

Wyoming Welcomes D. Ray Reutzel, Incoming UW College of Education Dean

This July, Dr. D. Ray Reutzel began his tenure as the College of Education Dean. The University of Wyoming announced his appointment in the detailed [news release](#) this spring. Here, we focus on a few questions designed to learn more about him.

Stand-out childhood memory of elementary or secondary school in Wyoming: Student conductor of the band and choir in high school.

An important learning from student teaching that you value yet today: Good teaching happens when lessons are well planned.

One thing you loved about graduate school and would want a current UW graduate student to experience:

Teaching college courses and mentoring of my writing by dissertation committee.

The cruncher reason you applied for and accepted the WY leadership position:

I am grateful to the college for a wonderful education -- pay it forward with my service to the college.

A pastime you maintain to be a healthy, happy human being (and a great dean):

Spending time with my wife, children, and grandchildren!



Dean Ray Reutzel wearing a shirt with the new College of Education motto, "Aspire Higher." The motto reflects the college's goal of preeminence in teacher, school leader, and counselor preparation,

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Two Our Wyoming Kids Partnership Mini Grants Awarded

At the June 25 *Kids, Schools, and Communities that Help Them Prosper* conference, participants were offered the opportunity to earn a \$500 mini grant to fund a project that continued the ideas of the conference. As of September 3, two proposals were awarded and are well underway. Two other projects were proposed and are in discussion. A brief description of each project follows.

Centennial Writes: A Collection of Stories, Albany County School District #1
Contact: Lynette Parkhurst

On September 3, the Centennial Library hosted author Cat Urbigkit. Centennial

students, parents, and community members came together to write their stories and talk with the author.

Equitable Access to Learning through Outdoor Education and Recreation, Albany County School District #1 and UW College of Education
Contact: Joanie James

On September 9, the UW Lab School will take 60 seventh and eighth grade students and pre-service teachers on a two-day outdoor education and recreation learning experience.

To learn more about the conference, go to page 12.

2015 NNER Annual Conference

October 1-3 Chico, California



The National Network for Educational Renewal 2015 Conference will be held in Chico, California. This year, the theme and strands of the conference is [Diversity, Equity and Democracy in Education](#).

Wyoming Presenters Featured at the Conference:

Wyoming will have seven presenters at the conference.

Educating for Democracy, Social Justice and Action: Building Programs for Social Justice Throughout the National Network for Educational Renewal -

Kevin Roxas, Western Washington University, Wayne Reed, Brooklyn College (CUNY), Angela Jaime, University of Wyoming, and Veronica Velez, Western Washington University

In this presentation, we examine the vision and mission of public schools as described by John Goodlad and interrogate that important work through a social justice perspective. Through the form of case studies, we then describe the ways in which three NNER partnership sites are working to address issues of equity and access for students and families relegated to the margins of school life.

Closing Opportunity Gaps: A School-University Partnership Initiative for School-Community Mini Grant Projects -

Audrey Kleinsasser, Wyoming School University Partnership

The session focuses on recent

work by Robert Putnam presented in the book, *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis*. Learn about Putnam's identification of opportunity gaps, the central importance of community, and a school-university partnership initiative that invites school-community mini grant projects for local action.

Exclusive vs. Culturally Responsive Education: Voices From Students of Color -

Lydia Nganga and John Kambutu, University of Wyoming-Casper

In general, students of color have many challenges, but students in rural schools experience unique difficulties. In this mixed-method study, for example, high school students reported experiencing social isolation.

Crowded Classrooms in a Small Town: Creatively Approaching Fieldwork in Teacher Education -

Terry Burant, Danielle Wood, and Ashley Koch, University of Wyoming

A university-based teacher education program in a small town in a sparsely populated state presents challenges for field placements for pre-service

Wyoming-School University Partnership work to be presented at the NNER Conference.

teachers. In this session, a university professor, pre-service teacher, and mentor teacher describe creative compromises to accommodate as many as five pre-service teachers per K-12 classroom during a practicum.

Former Wyomingite to present at Chico:

Scholar Identity Development: Pathways to Empowerment Pedagogies -

Joy Barnes, Johnson, Princeton High School, Princeton, NJ

Success narratives must be reimagined. While mythology might suggest that achievement is the result of singular efforts of ingenuity and persistence, history shows that for Black and Brown people, collective efforts of support and accountability coupled with individual resolve are the linchpin standards for success and resilience in our communities.

October 2-3, Laramie

UW Literacy Conference Focuses on Multimodal Literacy

The 7th Annual UW College of Education Fall Literacy Conference will be October 2-3.

This year, the conference is focused on multimodal literacy. It is geared toward elementary and middle school educators and school librarians.

The conference will kick off Friday evening with an open house and tour of the Literacy Research Center and Clinic and a keynote panel discussion.

The keynote speakers are Dr. Jeanne R. Paratore, from Boston University and Dr. Bridget Dalton, from the University of Colorado.

Dr. Paratore's keynote Saturday presentation is *Teaching Literacy with an through Technology: Why it Matters*. Dr. Paratore will explain why integration of digital media literacy instruction should be a fundamental component to teaching methods and provide examples how teachers effectively integrate media into their routine instruction.

Also on Saturday, Dr. Dalton will present *Multimodal Composers at Work in a Time of New Literacies and Common Core Standards*. She will discuss the shift from writing to multimodal composition and its effects on instructional practice and beliefs. She will explore what instructors do now and strategies to teach and assess multimodal composers.



Keynote Speakers: Jeanne R. Paratore, Boston University (left) and Bridget Dalton, University of Colorado

On Saturday morning and in the afternoon, conference participants will have the opportunity to go to one 90 minute interactive workshop or two breakout sessions. Both of the keynote presentors

Register Today!

Space in workshops is limited. Be sure to sign up as soon as possible!

Registration is free, but required. To see the full schedule and to register, visit <http://www.uwyo.edu/education/lrcc/14falllitconf.html>

Professional Teaching Standards Board renewal credit will be offered for Wyoming certified teachers as well as UW EDCI 5959 graduate credit.

Please bring a laptop, tablet, or other mobile technology as they will be useful for some of the presentations.



LITERACY
CONFERENCE



will lead a workshop that expands on their keynote presentations. Along with them, Kristi Von Krosigk and Melissa Rasmussen will lead "Primary Technology Integration" in the morning and Tonia Dousay will lead "From Avengers to Zod: Unmasking Comics and Multiliteracies in the Classroom" in the afternoon.

Along with the keynote presentations on Saturday, there will be eight breakout sessions addressing a variety of topics concerning multimodal literacy.

hors d'oeuvres Friday evening, light refreshments on Saturday morning, and lunch on Saturday will be provided by the College of Education. Transportation and lodging expenses are the responsibility of the participants or their sponsoring institutions.

If you have questions, please contact: Victoria Gillis, vgillis@uwyo.edu or Ursula Harrison, uharriso@uwyo.edu

Duggan Hired as New Partnership Office Associate

Kara Duggan began in May as the new office associate for the Wyoming School-University Partnership.

Though a Colorado native, Kara is no stranger to the University of Wyoming. In December, 2013, she earned her bachelor of arts in English from UW. Kara worked at UW's Learning Resources Network (LeaRN) until coming to the Partnership.

While she works at the Partnership, Kara anticipates taking classes to explore her many interests.

Kara will be your contact for upcoming events. Please feel free to call her at 307.766.3274 or send her an email at kduggan1@uwyo.edu with any of your questions.



Kara Duggan, the Partnership's new Office Associate.

Wyoming P-16 Council Dissolves Allocates over \$27k to the Partnership

by Audrey Kleinsasser and Rollin Abernethy

The Wyoming P-16 Education Council held a teleconference meeting July 15 to allocate its remaining funds and dissolve the council. In two unanimous votes, council members first allocated \$15,000 to the UW WySTEM web-based initiative and, after expenses, the remaining funds to the Partnership, approximately \$27,000, and voted to dissolve the council.

Over the past three years, the council has been largely inactive and did not have an executive director. In February, 2015, the executive committee met and recommended that the council dissolve. To dissolve the council, according to its by-laws, the council needed to distribute its remaining assets toward projects that would further council goals. Three possibilities were identified: a University of Wyoming WySTEM initiative, the Wyoming School-

University Partnership's Lost in Transition initiative, and an efficacy study of Wyoming's dual and concurrent enrollment efforts. After considerable discussion during the July 15 meeting, the efficacy study was not included in the allocations.

Since the council was formed as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, dissolution actions will include canceling a liability policy, closing checking and savings accounts, filing paperwork with the Wyoming Secretary of State's office, and filing a final 2015 tax return. Expenses involved in these tasks should be less than \$100.

Founded in August, 2007, the council was similar to many other councils established around the U.S. for the purpose of better aligning schooling across all levels. The Wyoming council, like many of the others, included parents and business community

representatives. During its early years the Council contributed to strengthening alignment efforts across K-16, drafted the concepts critical for a longitudinal PK-20 data system, and hosted the first statewide STEM discussions. Similar to other state-level councils, the Wyoming P-16 Education Council had little power to affect the kinds of educational policy that rest with state legislatures, the state board of education, the state's chief school officer and department of education, and a largely autonomous higher education system.

However, in dissolving the Wyoming council, members were optimistic that this action might point the way to the next generation of state-level, broad collaboration that would lead to improving the state's educational opportunities for children, youth, and adults.

Partnership Creates Ad Hoc Committee to Examine Membership

Resulting from the July 8 Partnership governing board meeting, the Partnership created an ad hoc committee to examine current Partnership membership issues. Convening this fall and aiming for a November 20 report, the committee will create and present a set of recommendations to the governing board for discussion and action prior to the presentation of the 2016-2017 budget.

The members of the ad hoc committee were drawn from small, medium, and large school districts and also represent agencies in the Partnership.

The committee will address the following issues:

1. Examine the current dues structure with an eye to school district size and location and state-level agency.
2. Examine the role of yearly dues in the successful retention of current members and recruitment.
3. Examine the timeline for assessing and collecting yearly dues.
4. Recommend a schedule for the regular review of membership issues.

Partnership Ad Hoc Committee

Chair: Diana Clapp, Partnership Chair, Fremont County #6

Members: Andrea Bryant, Wyoming Professional Teaching Standards Board

Shon Hocker, Big Horn County #1

Audrey Shalinsky, University of Wyoming

Ray Schulte, Park County #6

Rick Woodford, Big Horn County #2

Kathy Vetter, Wyoming Education Association

Walt Wilcox, Natrona County #1

ex officio: Audrey Kleinsasser, Partnership Director

Save the Date!

September 28-29, 2015
eVolution Technology
Conference

e-volution:
innovations in learning environments

The annual eVolution technology forum helps teachers and trainers discover and share innovative ways of using technology to enhance teaching and learning. eVolution provides a free forum in which educators share “best practices” examples of technology use and features everything from paper presentations to hands-on experiences with different hardware and software. It will take place September 28-29 in Laramie, WY and will be streamed online.

To learn more and register for the conference, visit: <http://www.uwyo.edu/outreach/ocp/wyoforum/>

eVolution is presented by the University of Wyoming Outreach School, Ellbogen Center for Teaching & Learning, UW Libraries, and Laramie County Community College.

The Partnership Co-hosts the National Network for Educational Renewal Summer Symposium



The Partnership was proud to co-host the National Network for Education Renewal (NNER) 2015 Summer Symposium from June 26-29. Forty-one participants and facilitators from around the country travel to Laramie to focus on and discuss pertinent issues facing the education system and to advance the Agenda for Education in a Democracy.

Five WY Educators Reflect on their NNER Summer Symposium Experience

The Partnership supported five Wyoming participants by paying their \$650 registration fees. The group included Boyd Brown, Campbell County School District #1 superintendent, Nicholas Bellack, Wyoming Professional Teaching Standards Board assistant director, Joanie James, College of Education assistant professor, Brent Pickett, UW-Casper professor of political science, and Shannon Smith, director of the Wyoming Humanities Council. All five participants reported that the symposium was a worthwhile experience, particularly in regard to renewing education and reemphasizing the importance of a national network.

"The most important thing that I gained from the NNER Summer Symposium, and I strongly suspect that I am not alone in this, is a renewed sense of hope for education," **Brent Pickett** reflected. "It was rejuvenating to see a group of bright and committed educators, at the K-12 and higher education levels, who broadly share ideals about how education is a moral endeavor and should be concerned with cultivating the habits of mind and character essential to a democracy."

"The most important thing that I gained from the NNER Summer Symposium, and I strongly suspect that I am not alone in this, is a renewed sense of hope for education." **Brent Pickett**

Nicholas Bellack echoed a similar experience stating that the "renewal" part of the NNER "hit me deep in my educator soul... the NNER symposium looks at what the current state of education is and why it is that way while holding on to the time-tested truths and solid practices of the past. And only by creating a space and place and intentionally utilizing a wealth of lenses... were we able to really start to authentically ponder what is necessary to enable that process of renewal to commence and thrive."

Not only did the participants renew their beliefs about education, they also made connections to each other. **Shannon Smith** said, "I really appreciated the deep connections that are made in an event like this. For a cohort to be able to bond over several days and nights as they explore topics of major importance to our

society, that is the true value of this professional development opportunity."

Boyd Brown also appreciated the symposium for being able to connect with others from across the nation. For him, the symposium emphasized how diverse the nation is and the populations in it. Boyd was made to think about how Wyoming is not nearly as diverse as other areas. He reflected on both the benefits and difficulties less diversity causes for Wyoming educators.

For **Joanie James** the NNER symposium emphasized the need for more partnering between colleges of education and K-12 schools to better teach future teachers. Joanie commented, "laboratory school and/or partner teaching schools should be progressive institutions that are committed to staying on the cutting edge of curriculum and instruction practices and never content to maintain the status quo."

The Wyoming five participants represented what the NNER describes as its tripartite focus: teacher education, K-12 schools, and arts and sciences. The Partnership budgets funds for up to five participants each year.

The Partnership Co-hosts the National Network for Educational Renewal Summer Symposium

Experiencing the Ecology of Democracy: Who We Are in Public

The Democracy Walk allowed participants to travel in small groups around the host town of the Summer Symposium and look for evidence, or a lack of, such “democracy-related issues” as a diverse society at work, the tension between freedom and authority, equal justice under the law, free and open inquiry, and ultimately the paradoxes of public and private good and benefits.

NNER Participants Value Democracy Walk Insights

Having the NNER Summer Symposium in Laramie was unusual as it has been hosted in Seattle, Washington since the mid-1990s. This change in location affected how the Wyoming participants experienced the symposium, particularly in regard to the Democracy Walk.

“I was very proud to have it here,” commented Gillette’s Boyd Brown, “I think [Wyoming] was a great place to have it, being the Equality State.” Boyd was a group leader for the Democracy Walk, and took his group to Saratoga for a Sunday afternoon and evening. His group, consisting of four educators from New Jersey, explored and compared rural and metropolitan issues. The group paused its serious conversations long enough for a friendly and uniquely Wyoming mountain top snowball fight.

Nicholas Bellack, from Cheyenne, stayed on UW’s campus, but the Democracy Walk helped him see through a new lens. “I’ve lived in Wyoming for the last six years and I was able to intentionally have a different view of the campus,” Nicholas reflected.



Images were collected by the NNER participants for their Democracy Walk presentations. As part of the Summer Symposium, the Democracy Walk allows participants to observe and reflect on the democratic practices and opportunities in the community. For the 2015 Summer Symposium, the groups explored Laramie, the University of Wyoming’s campus, as well as Saratoga.

“Walking around campus with the question, “What’s the purpose of...?” on your mind is quite the exercise in unpacking purpose.”

Brent Pickett’s group, walking for over nine miles, observed and reflected on the democratic practices in the Laramie community. His group “ended up focusing on how Wyoming presents its history regarding women versus some contemporary realities.” Brent reflected, “Having the symposium in Laramie thus broadened my

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Dissertation Study Reveals Professional Development Needs of Wyoming Leaders

This summer, Dr. David Barker and Dr. Gerry Chase completed their doctoral dissertation project by surveying Wyoming's education leaders regarding professional development needs and perceptions. Superintendents, principals, and curriculum directors responded.

In the study titled *Wyoming Education Leaders' Perceptions of Professional Development Needs and Delivery Methods in an Era of Accountability*, district leaders reported that they have needs in a variety of areas and are willing to participate regularly in professional development that is accessible and associated with their peers. Top-rated needs included promoting quality instruction, providing differentiated professional development, understanding accountability, leading change, and using data for decision-making.

Educational accountability pressures to increase student achievement in Wyoming support the necessity to identify the professional development needs and methods of delivery. The study also supports a careful examination and reflection of existing professional

David Barker serves as the superintendent of Fremont County School District #1 and Gerry Chase is superintendent of Johnson County School District #1. Their work was completed in the Education Leadership Department at the University of Wyoming and co-directed by Suzanne Young and Kim Miller.



Dr. Gerry Chase (left) and Dr. Dave Barker.

For more information about the study, contact Drs. Barker and Chase directly, dbarker@landerschools.org, gchase@jcsd1.us

development opportunities and ways that policymakers can support an environment for the ongoing development of school leaders.

Barker and Chase developed and administered an online survey, a total of 376 email successfully sent. Participants numbered 190 for a 50.5% response

and total years of Wyoming administrative experience. The sample included 37 of the state's 47 superintendents, 29 of 30 curriculum directors, and 123 of 294 principals and assistant principals.

The study is highly relevant to current policy decisions. Pressure to improve student achievement in an era

The researchers contend that needs and preferences identified in this study could serve as essential information for the coordination of resources, time, and expertise to support collaboration between and among school districts, higher education, and state agencies. This is particularly important in a rural state with few people and long distances between communities.

Wyoming's rural nature with long distances between districts makes professional development opportunities delivered via technology a preferred option. One respondent, a principal, echoed this with the comment, "I know there were opportunities, but traveling and spending more time away from my building wasn't a good use of my time."

"Pressure to improve student achievement in an era of accountability has created an intense focus on instructional leadership."
Barker and Chase (2015)

rate. Demographic data were collected to include gender, the respondent's current position, school level of the respondent (central office, elementary, middle school, high school, or K-12 school), district size, school size, total years of administrative experience,

of accountability has created an intense focus on instructional leadership at the building and central office levels, and as a result, the importance of supporting educational leaders in their ongoing professional development has become a high priority.

UW Pilots Successful Summer Bridge Program for Incoming Freshmen



This summer, UW's student Success Engagement and Personal Growth Program (STEP) piloted the Summer Bridge, a month-long program designed to help incoming students get a jump on their college career by enrolling students in a math and first-year seminar class. Also, the Bridge introduced the students to campus life. The goal of the Bridge was to help students who would benefit from enrolling in a higher level math class in Fall 2015 by giving them a chance to complete a lower level math class this summer.

From July 27- August 21, 18 Bridge students lived together in Hill Hall with two peer leaders, who mentored the students and led the students on a variety of co-curricular activities. These activities included hiking at Vedauwoo, going to the Denver

Museum of Science and Nature, and exploring Laramie's downtown and farmers' market.

Overall, the Bridge program was considered a success. UW is looking into ways to continue and expand the Bridge for the following summer.

If you have any questions about the Summer Bridge Program, please contact Makayla Stewart at mstewart@uwyo.edu or 307.766.4322 and visit the program website at uwyo.edu/step/bridge.

UW Summer Bridge Program, By the Numbers

+\$20,000 Scholarship money awarded by Outreach-Summer Programs	13 Participating UW offices and programs
18 Bridge students	8 Co-curricular activities
18 Students passed their first-year seminar with a C or better	4 Weeks long
17 Students passed the math class with a satisfactory or A,B,C	2 Peer leaders
4 Students fulfilled their quantitative reasoning	

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NNER Sumposium in Laramie

knowledge of Wyoming history, especially in regards to gender."

Joanie James, a resident of Laramie, especially liked the presentations representing the various Democracy Walks the next day. "It was really awesome to see all the Democracy Walk presentations and the different perspectives different teams focused on. I was able to see Laramie from a variety of different angles and learned about some things that are in Laramie that I was never aware of before."

Wyoming Community College Academic Officers

Casper College	Shawn Powell, Interim Academic VP
Central Wyoming College	Brad Tyndall, Academic VP
Eastern Wyoming College	Michelle Landa, VP for Academic Services
Laramie County Community College	Terry Harper, Interim VP of Academic Affairs
Northern Wyoming Community College District	Paul Young, President
Northwest College	Gerald Giraud, VP of Academic Affairs
Western Community College	Kim Farley, VP of Academic Affairs

Sketching Provides Learning Insights

by Kara Duggan

On August 6 and 7, the University of Wyoming's Biodiversity Institute hosted a two-evening workshop "Drawn to Biodiversity." Laramie community members interested in science and art were invited to learn the fundamentals of sketching in the context of nature journaling and field notes. Bethann Merkle, a local communications consultant and artist, led the workshops.

Bethann emphasized the value of sketching in the natural sciences.

First time sketching? Several suggestions:

Supplies

Use whatever you're comfortable with. Bethann recommends a hardcover, unlined sketchbook and a pencil or pen, whichever you prefer.

What to Sketch

Sketch everyday things first.

Become comfortable with sketching by sketching everyday things; don't start with an object you want to draw perfectly. Maybe sketch an onion first.

Beginning Techniques

Contour sketching: Draw the subject in one continuous line - don't pick up your pen from the paper!

Draw the negative space: Draw the spaces around the object, not the object itself.

Tracing: Trace the object. There's no cheating in tracing the object!

Start with shapes: Draw the general shape of the object first, then add detail.



Pictured are Bethann Merkle (left) and Mary Bower, a participant from the August 6-7 Drawn to Biodiversity workshop. Bethann is a local communication consultant and artist. For more information about Bethann and her sketching workshops, visit her website <http://commnatural.com>

She stated that not only do visuals help communicate scientific ideas when words are not enough, but people remember what they see more in comparison to what they hear or read. Also, sketching makes the viewer observe and interact with the subject on a deeper level.

To emphasize the idea that sketching requires in-depth observation and understanding, Bethann asked everyone to draw an onion from memory on the first evening. For homework that night, she asked the participants to draw a real onion. The next evening, group members reviewed their sketches and discussed everything that they forgot or missed when they drew the onion from memory.

In Bethann's experience, many people who would benefit from utilizing sketching as a tool do not use it because they do not know how to sketch. Her workshop served to teach fundamental sketching techniques so the participants could learn and practice sketching.

The workshop's eight participants practiced sketching using various specimens from the institute's

collection as well as going outside to the garden.

Following the August 6-7 workshop, Bethann led sketching demonstrations and activities at the September 3 Biodiversity Institute's open house. Both she and the institute intend to schedule more workshops in the future.

Brian Barber, Science Coordinator at the Biodiversity Institute, sees great promise in Bethann's sketching workshops. He hopes to have her visit his courses to teach students sketching and ways to incorporate sketching in their learning.

Additionally, Brian and Bethann hope to have workshops to sketch and teach sketching to students, even when an instructor is not an artist. Along with using sketching as a tool for scientists, Bethann would want to teach strategies to assess sketches beyond an artist's critique.

Author's Note: Kara participated in the workshop and looks forward to incorporating sketching in Partnership events.

The Partnership Governing Board of Directors 2015-2016

Wyoming School-University Partnership Board of Directors			
Albany County School District #1	Jubal Yennie	Park County School District #6	Ray Schulte
Big Horn County School District #1	Shon Hocker	Platte County School District #1	Dennis Fischer
Big Horn County School District #2	Rick Woodford	Platte County School District #2	Mike Beard
Carbon County School District #2 NEW MEMBER	Jim Copeland	Sheridan County School District #1	Marty Kobza
Campbell County School District #1	Boyd Brown	Sheridan County School District #2	Craig Dougherty Tom Sachse
Converse County School District #1	Dan Espeland Brent Notman	Sweetwater County School District #1	Kelly McGovern
Fremont County School District #1	Dave Barker	Washakie County School District #1	David Nicholas
Fremont County School District #6	Diana Clapp	Dean, UW College of Education	Ray Reutzel Leslie Rush (ex officio)
Fremont County School District #14	Owen St. Clair	Dean, UW College of Arts and Sciences	Paula Lutz Audrey Shalinsky
Fremont County School District #25	Terry Snyder	Wyoming Department of Education	Paige Fenton Hughes Tracy Stibitz
Goshen County School District #1	Jean Chrostoski	Wyoming Education Association	Kathy Vetter Ron Sniffin
Natrona County School District #1	Steve Hopkins Walt Wilcox	Wyoming Community Colleges	Joe McCann
Niobrara County School District #1	Aaron Carr	Wyoming Professional Teaching Standards Board	Andrea Bryant Nicholas Bellack
Park County School District #1	Kevin Mitchell		

*The Partnership business year begins July 1 and ends June 30. Yearly dues are assessed and collected following the spring budget meeting.

*Each school district or institutional member has one vote on the governing board. However, everyone on this list receives Partnership governing board packets, as due guests and others we want to keep informed.

The Partnership Executive Committee 2015-2016

Partnership Executive Committee		
Chair	Diana Clapp	Superintendent, Fremont County School District #6
Chair-Elect	Boyd Brown	Superintendent, Campbell County School District #1
Past Chair	Paige Fenton Hughes	Wyoming State Board of Education Coordinator, Wyoming Department of Education
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

Partnership Governing Board, save the date!

Be sure to mark your calendars with the

**November 4, 2015
Governing Board Meeting**
in Casper at
University of Wyoming-Casper

The Partnership will send out reminder emails as the meeting gets closer. If you have any questions, please contact Kara Duggan, kduggan1@uwyo.edu

Partnership conference explores connections between communities and education

On June 25 in Laramie, the Partnership and the National Network for Educational Renewal held the *Kids, Schools, and Communities that Help Them Prosper* conference. Sixty-four K-12 and university teachers and administrators, school board members, and other community members from around Wyoming and the nation attended.

Participants heard and shared multiple perspectives about the opportunity gap children and youth face, discussed different practices that increase opportunities for students, and celebrated the idea that it takes a community to give a rich education to students.

The one-day conference started with a panel discussion exploring Robert



Top left, Mary Thorsness and Brent Pickett at the reception. Top right, Diane Gorski, Leslie Rush, and Rick Fisher discuss the Partnership in an afternoon break out session. Bottom, John Anderson, Brent Pickett, Deb Shanley, and Mauro Diaz discuss Putnam’s *Our Kids* during the morning panel discussion.

Putnam’s book, *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis*. The discussion was led by Mauro Diaz, John Anderson, Brent Pickett, and Deb Shanley.

After lunch, participants had the opportunity to attend three rounds of break out sessions.

In the evening, participants reconvened to wrap up and officially welcome and kick off the NNER 2015 Summer Symposium.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location
September 25	Statewide Higher Education Articulation	Laramie, University of Wyoming
September 28-29	eVolution Conference	Laramie, Coe Library 506
September 28-29	AdvancED Statewide Conference	Casper,
October 1-3	2015 Annual NNER Conference	Chico, California
October 2-3	"Multiple Modes of Literacy" UW Fall Literacy Conference	UW Laramie, Literacy Research Center and Clinic
October 8-10	Wyoming Foreign Language Teachers' Association Annual Conference	Cody, Holiday Inn
October 17	Pregrame Pepsi College of Education Booth before UW Football Homecoming Game	Laramie, Outdoor Practice Facility
October 26-27	Math and Science Teachers' Conference	Casper, Casper College
November 4	Partnership governing board meeting	Casper,TBD
November 18-20	Wyoming School Boards Association annual Meeting	Casper
January 28, 2016	Partnership governing board meeting	Casper, TBD

