

READY FOR TOMORROW'S WORLD

**University of Wyoming
College of Arts & Sciences Report**
Published August 2026



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

College of
Arts and Sciences

From the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences

Built for Wyoming's Future

As Wyoming's land-grant university, the University of Wyoming carries a public responsibility: to educate citizens, strengthen communities, and prepare leaders for the future. The College of Arts & Sciences stands at the center of that mission.

As the university's largest and most comprehensive academic college, it educates students in the humanities, social sciences, and the arts while developing the capacities every strong community and economy needs—critical thinking, communication, ethical judgment, creativity, and adaptability. These qualities help graduates lead in classrooms, industry, laboratories, businesses, nonprofits, public agencies, arts organizations, and cultural institutions across Wyoming and the region.

In a time of rapid change, the College equips students not only for their first job, but for lives



of learning, service, and leadership. That is what it means to be ready for tomorrow's world: grounded in knowledge, shaped by purpose, and prepared to contribute wherever Wyoming needs talent and vision most.

“Ready for Tomorrow's World” means preparing students not only for work, but for lives of leadership, service, and contribution.



College of Arts & Sciences Annual Report, Vol. 1

University of Wyoming College of Arts & Sciences
1000 E. University Ave., Dept. 3254
Laramie, WY 82071 • (307) 766-4106
asdean1@uwyo.edu • uwyo.edu/as

Dean J. Scott Turpen

Associate Dean Susan Aronstein

Associate Dean Eric Wodahl

Associate Dean Christie Zimmerman

Editor and Graphic Design Betsy Bress

Writer and Editor Michaela Doyle

Opportunity with a Clear Return

The College makes the path from education to employment more visible, direct, and equitable by offering internships and other hands-on learning experiences that help students explore careers, gain confidence, and build professional networks.

A&S is working to expand paid internship opportunities, ensuring that talent—not circumstance—determines access to valuable experiences. The College continues to deepen partnerships with schools, industry, employers, cultural organizations, public agencies, and community leaders to create more pathways for students across disciplines.

The return on investment in Arts & Sciences can be seen in graduates who strengthen Wyoming's communities, economy, and future.

Arts & Sciences provides Wyoming with a clear return on investment, visible in the graduates who serve communities, strengthen industries, and carry new ideas into the state's future. By broadening opportunity and deepening partnership, Arts & Sciences helps Wyoming stay Ready for Tomorrow's World.



J. Scott Turpen
Dean, College of Arts & Sciences

A&S by the NUMBERS

Opportunities abound in A&S, the University of Wyoming's largest college:



**OVER 2,200
MAJORS**

**DELIVERS
OVER 65,000
CREDIT HOURS
ANNUALLY**



**OVER 700
DEGREES
COMPLETED
ANNUALLY**

**14:1 STUDENT
TO FACULTY
RATIO**



**68% OF
GRADUATES
ARE FROM
WYOMING**

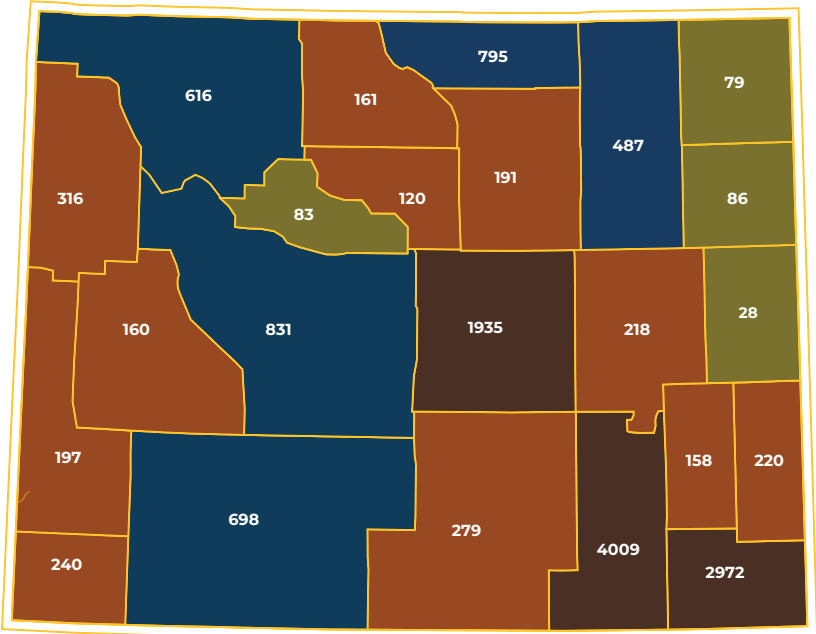
A&S Outreach in the State



A&S Graduates: Workforce, Community, and Civic Strength

Across Wyoming, employers and communities need graduates who can do more than complete technical tasks. They need people who can interpret evidence, solve problems, communicate clearly, work across differences, and respond thoughtfully to complex change. This is the enduring contribution of Arts & Sciences. Our graduates move into a myriad of careers in education, healthcare, business, energy, law, government, media, nonprofit leadership, and the creative economy, carrying with them the intellectual flexibility to keep learning as

industries and communities evolve. Through research, studio practice, internships, field experiences, and community-engaged learning, students connect academic knowledge to real-world challenges. The College's role in workforce development is both practical and foundational: it prepares people who can lead, adapt, and innovate. In doing so, Arts & Sciences strengthens Wyoming's workforce, supports informed civic life, and helps ensure that the state remains Ready for Tomorrow's World.



A&S Graduates by Wyoming County, July 2026

A&S Degrees Lead to Long Term Opportunities

According to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, in 2023 the median salary in Wyoming for someone with a high school diploma was about \$45,900. Students with an undergraduate degree from A&S will earn a significantly increased annual

salary. Annually, and over a career, that is a substantial return on investment. Those are real economic outcomes. They demonstrate that degrees in arts, humanities, and social sciences lead to increased earnings and long-term opportunity.



22% ↑

Median salary in the arts is 22% greater than a high school degree



28% ↑

Median salary in the social sciences is 28% greater than a high school degree



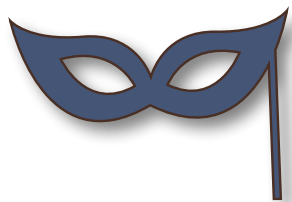
33% ↑

Median salary in the humanities is 33% greater than a high school degree

A&S Cultural Programming Serves Wyoming

During the 2025-26 academic year, the A&S performing arts departments extended cultural

programming to the campus and community audiences.



Over 100 free performances on campus and statewide

Over 80 ticketed events with more than 14,000 tickets sold



A&S Bringing Wyoming to the UW Campus

The College of Arts & Sciences provides a broad scope of inreach programs across the college, bringing Wyoming residents and school students from across the state to participate in

campus, institutes, and symposia. In academic year 2025-26, A&S provided eleven unique inreach events across seven departments.

In 2025-2026



750 +

High school theatre students and educators brought to campus by the Department of Theatre & Dance from across the state for the Wyoming State Thespian Festival



3,650 +

Students brought to campus by the Department of Music for on-campus festivals, including Band Day, the Southeast District Music Festival, and the UW Jazz Festival



400 +

Students brought to campus by the Department of Art for events, including the High School Art Intensive, Iron Pour, and By Western Hands

World Language Day Brings Wyoming Secondary Students to UW



In early March of 2026, **375 visiting secondary students** and **35 teachers** representing **16 junior high and high schools** from across the state participated in the annual [World Languages Day](#) competition at UW. World Language Day is Wyoming's state championship of foreign language study hosted by UW's Department of Modern and Classical Languages.

Director Bénédicte Sohier, a senior lecturer in UW's Department of Modern and Classical Languages, led this year's event alongside more than 60 volunteers, including student volunteers, faculty, and staff members.



Participants competed in linguistic competitions in six languages; there were live competitions and pre-event writing, such as poems, short stories, essays, and edited video.

UW Debate Team Welcomes Students for Summer Forensics Institute

The [University of Wyoming Debate Team](#), housed in the Department of Communication & Journalism, held the Wyoming Forensics Institute, hosting high school students from around the country for a summer debate camp on the University of Wyoming campus. Debaters of all skill levels came from across



Wyoming and Colorado to gain the skills necessary for high-level competition.

Students were able to attend either a one-week or two-week session in July 2026, engaging in skills

development trainings and receiving strategic guidance on how to debate well throughout the year. Students received an evidence set (a collection of prepared research) before camp



allowing them to start debating from day one. They continued to polish their research skills during camp as they worked on expanding their evidence set, learning from lectures, and engaging in debates.

This is the Wyoming Forensic Institute's 22nd year of offering affordable debate education, with a mission to provide exceptional, national-caliber instruction to students at the most accessible price.

English Department Hosts Graduate Summer Residency

In July of 2026, the English Department welcomed students in its online MA program

to campus for a one-week residency. This nationally recognized program offers distance-students the opportunity to study together in small cohorts, building community as they take graduate seminars taught by the department's award-winning faculty. This summer, students in their second year wrapped up their work in Professor Kelly Kinney's "History, Theory and Practice of Rhetoric and Composition" class, while students just beginning the program went "Back to the Garden" with Professor Kent Drummond.

The English Department's online MA program was a

response to requests from Wyoming teachers for an opportunity to earn a graduate degree

from UW. Created in 2011, the program has expanded in recent years with the adoption of Zoom technology. Now students across the U.S. and abroad have joined their Wyoming colleagues, who include high school and community college instructors, librarians, marketing professionals, technical writers, and educational administrators. With 7 cohorts that have now completed the program, the Department of English has awarded **64 MA degrees**, **54 of those to Wyoming students**, and **35 to Wyoming teachers**.



Clearmont, Wyoming English teacher, Betsy Mack, enjoys a moment of reflection at the Denver Botanic Gardens during the English MA Summer Residency.

A&S Teaching and Student Engagement

Arts & Sciences Educates UW Students Across All Colleges

A&S plays a key role in general education through the University Studies Program (USP), preparing students for full participation in a technologically complicated world. Developing skills across USP's categories, Communication, Human Culture, the Physical & Natural

World, Quantitative Reasoning, and the U.S. & Wyoming government, ensures that each UW student graduates with the habits of mind, practices of active citizenship, and intellectual curiosity essential to a lifetime of personal and professional growth.

In the academic year 2024-25, A&S provided 38% of the total University Studies Program Credit Hours and 39% of the total University Studies Program courses.



Experiential Learning: Hands-on Opportunities with Real World Skills

A key A&S priority is expanding internships and other hands-on learning experiences, including Study Abroad programs, that help students explore careers, gain confidence, and build professional networks.



Between 2022-2024, A&S had over **1,700 students** involved in experiential learning opportunities, including over **500 students** involved in internships.

Criminal Justice Student Interns with the Laramie Police Department



After arriving at UW as a pre-veterinary major, senior Alex Novello discovered her passion for criminal justice and received hands-on experience through an internship with the Laramie Police Department. During the fall 2025 semester, Novello typically worked about nine hours per week.

Throughout the course of her internship, she was able to help solve real-world problems, including assisting in a large drug destruction event and participate in the police department's full-scale special response team training.

A&S Students Around the Globe

Immersive, off-campus programs provide students the opportunity to explore a new culture, enhance foreign language proficiency,

and consider the world through variety of international perspectives.

In 2025-2026

179 A&S
STUDENTS



STUDIED IN
OVER 25
COUNTRIES

Communications & Journalism Graduate Lands Conservation Internship

Forrest Cole, who graduated in spring of 2026, grew up in Wheatland, Wyoming. His passion for skiing and photographing action sports led him to study journalism with a photography focus at UW. During his final semester, the founder of Namibia's Cheetah Conservation Fund, a non-profit focused on conservation, education and research, visited campus and Forrest responded to the organization's need for a communications and media intern. Learn more in [UWYO Magazine](#).



A&S Students Study in the Footsteps of Socrates



Philosophy major Maci Lopez and English major Emily Ottoes lead a discussion on Plato's dialogue "Apology" at the Delphi Archaeological site.

During J-term 2026, UW students joined Rob Colter, Chair of the Department of Philosophy & Religion, and Kelly Kinney, Associate Professor in the Department of English, in Greece for two weeks. The course "In the Footsteps of Socrates," focused on Socrates, often considered the father of western philosophy, and his influence. The class stayed in cities such as Athens, Nafplio, Arachova, and Thessaloniki, and visited museums and sites across Greece.

Students not only had the opportunity to read and analyze philosophical, historical, and dramatic text, but were able to connect the ideas and culture of classical Greece to the places where it happened.

A&S Faculty Research in Wyoming and the West

A&S faculty research and creative activity plays a critical role in advancing knowledge, creativity, and student success. Reflecting the diverse disciplines and expertise of its faculty, research

in A&S includes peer-reviewed publications, competitive grants, fieldwork, community-partnered projects, juried exhibitions, installations, performances, and recordings.



Since 2023, A&S faculty and staff have brought in over \$9,000,000 dollars in grant funding to the University of Wyoming.

Archaeology Field School Explores Old Carbon, Wyoming

The Department of Anthropology's archaeology field school was at Old Carbon for the summer 2026 term. One of the oldest coal mining towns in Wyoming, Old Carbon was established along the Union Pacific Railroad in 1868. Led by Alexandra Kelly, Associate Professor in the Departments of History and Anthropology, this year's field school tested excavations in a previously-unexplored, planned neighborhood area of the site.



Old Carbon was abandoned in the early decades of the 19th century after the mines ran out but remains an important heritage site for descendants of the miners who worked there. A&S archaeological investigations at the site are exploring Carbon's vibrant labor history, integration within the global economy, and how the site may have been spatially organized.



Telling the Story of the Wyoming Sugar Beet Workers from Mexico

In the 1920s, hundreds of Mexican and Mexican American families traveled to Wyoming's beet fields, recruited by the Great Western Sugar Company, to do the difficult hand labor that powered one of the state's most important agricultural industries. Known as Betabeleros, these workers thinned, weeded, irrigated, and harvested sugar beets across the Big Horn Basin and other parts of Wyoming.

Spanish-language newspaper page, "La Página en Español," published for one season by the Powell Tribune.



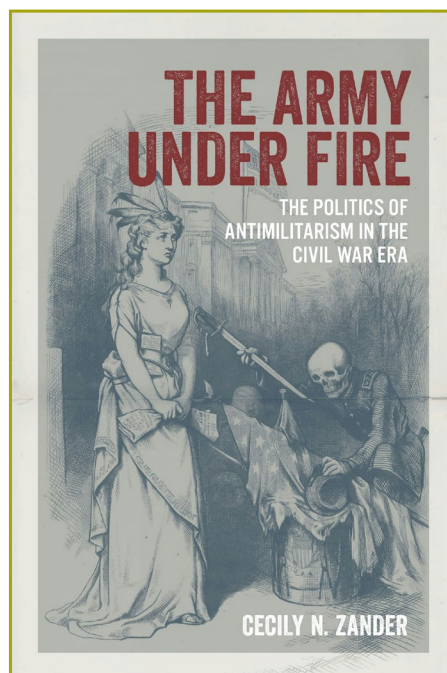
Research being conducted by Conxita Domènech, Professor, and Chelsea Escalante, Associate Professor in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages, brings the stories of the Betabeleros back into view, through analysis and translation of a 1927,

By reading this remarkable newspaper page alongside the history of Mexican labor in Wyoming's sugar beet industry, Domènech and Escalante explore and share a more multilingual and multi-ethnic version of Wyoming's past.

National Prize Honors A&S History Professor's Debut Book

Cecily Zander, Assistant Professor of History at the University of Wyoming, has earned the 2025 Center for Civil War Research's Wiley-Silver Prize for the best first book in Civil War history. This prize honors new and emerging scholars in the field of American Civil War history.

Zander's book, *The Army Under Fire: The Politics of Antimilitarism in the Civil War Era* (Louisiana State University Press), is a path-breaking study that examines the intense political debates over the size and use of military forces in the U.S. during the Civil War era. It explores how prominent



political figures interacted with the professional army and how those same leaders misunderstood the value of regular soldiers fighting to reunify the fractured nation.

The Center for Civil War Research established the Wiley-Silver Prize in Civil War History in 2011. The center presents the prize to the best first book, thereby recognizing and encouraging new and emerging scholars in the history of the American Civil War. The prize is named for two distinguished former faculty members, Bell Irvin Wiley and James W. Silver.

A&S and the Wyoming Creative Economy

The College of Arts and Sciences plays a significant role in what is called the “creative economy.” In September 2024, the UW College of Business Center for Business and Economic Analysis released a report on the economic impact of arts and culture in Wyoming.

The findings were striking. In 2022, Wyoming’s creative economy generated **\$3.6 billion in total economic output**—comparable to the state’s agriculture industry. It generated **\$35 million in state and local tax revenue** and supported more than **14,600 jobs**.

Arts and Sciences—and our alumni—are central to those figures. Our graduates

Wyoming’s creative economy generated \$3.6 billion in total economic output—comparable to the state’s agriculture industry.

create, manage, teach, innovate, and lead in ways that strengthen communities and diversify the economy. This is not peripheral work. It is core to Wyoming’s future. People of all ages want to live in communities where there are cultural opportunities and events, concerts, museums, dance lessons for their kids. Without these, some people choose to live elsewhere.

Wyoming Partnership Forges Future Master Craftspeople

Committed to giving students real-world experiences, Ashley Hope Carlisle, Professor of Art in Sculpture in the Department of Visual Arts, leads the Master Craftsman program (The Modern Atelier), a transdisciplinary

gaining hands-on business experience through budgeting, invoicing, marketing, meeting deadlines, and solving client challenges. Their work extends beyond campus through a partnership with [By Western Hands](#), a Cody-

based nonprofit dedicated to preserving the legacy of western design by supporting today’s artisans, educating future craftspeople and protecting iconic designs.

Through the partnership, master artisans travel to Laramie to lead workshops, while students visit Cody for additional workshops and internships. Recent workshops have featured leatherworking, metal engraving and blacksmithing, giving students the opportunity to learn



course that blends creativity, technology, and entrepreneurship. Students develop skills in crafts such as welding and metalcasting while

traditional crafts while preparing for careers in both the arts and industry.

THE NELTJE CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN CREATIVITY AND THE ARTS



The [Neltje Center for Excellence in Creativity and the Arts](#) provides artists, students, scholars, educators, industry partners, community leaders, and creative thinkers room to think, reflect, and create new, innovative, and interdisciplinary work, rooted in Neltje's living legacy and the landscape of Wyoming's Bighorn foothills.

In 2025, the Neltje Center significantly expanded its reach, demonstrating its role as an impactful space for student experiential learning and faculty engagement as well as a primary point of engagement for the University in the northern Wyoming region.

2025 at the Neltje Center



213

UW students, faculty, and staff who participated in residencies



377

Participants who were community members from across the state and region



590

Total participants in Neltje Center-hosted programming

A&S Supports Wyoming Communities

Building an Age-Friendly Wyoming Through Workforce Development

Wyoming Center on Aging

Every person deserves the opportunity to age with dignity, purpose, and the support they need to live well in the community they call home. When communities have well-prepared professionals, accessible services, and strong systems of care, older adults can remain connected to the people, places, and activities that matter most to them.

Wyoming's older adult population is growing, and the challenges of providing high-quality care are intensified by rural geography, healthcare workforce shortages, and limited access to geriatric specialists. The [Wyoming Center on Aging \(WyCOA\)](#), located within the Department of Psychology in the College of Arts & Sciences, is helping address these challenges by strengthening the workforce and expanding access to evidence-based programs.

Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program

As Wyoming's Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP), WyCOA partners with healthcare systems, community organizations, state agencies, tribal organizations, and educational institutions to build a healthcare system prepared to meet the needs of an aging population.

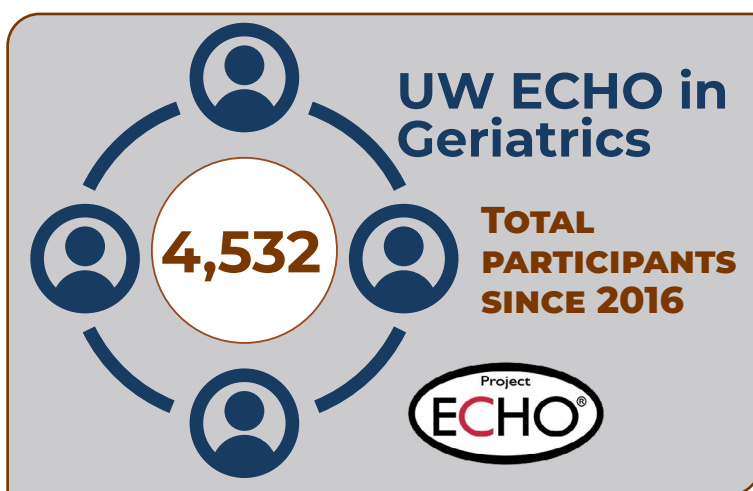
A cornerstone of this work is the [UW ECHO in Geriatrics](#), a statewide learning network that connects healthcare professionals with geriatrics experts to support complex older adult care using the internationally recognized [ECHO Model](#) for healthcare

training. Since 2016, this bi-weekly program has helped providers improve care delivery by sharing best practices related to dementia, medication management, falls prevention, mobility, nutrition, behavioral health, and caregiver support. Since its inception, more than **4,500 healthcare professionals** have participated, strengthening the capacity of providers across Wyoming to deliver high-quality, age-friendly care.



Empowering Older Adults

Beyond healthcare settings, WyCOA expands access to programs that empower older adults to take an active role in managing their health. Through [Healthy U](#) and other chronic disease self-management programs, older adults learn practical skills to manage conditions such as diabetes, arthritis, heart disease, chronic pain, and depression.



WyCOA has developed a statewide network of trained community leaders to deliver these programs where older adults live with a network of **109 active leaders** reaching nearly **900 Wyoming residents** across **18 counties**.

Student Voices Inspire Community Conversations Across Wyoming

In January 2025, the Malcolm Wallop Civic Engagement Program in the School of Politics, Public Affairs, and International Studies, launched the [Wyoming Youth Resilience Project](#) (WYRP). Partnering with K-12 teachers and students across Wyoming and surrounding regions, this project was designed to document youth perspectives on barriers and opportunities they see in educational attainment, employment, and community resilience.

Using the photovoice methodology, students



This student submitted photo reflects community resilience through food security in Casper. This is a small portion of a community garden supported by Food For Thought.

captured their experiences through photography and narrative. Their work was shared with local stakeholders and the wider community at local showcases. It is also publicly available on the [Wyoming Resilience Map](#).

During 2025-26, WYRP partnered with **18 teachers** and **approximately 300**

students. Teachers implemented project lessons, organized showcases, and reflected on the project's positive impact. Building on its success, the Wallop Program will continue WYRP through teacher professional development workshops in 2026-27.

Donor Support for the College of Arts & Sciences

A&S enjoys excellent support from alumni and stakeholders in Wyoming and beyond. These gifts directly impact student success,

expanding opportunities for learning and engagement on campus, around the state, the country, and beyond.

IN FISCAL YEARS 2024 - 2026



**4,511 DONORS GIFTED
\$12,281,814 TO A&S**



University of Wyoming
College of Arts & Sciences
1000 E. University Ave., Dept. 3254
Laramie, WY 82071



UW

College of
Arts and Sciences