

Partnership Schedules Regional Science Summits in Evanston, Worland, and Gillette

This fall, the Wyoming School-University Partnership has scheduled three regional meetings to examine and talk about student work. Science faculty from all levels, K-12, community college, and university are invited to participate. Planners also invite instructional facilitators, curriculum coordinators, administrators, and school board members. Go to www.uwyo.edu/wsup for more information about the summit and the online registration form.

The first regional meeting is scheduled for Evanston, Monday, September 10 with registrations due by September 5. The second is in Worland, October 26, and the final one is in Gillette, December 4.

The summit runs all day, 8:30-3:30 with lunch and refreshments provided. According to Audrey Kleinsasser, director of the Partnership, “The price of admission is student work. 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 are valuable to bring also. Summit planners 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,” according to 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.”

For more information about the summits, email Kleinsasser at dakota@uwyo.edu and (307) 766-6358; or email Lyford at mahler@uwyo.edu and (307) 766-2818. The summits are co-sponsored by the host district, a Partnership member, the UW Biology Program, and the UW Science and Math Teaching Center.