot districts are implementing the program requirements and activities.

For more information about the State Scholars Initiative or the Wyoming P-16 Education Council, contact Glenda Tucker at [wyop16@gmail.com](mailto:wyop16@gmail.com) or 307.760.8489.

---

## **PARTNERS,** continued from page 3

attitude every day that encourages staff to try new approaches, take risks and look toward continuous improvement for our students and staff that makes us the right choice for student teachers.

### **'The greatest profession on earth'**

Not only does this partnership work because of leadership like Anne Marie and Wanda emulate, but it takes commitment from the university staff as well. Dr. Patrick Manyak is the literacy professor at UW, and he has jumped in with both feet and hasn't quit running yet. Patrick teaches classes, guides

independent study projects, writes articles for *The Reading Teacher*, develops literacy programs for diverse groups, takes time for his family, and also finds the time to work in the Sweetwater County districts with families of English language learners. He continues to work with ELL parents and staff in Sweetwater #2, and Sweetwater #1 is now looking to have him get involved in their district with their ELL population as well.

I do believe that you can hear the commitment that these three educators have and what outstanding leadership we are lucky to be aligned with through our partnership.

I have been in education myself for more than 30 years, and the past

three years as facilitator for this partnership have been a great way to end my career.

I love planning, scheduling and helping to prepare the student teachers for the greatest profession on earth. It is so much fun and so rewarding to watch them come, early in the fall, and follow them throughout their journey as they grow and develop ready to take on their own classes and one day hope to mentor the next generation of teachers.

If you have any questions, or just want to chat about the partnership and its workings, please feel free to contact me anytime at [kbruce@uwyo.edu](mailto:kbruce@uwyo.edu). I will be glad to visit with you about this exciting adventure we're all on.

# Coming Up ...

---

## **January 20, 2009**

Deadline to register for  
mathematics Dinner & a Book event  
at [www.uwyo.edu/wymatyc/  
registration.asp](http://www.uwyo.edu/wymatyc/registration.asp).

## **January 26, 2009**

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Governing Board  
UW Outreach Center, Casper

## **February 5-7, 2009**

2009 Wyoming Mathematics  
Articulation Conference  
Casper

## **February 9-11, 2009**

Conference calls for eligibility  
for NNER presenter scholarship.  
Register at [www.uwyo.edu/wsups](http://www.uwyo.edu/wsups).

## **February 20**

Life Sciences Summit  
UW Outreach Center, Casper

## **March 2-3, 2009**

School Improvement Conference,  
Parkway Plaza, Casper

## **March 16, 2009**

Deadline to submit proposals for  
presentations/scholarships at the  
NNER annual conference.

## **April 17, 2009**

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Governing Board  
UW Outreach Center, Casper

## **April 20, 2009**

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Wyoming Writing Colloquium:  
Teaching Critical Reading  
Central Wyoming College, Riverton

## **July 19-24, 2009**

NNER Summer Symposium  
Seattle, Wash.

# THE PARTNERSHIP



## **Who We Are**

The Wyoming School-University Partnership includes K-16 faculty and administrators statewide along with other education stakeholders. The stakeholders study and promote the role of education in preparing students for life and work in a democracy.

## **Learn More**

[Wyoming School-University Partnership](#)

[Wyoming National Board Certification](#)

[National Network for Educational Renewal](#)

[Wyoming P-16 Council](#)

## **Contact Us**

1000 E. University Ave.  
Dept. 3374  
Wyoming Hall,  
Rooms 412 & 415  
Laramie, WY 82071

Audrey Kleinsasser  
Director  
307.766.6358  
[dakota@uwyo.edu](mailto:dakota@uwyo.edu)

Tara Reiter-Marolf  
Office Associate  
307.766.3274  
[treiterm@  
uwyo.edu](mailto:treiterm@uwyo.edu)

Jenni Luckett  
Communication Consultant  
307.258.4410  
[jenni\\_luckett@  
natronaschools.org](mailto:jenni_luckett@natronaschools.org)