NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Wyoming Society of Professional Engineers – Central Wyoming Chapter

HARDHAT TOURS – NCHS-SFAC FACILITY

On March 28, 2014, the Wyoming Society of Professional Engineers - Central Wyoming Chapter, conducted hardhat tours of the Student Fitness and Activity Center (SFAC) construction site at Natrona County High School, Casper, Wyoming. The SFAC is currently under construction as Phase One of a four phase, $120,000,000 reconstruction of the historic high school. Natrona County High School, originally constructed in 1924, features a collegiate Gothic style architecture, and it is on the National Register of Historic Buildings. Throughout the day over 100 students and staff were conducted through the construction site and reviewed construction plan sets with engineers and contractors. The day was a success with many of the students expressing an interest in exploring engineering for their college education.

Natrona County School District No. 1 currently has over a quarter billion dollars of school construction underway including all three of its Casper high schools. The Chapter wanted to seize this opportunity to engage students in the impressive engineering and construction activities in their back yard. The Central Wyoming Chapter plans additional future student tours of the School District construction projects.

A long held priority of the National Society of Professional Engineers is advancing the futures of prospective licensed Professional Engineers. This initiative begins with education of middle and high school students on professional engineering programs, and in the process creating excitement about engineering. Representatives of Five Casper professional engineering firms, along with City of Casper Engineering Office engineers conducted the tours. The general construction contractor, A-P Wyoming, provided assistance in the conducting of the tours as well.

The Chapter extends its appreciation to Natrona County School District No. 1 for helping organize the tours, A-P Wyoming for taking the time to facilitate the tours, and the Natrona County High School teachers and staff for chaperoning and organizing the students.
Figure 1: On the Mezzanine looking out over the Track Area

Figure 2: Looking at support beams in a Physical Education Class Room
Figure 3: On the Facility Floor Explaining Construction Techniques

Figure 4: Explaining Masonry Construction