

Call for manuscripts

Just a reminder that manuscripts for the next edition of *Education in a Democracy: A Journal of the NNER* are due on March 31.

For guidelines visit the NNER website: <http://www.nnpartnerships.org>

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Wyoming School-
University Partnership

www.uwyo.edu/wsup

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Edited and Designed
by Beth Wiley

Partnership will sponsor five participants

NNER announces summer symposium July 16-19, in Seattle



The Wyoming School-University Partnership invites preK-12, community college, and university applicants and nominees from member settings to participate in the National Network for Educational Renewal's (NNER) annual symposium.

Partnership funding is available for five applicants who will have the \$750 registration fee paid. Lodging and travel are the responsibility of the successful applicants.

The application process available at www.uwyo.edu/wsup has several steps. The first step is a required conference call or appointment to provide information about the experience and talk through the application.

Several previous symposium participants will be on the call to share their insights about the symposium and answer questions. The first call is scheduled for Monday, March 19 from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

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March 30-31 League features community forum **Shepard Symposium collaborates with League of Democratic Schools**

Over the years, UW's Shepard Symposium for Social Justice has grown to a national audience, an expanded schedule, and a Saturday teacher tea for preK-12 educators. This year's March 28-31 symposium in Laramie will have even more opportunities for teachers in the region, all at no cost to participants. Online registrations are due by March 26. Go to <http://shepardsymposium.org/index.php/register> for online registration and the complete schedule for the symposium and the league activities.

The UW Lab School in Laramie will be hosting the spring meeting of the Rocky Mountain/Plains Region of the National League of Democratic Schools. Some sessions are concurrent with the Shepard Symposium. Sessions begin Friday morning, March 30 and feature afternoon visits to three Laramie schools followed by a reception at Altitude's Chophouse and a debriefing about the visits. The meetings run through Saturday afternoon and culminate with lunch and a keynote by the Rethinking Our Schools organization.

For more information about the meetings and League of Democratic School activities, contact Margaret Hudson, UW Lab School principal, at 307.721.2155 or email her at mhudson@acsd1.org.



UW Lab School to host League

Shalinsky to serve on NNER transition team

Greg Bernhardt named NNER interim executive director

At a National Network for Educational Renewal governing council meeting last month in Chicago, Greg Bernhardt was named interim executive director in a position slated to begin May 1 and run for 18 months. The search for a permanent director will be under way soon.

The next step for the NNER is identifying a transition team to work with and advise Bernhardt. Audrey Shalinsky will serve on that team. Shalinsky is a UW anthropology professor currently serving as one of the College of Arts and Science's associate deans. In that role, Shalinsky is the liaison to several College of Education committees and serves on the Partnership's governing board.

Bernhardt's appointment and the creation of a transition team comes in the context of dramatic changes for the NNER. Ann Foster, current executive director based in Seattle, has been progressing toward retirement for almost a year. At the same time, NNER leadership recognizes that the NNER's Seattle base of operations is not a permanent one.

Last December, the executive council convened a panel representing the NNER's settings and tripartite roles for a three-day meeting designed to make recommendations to the executive council about next steps for the organization. Audrey Kleinsasser, director of the Wyoming School-University Partnership, served on that panel.

Examining the possibility of an application process for a site to host the NNER organization was one recommendation coming out of the December meeting. Seeking an interim director was another.

Bernhardt is well-grounded for his new appointment. Recently retired as Wright State University's (Ohio) dean of education, Bernhardt has chaired the NNER governing council. Over the last few years, he has been involved in the creation of the Dayton Regional STEM School. Bernhardt is known to Wyoming educators as one of the facilitators of recent NNER's Summer Symposia.



New office associate hired

Beth Wiley joins the Partnership

Wyoming native, Beth Wiley, began in February as the new office associate for the Wyoming School-University Partnership. Beth is no stranger to Laramie - she earned both a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in English from the University of Wyoming.

Beth also will pursue a Ph.D. in literacy education this fall. You will have a chance to meet her at the Thursday, April 5 governing board meeting in Casper.

Beth will be your contact for upcoming events. Please feel free to give her a call at 307.766.3274 or drop her an email at ewiley2@uwyo.edu with any of your questions.

NNER 2012 Summer Symposium

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The second step in the process is a short application due April 23. A selection committee will make the final recommendations and successful applicants will be notified by May 4.

For dates and times of the informational conference calls, see the box below.

The symposium is limited to 25 participants from around the country who are asked to read several books and a variety of articles ahead of time. The symposium curriculum is designed to ground participants in the mission and values of the NNER's Agenda for Education in a Democracy and features small and large group work, including a democracy walk.

The NNER is the parent organization for the Wyoming Partnership and was founded in the mid-1980s by John Goodlad and colleagues.

For more information go to www.uwyo.edu/wsup or call Beth Wiley at 307.766.3274.

Sign up now to participate in one informational conference call!

Monday, March 19, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 22, 7:30-8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, March 27, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 28, 7:30-8:30 a.m.

Also by appointment if the times listed are not convenient.

Go to www.uwyo.edu/wsup for complete information.

Wyoming Partnership offers \$20,000 in Conference Presenter Scholarships

Now Open NNER Call for Proposals!

2012 NNER Annual Conference
*Simultaneous Renewal:
Everyone Teaches, Everyone Learns*

October 18-20, 2012
At the historic Brown Palace Hotel
Denver, Colorado

Submission Deadline: May 15, 2012
www.nnerconference.org

**2012 NNER Conference Presenter Scholarship Opportunity
Open to Wyoming School-University Partnership Members**

**To be considered for a Partnership Scholarship,
you must apply no later than **April 6** through the Partnership.
See full details at www.uwyo.edu/wsups**

As you develop your proposal, consider its best match to one of five conference strands:

Turning Education Upside Down: When the Learners Are the Teachers

Teachers and Knowing: Content Knowledge and the Arts and Sciences

Learning through Teaching: The Power of Clinical/Classroom-Based Field Experiences

Knowing Self via Studying Others: The Importance of Diverse Perspectives

Creating Democratic Community: Engaging Everyone

Complete conference details at www.nnerconference.org

Questions? Call 307.766.3274 today!

Partnership schedules Spring 2012 Lost in Transition Events

Since 2006, the Wyoming School-University Partnership has hosted Lost in Transition events that bring together faculty and administrators from the K-12 community and postsecondary institutions, including Wyoming's community colleges and university. These events foster discussions that address strategies and specific topics for closing the academic gap students encounter when transitioning from high school to higher education.

Below and on page 5, you will find information about the specific content area meetings scheduled for Spring 2012. Registration for each is free but required. More information is available at www.uwyo.edu/wsup. You can also sign up to receive email updates on Lost in Transition events and news!

The Lost in Transition initiative is supported through a generous gift from the Qwest Foundation.

6th Mathematics Lost in Transition Institute

Thursday and Friday, March 29-30, 2012
Western Wyoming Community College
Rock Springs, WY

Registration Deadline: Friday, March 23, 2012

Website: <http://www.uwyo.edu/wsup/events/math-meeting.html>

Key Topics: On Thursday evening, there will be a presentation and discussion facilitated by Northwest College faculty about summer programs that could implement successful strategies to keep students progressing in their studies. On Friday, there will be small and large group work to discuss three Common Core Process Standards to improve the teaching and learning environment



2nd World Languages Colloquium

Thursday, April 12, 2012
UW Outreach Building
951 N. Poplar
Casper, WY

Registration Deadline: Friday, April 6, 2012

Website: <http://www.uwyo.edu/wsup/events/world-languages.html>

Key Topics: Deepen the secondary to postsecondary horizontal and vertical articulation in first-year French, German, and Spanish study. Improve the accuracy and availability of information provided to students during world language advising and placement.





4th Teaching Writing in Wyoming Colloquium

Sunday and Monday, April 22-23, 2012

UW Outreach Building

951 N. Poplar

Casper, WY

Registration Deadline: Friday, March 23, 2012

Website: <http://www.uwyo.edu/learn/tww/index.html>

Key Topics: This year's Teaching Writing in Wyoming Colloquium will focus on the transfer of writing skills. Specifically, participants will explore current research

about how students learn to transfer writing skills both vertically (i.e., from level to level) as well as horizontally (i.e., from discipline to discipline and task to task). Participants will also explore the ways that adopting Common Core State Standards may impact transfer. Additionally, participants will be encouraged to discuss their own writing assignments, identify the language they use to help students write successfully, and recognize potential "transfer gaps" (either among districts or among disciplines).

7th Annual K-16 Life Sciences Summit

Watch for the rescheduled date!

(cancelled in February due to snowy weather)

UW Outreach Building

951 N. Poplar

Casper, WY

Registration Deadline: Check back for updates

Website: <http://www.uwyo.edu/wsup/events/science-summit.html>



Key Topics: To consider what student work on assessments of key concepts tells us about teacher expectations, student learning, and student success in the life sciences. To gain a greater understanding of how we approach instruction and formative assessments that lead to these summative assessments.

National Network for Education Renewal announces 2012 Michelli and Clark awards

applications due June 30

The **Nicholas Michelli** award recognizes a setting or a group within a setting for work that promotes social justice. The award recognizes the NNER's commitment to access to knowledge and providing a nurturing learning environment for all students by acknowledging a setting that is working on this fundamental aspect of our work.

The **Richard W. Clark** award honors exemplary partner school work: a collaboration of public school, arts and science, and college or school of education that is advancing the complex work of developing, sustaining, and renewing partner schools.

More information available at www.uwyo.edu/wsup.

Wyoming students and teachers seek to improve their community

by John Anderson



Tandi Pickinpaugh (left) and Keely Schwartzkopf of Torrington Middle School discuss which questions to ask on their student questionnaire.

In August of 2011, the Wyoming School-University Partnership launched an initiative to engage three schools in the process of doing school or community improvement projects. The schools chosen were Pinedale High School, Torrington Middle School and Worland High School. Teachers within each school proposed engaging a class in an improvement project the class chose.

With the help of University of Wyoming faculty and staff, the classes have been working on the process of selecting and implementing their project. John Anderson, the initiative's facilitator, has been working with all three schools. With these supports, the classes are moving forward with a series of projects that should engender hope among us all. More information about the school-community engagement and the progress of the classes can be found at the Partnership website (www.uwyo.edu/wsup).

Torrington Middle School

Sarah Williams and Mary Werner lead about 40 students in a class simply entitled "Inquiry." After discussing what they can do to improve their community and school, this dynamic group of students decided to focus on the problems of hunger and lack of knowledge about nutrition in their school.

To determine the best course of action, the class is working with nutritionist and Director of the Cent\$ible Nutrition Program at the University of Wyoming, Dr. Mary Kay Wardlaw (pictured left) to develop a student nutrition questionnaire. Upon completion and evaluation of the questionnaire, the class plans to implement a program to help feed students who come to school hungry.

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Meet the university partners



Dr. Mary Kay Wardlaw is the Director of the Cent\$ible Nutrition Program at the University of Wyoming. CNP provides nutrition education to limited-resource families throughout the state. Dr. Wardlaw's primary research interest center upon nutrition education.

Interested in being part of the Community Engagement Initiative?

Watch our website (www.uwyo.edu/wsup) for upcoming announcements about the 2012-2013 call for proposals.

For more information or to put your name on a list to be contacted, get in touch with John Anderson, jander61@uwyo.edu or contact Beth Wiley, 307.766.3274 and ewiley2@uwyo.edu.

Meet the university partners



Dr. Greg Brown is the Director of the Berry Center and is a Professor of Botany at UW. His research interests include plant-based biodiversity with an emphasis on a tropical plant family that is mostly found in the Americas.



Dr. Dorothy Tuthill is the Berry Center's Associate Director and is charged with coordinating all of the Berry Center events and outreach opportunities. She specializes in fungal systematics.



Brenna Wanous is the Office Associate for the Berry Center and the Program in Ecology. Brenna received BAs in geography and international studies with a minor in environmental studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Worland High School

Kitsy Barnes' Biological Field Studies class has determined it wants to make a series of improvements at Riverside Park in Worland. Among other things, they plan to create an exercise path, plant flowers, clean up the river, and make the river bank more visitor-friendly by adding stabilizers to slow the effects of erosion.

These Worland High School students are making great strides toward their goal. They have already made presentations to community organizations and hosted guests who will be allies in their multi-year project. Some of their most important allies will be from the University of Wyoming's Berry Biological Diversity Center. Dr. Dorothy Tuthill, Dr. Greg Brown, and Brenna Wanous (pictured left) plan to visit Worland, survey the park, and discuss with students how native species could be a part of the renovation.

Pinedale High School

Two Pinedale classrooms are working to improve their community and school. Rose DeNinno's advisory class is composed entirely of freshmen. Jasper Waremburg teaches an elective humanities class for juniors and seniors.

These two classes are making big plans. They intend to put up a new statue of their school mascot, a Wrangler, on the hill above the school. They also propose to ask local government to build a bike path to an under-served area of the county. In addition, both classes are working with the Sublette County BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) to develop a youth night that will serve as a pilot for an eventual young adult center.

Conversations about community and school improvement are also motivating students to become responsible citizens. Waremburg's humanities class recently undertook the task of apologizing for student behavior from the previous year when a few students egged the Jackson High School bus. During halftime at a home basketball game, the Pinedale students offered a public apology and presented a plaque to the Jackson High School basketball teams.

Beginning early this summer, these two classes will start working with Dr. Terry Burant (pictured right) to build upon these initial ideas and positive actions.

Meet the university partners



Dr. Terry Burant recently returned to the University of Wyoming where she serves as an Assistant Professional Lecturer in the Department of Educational Studies in the College of Education. Dr. Burant's interests have focused on student engagement in their communities along with the overall idea of rethinking schools.

The school-community engagement initiative is funded with the generous support of each participating school district, the National Network for Educational Renewal, UW's Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement, UW's Division of Student Affairs, and the Wyoming School-University Partnership.

Learn more about the NNER transition

Governing Board to convene April 5 in Casper

The next regular meeting of the Partnership Governing Board is Thursday, April 5, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, in Casper at the UW Outreach Building. In addition to regular business, the board will have a chance to talk with Ann Foster and Greg Bernhardt via conference call. They will discuss the NNER transition. In addition, Kay Persichitte and Allen Trent will report on professional development opportunities provided by the College of Education and a two-year study completed by the college.

To RSVP, board members should call 307.766.3274 or email ewiley2@uwyo.edu.

Wyoming School-University Partnership Leadership, 2011-2012 Executive Committee

Chair, Paige Fenton Hughes paige.fentonhughes@gmail.com
 Chair-elect, Diana Clapp dianac@fre6.k12.wy.us
 Past-chair, Dave Barker dbarker@plt2.k12.wy.us
 UW College of Education, Kay Persichitte kpersi@uwyo.edu
 UW College of Arts & Sciences, Audrey Shalinsky ashal@uwyo.edu

Shepard Symposium for Social Justice March 28-31, 2012

For information and registration go to
<http://www.shepardsymposium.org>

What is the state of American education?

2012 Brown Center Report released

In February, the Brookings Institute released the 2012 Brown Center Report on American Education. This report focuses on current concerns in American education such as policy, how we measure student learning, the effectiveness of standardized testing, and the outcomes of educational reforms.

For more information and to download the full report visit
<http://www.brookings.edu/centers.aspx> and click on Brown Center on Education Policy.

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location
March 28-31	16 th Shepard Symposium for Social Justice	UW, Laramie
March 29-30	6 th Mathematics Lost in Transition Institute	Western Wyoming College, Rock Springs
March 30-31	League of Democratic Schools meeting in conjunction with the Shepard Symposium for Social Justice	UW Lab School, Laramie
April 5	Partnership Governing Board meeting	UW Outreach Building Casper
April 12	2nd World Languages Colloquium	UW Outreach Building Casper
April 18	Community Engagement campus visit	UW, Laramie
April 20-21	Wyoming Model United Nations	UW, Laramie
April 22-23	4th Teaching Writing in Wyoming Colloquium	UW Outreach Building Casper
July 12	Partnership Governing Board Meeting	UW Outreach Building Casper
July 16-19	NNER Summer Symposium	Seattle, WA
October 18-20	2012 NNER Annual Conference	Denver, CO

More information about these events is available at www.uwyo.edu/wsups. If you have questions, call 307.766.3274.

