



# Wyoming School-University Partnership September 2007

## Partnership schedules regional science summits throughout Wyoming

Science faculty from K-12 schools, community colleges and universities are invited to participate in regional science summits to share student work.

[Read more ...](#)



## Author plans appearance at Partnership Fall Conference

Cathy Small will be the keynote speaker at the Partnership Fall Conference this October. Learn more about the conference, and register online now!

[Read more ...](#)

## Wyoming communities grow together with *Big Read* of 'My Antonia'

Partnership mini-grants are supporting local libraries in hosting *Big Read* events. Communities across the country will read and discuss 'My Antonia' in a celebration of literacy.

[Read more ...](#)

## Welcome back, Green River!

Green River, one of the Wyoming School-University Partnership's original members, has returned to the Partnership!

[Read more ...](#)

## NNER sponsors annual conference

Two Wyoming educators will present at the NNER's annual conference in West Virginia.

[Read more ...](#)

## The Partnership

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.

## Upcoming Events

**September 10, 2007**

Regional Science Summit  
Evanston

**September 12, 2007**

Wyoming's Big Read kicks off in communities statewide

**October 3-6, 2007**

2007 NNER Annual Conference  
Charleston, WV

**October 18-19, 2007**

Fall 2007 Partnership Conference  
Featuring Cathy Small  
Laramie

**October 26, 2007**

Regional Science Summit  
Worland

**December 4, 2007**

Regional Science Summit  
Gillette

## Useful Links

[Wyoming School-University Partnership](#)

[National Network for Educational Renewal](#)

[Wyoming National Board Certification](#)

[Institute for Educational Inquiry](#)

## Wyoming launches P-16 Council

Gov. Freudenthal announced the formation of a P-16 Council. Jim Lowham and Audrey Kleinsasser are members

[Read more ...](#)

## Educators attend Seattle symposium

Four education professionals study the Agenda for Education in a Democracy and bring their learning home to Wyoming.

[Read more ...](#)

## UW faculty named AED scholars

Audrey Kleinsasser and Fransisco Rios are named Agenda for Education in a Democracy (AED) Scholars by the Institute for Educational Inquiry.

[Read more ...](#)

## Day on the Hill gives educators voice

Legislators meet with Wyoming representatives to discuss education legislation.

[Read more ...](#)

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## Partnership plans science summits around state

This fall, the Wyoming School-University Partnership has scheduled three regional meetings to examine and talk about student work. Science faculty from all levels -- grades seven to 12, community college and university -- are invited to participate. Planners also invite instructional facilitators, curriculum coordinators, administrators and school board members.

The first regional meeting is scheduled for Evanston on Monday, Sept. 10, with registrations due by Sept. 5. The second is in Worland on Oct. 26, and the final one is in Gillette on Dec. 4.

The summits run all day, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with lunch and refreshments provided.

"The price of admission is student work," said Partnership Director Audrey Kleinsasser. "We ask registrants to bring multiple copies of what they consider high-, middle- and low-quality work for the purpose of sharing in cross-level table conversations."

Science textbooks, assignments, labs and course outlines also are valuable to bring. Summit planners will use the Wyoming Science Content and Performance Standards to frame the day's work.

The idea of a science summit was realized in 2005 with a statewide meeting in Casper and another, a year later, in Douglas. Participants in both meetings valued the opportunity to examine genuine work, learn from colleagues teaching at another level, and better understand the difficulty students face when going from high school to college.

"It's all about student success and demystifying the process," said Mark Lyford, director of the UW Biology Program. "The format of a summit helps us talk about big problems for students and ways to solve them. By examining student work, the conversation is deeper and different. It gets us away from blaming each other when students don't do well."

The summits are co-sponsored by the host district, a Partnership member, the UW Biology Program, and the UW Science and Math Teaching Center.

Visit to [www.uwyo.edu/wsup](http://www.uwyo.edu/wsup) for more information about the summit and the online registration form. For more information about the summits, contact Kleinsasser at [dakota@uwyo.edu](mailto:dakota@uwyo.edu) or 307.766.6358, or Lyford at [mahler@uwyo.edu](mailto:mahler@uwyo.edu) or 307.766.2818.

## Partnership Fall Conference explores transitions

Educators, policymakers and parents nationwide are concerned about improving the success of students during the difficult transition from high school to college.

Join similarly interested Wyoming K-12, community college and university educators Oct. 18-19 in Laramie for the *Partnership Fall Conference*.

The two-day conference is part of a larger, week-long series of events, *Pathways for Learning*, sponsored by the UW Office of Academic Affairs and the UW Ellbogen Center for Teaching and Learning.

Cathy Small, author of *My Freshman Year: What a Professor Learned by Becoming a Student*, will be the plenary speaker for the *Partnership Fall Conference*. Small, a Northern Arizona University anthropology professor, spent a year attending classes and taking tests, all the while experiencing university life as a non-traditional, first-year student. She will speak at 11 a.m. Thursday in the plenary address for the conference.

Conference attendees also will be able to interact with the author more informally during a "Dinner and a Book" event at 5:30 p.m. Thursday. Registrants will receive a free copy of the book to read in advance.

The conference also will feature a variety of sessions. A maximum of 20 conference registrants will be able to participate in a campus walk-about Thursday morning, during which they will meet the directors of and experience four student success centers: Writing Center, Math Lab, Communications Lab and Student Success Center in the Washakie Center.

Two panel discussions explore issues first- and second-year university students face.

Another presentation will overview the data UW collects from students about their collegiate experiences, and what that data means.

On Friday, registrants also can enjoy conversation over box lunches, followed by a question and answer session on ethnographic research methods with Cathy Small.

The conference adjourns at 2 p.m. Friday.

Registration closes Friday, Sept. 28 with the block of rooms at the conference rate released Oct. 2. The two-day conference is free, with registrants or their sponsoring agencies responsible for travel, substitutes and lodging.

For more information about the *Partnership Fall Conference*, call 307.766.3274. Find the complete Oct. 18-19 schedule, the online registration form and lodging information at [www.uwyo.edu/wsup](http://www.uwyo.edu/wsup).

For information about the week-long *Pathways for Learning* conference, go to [www.uwyo.edu/ctl](http://www.uwyo.edu/ctl) or call 307.766.4847.

## Partnership supports Wyoming's Big Read

*My Antonia*, Willa Cather's classic pioneer novel, is being featured in a series of statewide events beginning Sept. 12.

The events include a public television documentary, a keynote address in Cheyenne, living history performances, and school and community discussion groups.

The Partnership is providing \$200 mini-grants to assist county libraries. Grants support advertisements, discussion travel, living history performances and refreshments. They went to participating county libraries in Partnership districts: Albany, Campbell, Converse, Fremont, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, Sheridan, Sweetwater and Uinta.

The Wyoming events are part of *The Big Read*, an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest.

Wyoming's *Big Read* is a project of the Wyoming Center for the Book, in partnership with Wyoming libraries and the Wyoming School-University Partnership, and with support from the National Endowment for the Arts, Wyoming Community Foundation and the Kellogg Foundation.

Go to [www.wyomingbigread.org/](http://www.wyomingbigread.org/) for more information about the project and a schedule of events.

## Green River returns to Partnership membership

The Governing Board welcomes back Green River, one of the original 1986 Wyoming School-University Partnership members.

Green River, along with the communities of Casper, Ethete, Laramie, Riverton, Rock Springs and Sheridan, is a concentrated field placement site for UW student teachers. While a small number of student teachers are placed in other Wyoming communities and out of state, 90 percent of the student teachers are in the seven concentrated field sites.

Student teacher placements in these sites enable teacher education faculty to play a more significant role in the schools and communities and provide greater opportunities for collaboration and cohort support among student teachers and mentor faculty.

In addition to the schools above, Partnership districts include Cheyenne, Evanston, Gillette, Guernsey, Lusk, Pinedale, Torrington, Thermopolis and Worland. Along with the 17 member school districts, the Partnership is comprised of the UW College of Arts & Sciences, UW College of Education, Wyoming Community College Commission, the Wyoming Department of Education and the Wyoming Education Association.

Memberships are renewed Aug. 15 of each year. Contact Governing Board Chair Jim Lowham of Casper at [jim\\_lowham@ncsd.k12.wy.us](mailto:jim_lowham@ncsd.k12.wy.us) or Partnership Director Audrey Kleinsasser at [dakota@uwyo.edu](mailto:dakota@uwyo.edu) for information and benefits of membership. The Partnership originated in 1986 and celebrated its 20th anniversary last year in conjunction with the Colorado Partnership for Educational Renewal.

## NNER plans annual conference in West Virginia

Join NNER colleagues from across the U.S. and Canada for the annual meeting in Charleston, WV. Registration is \$260 on or before Sept. 1, and \$300 after that date.

The Wyoming School-University Partnership receives three complimentary registrations, which the Governing Board allocates to K-12 educators who present at the conference. This year, K-12 presenters include Marcia Patton of Natrona #1 and Tim Blum of Albany #1.

For the registration form, schedule, and preview of sessions, go to [www.ed.sc.edu/nnr/](http://www.ed.sc.edu/nnr/).

## Governor announces new P-16 Education Council

Gov. Dave Freudenthal announced the formation of Wyoming's P-16 Education Council at an Aug. 21 press conference in Cheyenne.

The council is comprised of K-12, higher education and business leaders. Governing Board Chair Jim Lowham is a member, as is Partnership Director Audrey Kleinsasser.

One of the Council's initiatives is the Wyoming State Scholars Initiative (SSI), which includes Niobrara #1, Natrona #1 and Fremont #25. Contact Sheila Martin at [missusmoose@lonetree.com](mailto:missusmoose@lonetree.com) for more information about SSI activities.

## Educators bring symposium learning to Wyoming

Four Wyoming educators participated in the annual NNER Summer Symposium in Seattle in July.

The symposium is an intense, four-day experience designed to ground participants in the Agenda for Education in a Democracy. Participants read several books prior to the sessions, including John Goodlad's *Education for Everyone; Agenda for Education in a Democracy*, *Teacher Education for Democracy and Social Justice*, edited by Nicholas Michelli and David Keiser; and Jane Roland's *Educational Metamorphoses*.

"The discussion was about schooling in a democracy and how to enhance partnerships between universities and school districts to renew each," said participant Anne LaPlante of the Natrona County School District.

A key insight was "unpacking the meaning of democracy and social justice as it relates to education," said Bob Mayes of the UW Science and Math Teaching Center. "These are constructs that elicit varied and emotional responses from people. We must be sure that a common definition is the basis of work in a given NNER project."

Mayes also said he appreciated learning more about the connection between teaching science and mathematics for understanding and about the need to construct critical arguments in a democracy.

"I believe we can teach both for democracy and deeper understanding of science and mathematics," he said.

LaPlante said she looks forward to bringing her learning back to Wyoming through deeper connections with the University of Wyoming and school-university partnership.

"Chris (Bolender of Natrona County High School) visualizes it in her school," LaPlante added.

The four Wyoming participants included Bolender, LaPlante, Mayes and Brian Recht of Albany #1. They were among 33 participants from NNER sites around the country. The Wyoming Partnership paid for half of the individual \$1,000 registration fees.

## Rios, Kleinsasser named AED scholars

The Seattle-based Institute for Educational Inquiry (IEI) has named University of Wyoming College of Education faculty members Francisco Rios and Audrey Kleinsasser to its inaugural class of Agenda for Education in a Democracy (AED) scholars.

Rios, professor of educational studies, was recognized for research on the infusion of democracy principles into foundational courses for preservice teachers. Kleinsasser, Partnership director and professor of educational studies, was honored for her work through the Partnership to strengthen relationships among educators in the arts and sciences, professional education and P-12 schools.

The rest of the 30 AED scholars include professors and administrators from colleges of education and arts and sciences, principals and school district superintendents, as well as leaders of school-university partnerships and state educational improvement initiatives.

In addition to continuing their individual work, AED scholars will counsel the IEI on mission-related issues. They also may be called upon to reflect on topics related to their individual areas of specialization.

The IEI was established in 1992 to advance the Agenda for Education in a Democracy, a four-point process that focuses on:

- \* Providing young people with the skills, dispositions and knowledge for effective participation in a democracy;
- \* Ensuring that all young people have access to the tools needed for satisfying and responsible lives;
- \* Supporting educators who nurture the learning and well-being of all students; and
- \* Ensuring that educators are competent and committed stewards of their schools.

Brief descriptions of the AED Scholars' current scholarly work may be found on the IEI Web page at [www.ieiseattle.org](http://www.ieiseattle.org).



# Wyoming educators visit D.C. for Day on the Hill

With reauthorization of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation imminent, thoughtful exchanges between educators and legislators are more important than ever.

This June, three Wyoming educators -- Patricia McClurg, dean of the UW College of Education; Mick Wiest, Converse County secondary English teacher; and Marty Woods, Goshen County secondary principal -- met in Washington, D.C., to participate in the two-day Day on the Hill. The Partnership helped support Mick and Marty's participation expenses. The meeting was sponsored by the American Association of Colleges of Education (AACTE).

Attendees met in large group sessions, but also had time with their state legislators and legislative staff.

"We were able to encourage their support of important legislation, which will have an effect on both The Higher Education Act and NCLB reauthorization," Wiest said.

McClurg said participants received a first-hand taste of the complexity of the legislative process and the hectic pace at which the educational staffers work. They attended an AACTE legislative briefing, an AACTE reception in the Senate building for legislators and legislative staff members, and an AACTE-sponsored panel on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) education featuring two exemplary in-service teachers, Robin Willner from IBM and Stanford teacher educator Linda Darling-Hammond.

After a briefing by AACTE staff regarding the status of current and pending legislation in both the House and Senate, the Wyoming educators discussed important points to make with individual legislators. The group focused on:

- \* Supporting for the Title II Teacher Quality Enhancement grants that had been zeroed out in President George W. Bush's budget. The House had an appropriation bill with \$40 million and the Senate HELP committee had recommended funding at a lower amount, as well as TQE State grants to assist in the development of statewide databases.

- \* Supporting amendment of the current Higher Education Act to require that only teacher licensure candidates who have completed 100 percent of their coursework should be included in pass rate reporting.

- \* Supporting current proposals to increase the teacher pipeline in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education. This included funding to NSF for the Noyce Scholarships and the Department of Education to expand the Math and Science Partnership program.

- \* Advocating the highly qualified teacher definition in NCLB be modified to include demonstration of ability to effectively convey content knowledge (i.e., pedagogical knowledge and student teaching). AACTE recommends that all new teachers have at least 450 supervised clinical hours and successful completion of a performance assessment prior to certification/licensure to be considered highly qualified.

"Attending the Day on the Hill was one of the highlights of the summer," Woods said. "I was impressed with how well organized the briefing was, and it was a great time to coordinate the K-12 world with my university colleagues. Overall, it was an exciting experience and a great opportunity to be able to be an active participant in our democracy."

The Wyoming educators were among 162 individuals nationwide who attended the AACTE-sponsored event.