

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

2023-24



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

Office of Community
Engagement

Letter from the Director

Dear friends, colleagues, and partners,

The University of Wyoming's Office of Community Engagement is excited to share this community engagement highlight report. Our office was relaunched in fall of 2023 to advance the university's land-grant mission of community engagement. The Office of Community Engagement serves as a hub to identify, elevate, and highlight our institutional impact across the state of Wyoming. The office name has been updated from the former Office of Engagement and Outreach and we are excited to build upon the great work that has been done.

Our mission is to provide institutional leadership to create an environment of community engaged education and scholarship. Plus build mutually beneficial relationships between UW and our local and state communities to address complex economic and social challenges and opportunities facing UW and Wyoming. We will pursue this mission through community engaged scholarship, teaching and service, student opportunities, staff and faculty development and working with our partners and constituents.

The past year has been filled with so many impactful and important moments that have assisted in the direction-setting of this office. We've met with community and campus partners that have informed our new strategic plan, spent time across Wyoming developing relationships and partnerships, launched new initiatives and charted a path forward that is rooted in reciprocity and service.

As we look ahead to our collective future, our strategic vision is an invitation for all of us to continue to partner with the purpose of service to our local and state communities to advance our shared goals. We will continue to work closely between our institution, local communities, and state partners to highlight our many accomplishments and new opportunities to work together to serve Wyoming.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erin Olsen".

Dr. Erin Olsen
Director of Community Engagement
Office of Community Engagement

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2023-24 Accomplishments

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FALL 2023-SUMMER 2024

PERSONNEL AND FACILITIES

One critical set of steps in the first year has been forming a new team.

- Dr. Erin Olsen was hired in September 2023 to take the helm as Director of the new office.
- Hired two part-time personnel – a professional Strategist and a student staff member.
- Secured facilities, furniture, technology, and other essentials for day-to-day operations.
- Expanded the part-time professional Strategist role to a full-time Associate Director.
- Identified opportunities to hire additional part-time student staff in 2024-25.

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Building relationships across UW and the state has been core to our mission from the start.

- Facilitated the Community Engaged Faculty Institute (CEFI) pilot year with campus and community partners.
- Supported “UW in Your Community” events around the state, connecting with UW and Wyoming stakeholders.
- Participated in additional events and meetings to understand current community engaged initiatives and emerging opportunities.
- Served on a variety of community and institutional committees and coalitions.
- Expanded UW’s membership in select national organizations to increase community engagement resources for faculty, staff, students, and community members.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

An initial priority has been to define vision and strategy for how we can best serve UW and the state.

- Researched community engagement infrastructure at UW and at peer institutions.
- Met with leaders from campus, Albany County, and other Wyoming communities for institutional and community perspectives.
- Reviewed key recommendations for UW to advance its efforts as an institution designated with the Carnegie Foundation Elective Classification for Community Engagement.
- Attended national conferences to learn additional best practices for community engagement in higher education.
- Drafted an office strategic plan in alignment with UW strategic goals.

DATA COLLECTION AND COMMUNICATION

We have laid a foundation for serving as a future hub for cataloging and communicating institutional community engagement activities.

- Held initial meetings with stakeholders to discuss potential needs and partnerships around community engagement data.
- Began benchmarking research to identify potential data collection and reporting systems.
- Changed our name from Office of Engagement and Outreach to Office of Community Engagement to better communicate the focus of our new office.
- Completed preliminary plans to build new website that centralizes community engagement resources.
- Produced the first formal Community Engagement Report to reflect on the past year.



Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement



UW RECEIVES NATIONAL DESIGNATION AS A COMMUNITY ENGAGED CAMPUS

In 2024, UW received the Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement. This is a first-time achievement for the institution and places UW as one of only 368 institutions across the nation to receive the designation.

This recognition was made possible by the leadership of President Edward Seidel, Provost Kevin Carman, and a 40-member task force headed by Professor Jean Garrison of the School of Politics, Public Affairs and International Studies. The group invested months in completing the application, which required a rigorous evaluation and documentation of UW's community engagement practices, rewards, infrastructure and partnerships around the state.

In notifying UW of the designation, the American Council on Education (ACE) and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching (Carnegie Foundation) reflected that the UW application "documented excellent alignment among campus mission, culture, leadership, resources and practices that support dynamic and noteworthy community engagement." Receipt of the Carnegie community engagement classification is both an acknowledgement of the institution's extensive efforts to date and a call to action for UW to further refine and expand its approach to community engagement.

UW's renewal of the Office of Community Engagement is one step towards increased commitment to partnership with Wyoming communities to address complex challenges facing our state.

Over **100** UW and community members contributed to the self-study on UW partnerships across Wyoming.



The Carnegie Foundation **defines community engagement** as the "collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity."

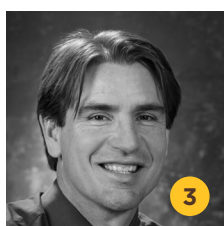
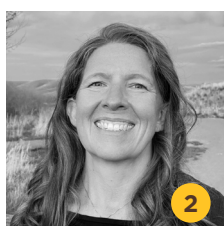
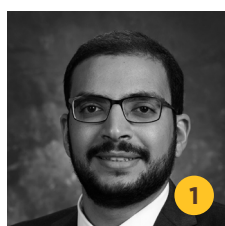


Community Engaged Faculty Institute

In the past year, nine faculty members from the University of Wyoming (UW) completed the inaugural Community Engaged Faculty Institute (CEFI) program. This institute was developed to align with UW's recent designation as a Carnegie Foundation "community engaged" campus and to support strategic institutional goals to pursue excellence in teaching, student success, and community engagement.

CEFI aimed to provide faculty with tools for integrating service learning and community engagement into new or redesigned university courses. The program consisted of six sessions facilitated by UW professionals and local community partners. These sessions included presentations and resources on various components of developing a service-learning course, such as course design, learning assessment, implementation strategies, and creating mutually beneficial community-campus partnerships.

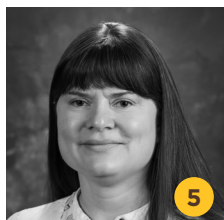
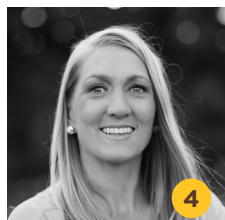
As part of the program, each participant created and presented a course design or redesign plan at the end of the spring semester. These project plans covered a diverse range of disciplines and were aligned with each faculty member's area of teaching. The 2023-24 CEFI cohort represented the following UW academic units:



➊ **Ahmed Abdelaty**, Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering and Construction Management, College of Engineering and Physical Sciences

➋ **Melanie Armstrong**, Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources

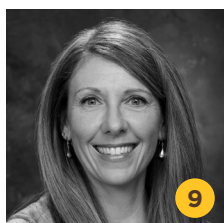
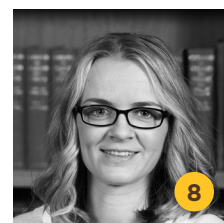
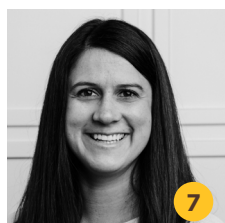
➌ **Dan Fetsco**, Department of Criminal Justice and Sociology, College of Arts and Sciences



➍ **Jenny Ingwersen-Niemann**, Department of Animal Science, College of Agriculture, Life Sciences, and Natural Resources

➎ **Rosemary McBride**, School of Teacher Education, College of Education

➏ **Elizabeth Minton**, Management and Marketing, College of Business



➐ **Meagan Ricks**, Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources

➑ **Bénédicte Sohier**, Modern and Classical Languages, College of Arts and Sciences

➒ **Jenifer Thomas**, Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing, College of Health Sciences

CEFI was created and coordinated with support from the Office of Community Engagement (OCE), Malcolm Wallop Civic Engagement Program, Stewart Family Enrichment Fund, Service, Leadership and Community Engagement (SLCE), Ellbogen Center for Teaching and Learning (ECTL), United Way of Albany County, and Laramie Interfaith.



College & School Highlights

Central to UW's mission as Wyoming's land-grant and flagship institution of higher education is community engagement and outreach to the state. UW's academic colleges and schools are often on the front lines of building partnerships to expand the reach of education, scholarship, and entrepreneurial activities from campus to the community. These pages highlight a few examples per college or school – a small selection from the many ways that UW academic units work with and for the state.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, LIFE SCIENCES AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Historical Community Outreach, Education, and Applied Research

The College of Agriculture, Life Sciences, and Natural Resources oversees extension and research units with a long history of serving the Wyoming community through outreach, education, and applied research. Since 1914, UW Extension (UWE) has provided educational programs and resources to all 23 counties and the Wind River Indian Reservation. UWE offers educational opportunities for Wyoming residents of all ages, supporting individual and community development. Read more about UW Extension on p. 12.

Since 1891, the Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station (WAES) has been dedicated to advancing fundamental and applied research on agricultural, natural, and community resource issues pertinent to Wyoming, the surrounding region, the nation, and the world. The WAES operates four Research and Extension (R&E) Centers in Laramie, Powell, Sheridan, and Lingle, funding and promoting research relevant to Wyoming agricultural priorities.

Community-Based Research on Indigenous Foods

Since 2016, faculty in the Department of Family & Consumer Sciences have worked in partnership with the Restoring Shoshone Ancestral Food Gathering group on the Wind River Indian Reservation to produce community-based research on reclaiming, evaluating, and promoting traditional Shoshone foods to promote health.

Wyoming Bird Initiative for Resilience and Diversity (WYOBIRD)

WYOBIRD is a new initiative as of 2023, designed to advance knowledge, appreciation, and conservation of birds locally and globally. WYOBIRD activities include novel research on birds, hands-on training to develop a new generation of scientists, and connecting the public to science through outreach.



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Neltje Center for Excellence in Creativity and the Arts

The Neltje Center is an initiative for arts instruction, creative activity, research, collaboration, and service that is positioned to advance Wyoming's creative economy. The center includes a physical space in Sheridan County and coordinates experiences in visual, literary, and performing arts for students, faculty, and community members throughout the state and beyond.

Wyoming Center on Aging (WyCOA)

Housed within the Department of Psychology, WyCOA enhances older adults' lives through programs in chronic disease management, dementia support, and education for families and healthcare providers. WyCOA collaborates with the aging network across Wyoming to offer education, training, resources, research, and other services to promote wellbeing. WyCOA and statewide libraries have partnered to make blood pressure monitoring kits available for checkout in all 23 counties.

Wyoming Pathways from Prison (WPfP)

Most former prisoners are rearrested within five years, but education can dramatically reduce recidivism. The WPfP was started in 2015 to help incarcerated individuals at all five Wyoming Department of Correction facilities to earn college credits. With grant support, the program expanded to support cohorts at correctional institutions in Lusk and Torrington with earning a UW bachelor's degree in general studies.

Malcolm Wallop Civic Engagement Program

The Wallop Program in the School of Politics, Public Affairs, and International Studies partners with state educators, communities, government leaders, and other UW units to host projects, K-12 curriculum resources, and meaningful dialogue that expand civics education and engagement in Wyoming.



In 2023-24, the Wallop Program and Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) collaborated to launch a statewide Civics Education Center.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

John P. Ellbogen \$50k Entrepreneurship Competition ▶

The John P. Ellbogen \$50K Entrepreneurship Competition motivates Wyoming college students to pursue innovative business ventures. The competition provides mentoring, financial guidance and networking opportunities to teams who compete for cash awards. Open to students from all disciplines at UW and community colleges, the competition emphasizes interdisciplinary collaboration for entrepreneurial success.



UW Center for Business and Economic Analysis (CBEA)

Founded in 2019, the UW CBEA supports Wyoming's economic growth and diversification through applied economic and business analytics to benefit communities, industries, and entrepreneurs. At the 2023 Governor's Business Forum, CBEA presented Wyoming's first annual economic forecast, providing insights and recommendations for a thriving future.

Statewide Assistance with Tax Related Activities

The college supports low- to mid-income Wyoming residents with tax-related activities. The Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) offers free legal aid for federal tax disputes, including consultation, representation, and community education. Business faculty members also partner with local organizations to provide tax return preparation through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) programs.

UW Center for Principle-Based Leadership and Ethics (PBLE)

The Center for PBLE was designed to help create thriving businesses and communities in Wyoming and the greater region. The center offers education, leadership development, research on innovative practices, and collaboration with community stakeholders to advance its mission of developing the next generation of ethical leaders and organizations.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Wyoming School-University Partnership

The Wyoming School-University Partnership is a statewide collaboration among Wyoming K-12 school districts, government education organizations, and higher education institutions. The partnership aims to develop a strong educator pipeline from early career to leadership, promotes best practices, and supports comprehensive education renewal, striving for educational excellence across the state.

Trustees Education Initiative (TEI)

The TEI began at the college in 2016, designed to produce and maintain the highest quality educators across Wyoming. Through partnership with educators, administrators, policy makers, industry, and community members, TEI develops transformative educational initiatives that empower educators, promote professional growth, and elevate student success.

Centers and Clinics

The College of Education administers high quality centers and clinics whose activities impact communities across the state. The Literacy Research Center and Clinic (LRCC), Early Care and Education Center (ECEC), WellSpring Counseling Clinic, and Science and Mathematics Teaching Center (SMTC) collectively support children, adults, and families through educational research, direct services, and outreach.

New Wyoming K-12 Learning Partnership

“Wyoming’s Future of Learning” is a collaboration between the College of Education, Governor Mark Gordon, the Wyoming Department of Education, and the State Board of Education to implement more student-centered strategies in the state’s K-12 education system. In 2023-24, a cohort of nine Wyoming school districts completed the Reimagining and Innovating the Delivery of Education (RIDE) pilot program.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES

K-14 STEM Education Outreach Office

The CEPS K-14 STEM Education Outreach Office offers hands-on learning opportunities to students and teachers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Their programs, such as classroom visits, field trips, and summer camps, aim to enhance STEM education and prepare students to pursue impactful careers in Wyoming and beyond.

The Innovation Wyrkshop

The Innovation Wyrkshop fosters community-driven innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship through hands-on makerspaces. Community members of all backgrounds can access free workshops, events, and resources via physical makerspace locations around Wyoming or by reserving a mobile makerspace unit. The Innovation Wyrkshop is supported by the Tier-1 Engineering Initiative and has had visitor traffic of over 70,000 individuals since inception in 2019.

Historic Preservation Using Innovative Technology

Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering and Construction Management researchers have partnered with Wyoming State Historic Preservation, National Park Service, and Yellowstone National Park Lodges to digitally map Old Faithful Inn. Advanced 3D models will aid in preserving and sharing this iconic state landmark, benefiting researchers, preservationists, educators, and the public alike.

School of Computing (SoC)

Currently housed within CEPS, the SoC was launched in 2022 with funding from the Wyoming Innovation Partnership (WIP) to support economic development through computational and digital education, research, and engagement. The new school, which now also includes the Wyoming Geographic Information Science Center (WyGISC) and the Data Science Center, works in partnership across the state to make computing tools and skills more accessible to Wyoming students, faculty, staff, community, and industry.



COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND)

In 2024, WIND celebrates 30 years of assisting and supporting individuals with developmental and other disabilities, their families, professionals, and UW students through education, training, community services, and early intervention. WIND initiatives have been recognized through national and international awards for excellence in serving the community.

Educational Health Center of Wyoming (EHCW) Partnership

The EHCW is a federally qualified health center that provides affordable healthcare services and educates health professionals. EHCW clinics in Casper, Cheyenne, and Laramie provide quality family healthcare. Since the 1970's, collaboration between the EHCW and the UW Family Medicine Residency program has provided over 500 family medicine residents with applied learning experiences in the clinics.

Statewide Engagement through Clinical Curriculum

Health science schools and divisions have a long history of ongoing engagement with health professionals across the state through clinical partnerships. Clinical curriculum in the Division of Communication Disorders, Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing, School of Pharmacy, Division of Social Work, and WWAMI Medical Education Program bring together students, community and agency partners, and preceptors and other professional mentors to address rural healthcare needs and positively impact Wyoming's residents.

WWAMI Top Community-Engaged Student Research Projects

The WWAMI Medical Education Program requires students to complete summer research projects and present them at the fall symposium. Franklin Powell from Jackson, and Thomas Robitaille from Casper, received recognition for Top Community-Engaged Projects. Powell studied opioid literacy among high school students in Hot Springs County, while Robitaille investigated the youth mental health crisis in Gillette.

COLLEGE OF LAW

Experiential Learning through Service to the State

Since 1971, UW Law's experiential learning programs have equipped law graduates with practical legal skills and served low-income Wyoming citizens. Ten legal clinics and practicum programs provide students with real world experience in areas of family and child advocacy; civil legal services; defender aid; prosecution; energy, environmental, and natural resources; international human rights; business and estate planning; legislation, and local government.

Statewide Outreach by George W. Hopper Law Library

As one of Wyoming's two public law libraries, the UW Law Library is committed to enhancing legal resource awareness statewide. It supports residents with legal research and resources by collaborating with other libraries and providing training. Already recognized for community engagement, the Law Library recently hired a dedicated public services librarian to further expand these efforts.

Firearms Research Center (FRC)

Launched in 2023, the FRC aims to diversify firearms discussions, prepare graduates as firearms lawyers, and provide non-partisan information on firearms data and law. By uniting scholars and experts, the FRC seeks to enhance discourse and influence understanding of firearms by serving as a resource for academics, practitioners, lawmakers, media, and the public.



In 2023, 134 law students spent more than 22,000 hours serving clients in 20 of Wyoming's 23 counties.



HAUB SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Serving Wyoming and the World for 30 Years

The Haub School, celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2023-24, equips students and stakeholders with skills to tackle environmental and natural resource challenges. Established in 1993, it serves as an interdisciplinary hub for collaborative solutions. Through upcoming events, the school will commemorate and celebrate three decades of impact through teaching, research, service, and partnerships within Wyoming and beyond.

Ruckelshaus Institute

The Ruckelshaus Institute addresses complex environmental and natural resource challenges in the Mountain West by promoting stakeholder-driven solutions. It provides training and support services for collaborative decision-making, communication and publications that bridge science and policy, and conferences and forums to unite stakeholders. The Institute also aids landowners with interdisciplinary expertise across various fields to enhance resource management and stewardship of private lands.

Wyoming Conservation Corps (WCC)

The WCC, founded in 2006, builds on the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps and Youth Corps by providing students with paid experiential learning and leadership training in natural resource management. Partnering with AmeriCorps, WCC offers academic credits, certificates, and a stipend while accomplishing conservation projects with partners across Wyoming.

Engagement with Wind River Buffalo Initiative

The Director of the High Plains American Indian Research Institute, also a faculty member at the Haub School, is working with the Wind River Buffalo Initiative on community engagement and outreach, including programming, internships, language learning opportunities, Crow Creek stream restoration, and partnerships with other universities, community colleges, non-profits, and tribes.



Over the past 40 years, a total of 3415 Wyoming high school students have attended HSI to experience their first taste of college life.



HONORS COLLEGE

Civic and Community Engaged Learning

The Honors College infuses community connection throughout their academic minor and concurrent major curriculum. All Honors students graduating fulfill civic community service requirements in their first year; complete a capstone project involving a research, creative, community-engaged, or entrepreneurial focus; and take additional coursework that supports community-engaged learning.

Summer High School Institute (HSI)

Established in 1985 through an act of the Wyoming Legislature, HSI is a three-week program for high-achieving high school students from across the state. Modeled after the national “Governor’s School,” students live in residence halls, attend STEM and Humanities courses, engage in hands-on learning, and participate in community service activities with local nonprofits. HSI also provides professional development for high school teachers, university faculty, and graduate students.

Honors Sponsored Internships

The Honors College values internships for students to gain hands-on professional experience and practice community engagement. The Honors Sponsored Internship program offers UW Honors students paid internships in partnership with various on- and off-campus organizations, allowing future graduates to gain practical experience while contributing to the local Wyoming community.

SCHOOL OF ENERGY RESOURCES

Resource Guides for Wyoming Stakeholders

SER provides research-based guidance to Wyoming stakeholders on various energy topics. Example resources released in the past year include the publication “What Every Wyoming Landowner Should Know About Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)” and the online “Community Benefits Planning Toolbox for Energy Development with the U.S. Department of Energy: Resources and Guidance for Wyoming,” produced by SER’s Center for Energy Regulation and Policy Analysis (CERPA).

Nuclear Innovation Bootcamp Summer 2024

UW’s SER partnered with the Nuclear Innovation Alliance to host the 2024 Nuclear Innovation Bootcamp (NIB) this summer. This intensive two-week bootcamp gathered 24 select students and early-career professionals from around the world to address nuclear energy challenges. The program included multidisciplinary classes, industry tours, mentorship, and group projects, leveraging Wyoming’s growing nuclear industry and expertise for learning.

New “Energy Roadshow” Public Outreach Series

In June 2024, SER launched an “Energy Roadshow” to connect with Wyoming communities and highlight its research and energy projects. The series aims to inform the public about local projects and the state’s energy sector. The Energy Roadshow will continue in the upcoming year, with public events throughout the state.

UW In Your Community

As Wyoming's flagship and land-grant institution established in 1886, the University of Wyoming is "Wyoming's University." UW takes seriously its responsibility to connect with and serve the state. Across Wyoming, UW engagement has an impact in agriculture, natural resources, arts, business, education, STEM, health, law, policy, and energy. The university is involved in projects and partnerships in every county and the Wind River Indian Reservation.

As one of many engagement and outreach initiatives, UW launched a series of statewide events in September 2022 called "UW in Your Community." The monthly series includes a visit to each county to showcase select UW projects and partnerships in the region, shine a light on UW's impact across Wyoming, and build new connections between the university and the local community.

During 2022-23, UW held "UW in Your Community" events on the Wind River Indian Reservation and in 16 of 23 Wyoming counties. The series will continue in the 2024-25 academic year, with events to be planned in the remaining counties.



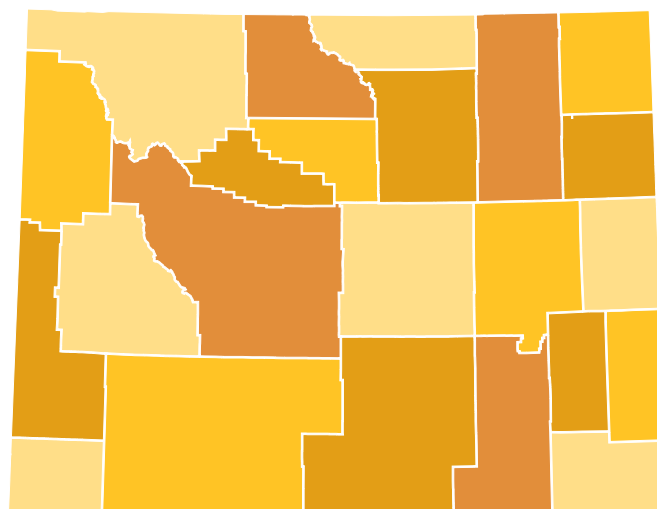
The events include multiple activities designed to connect with different areas in each community. During the day, UW representatives meet with local high school students through on-campus assemblies. Current UW students who graduated from those high schools "return home" to share about their college experience at UW. President Seidel, faculty and staff also share perspective on how the institution supports Wyoming students with academic, financial, personal and career development success in college.

Between high school visits, President Seidel and other UW representatives meet with local leaders to discuss current collaborations and areas of potential future partnership.

UW hosts an evening event, to which alumni and the broader community are invited to gather for food, beverages and conversation. UW President Seidel and current UW students, staff and faculty present on local projects the university is involved in. Additionally, local representatives such as alumni, community college partners and other resident leaders present on current and future collaborations with UW.

Highlighted activities have included new academic programs launched in collaboration with community colleges; research taking place around the state; economic development and tourism partnerships; and local UW Extension projects.

The "UW in Your Community" events themselves are an example of collaboration. Many individuals and units work together to organize the series. UW's Institutional Marketing and



Communications leads the effort, with support from the UW Office of the President, UW Alumni Association, UW Enrollment Management and UW Office of Community Engagement.

Representatives of the following areas have also participated regularly in the series: UW Extension; UW Athletics; UW School of Computing; UW College of Education; UW Vice President of Governmental Affairs and Community Engagement; Wyoming Outdoor Recreation, Tourism and Hospitality (WORTH) Initiative; and Wyoming Innovation Partnership (WIP). Local Board of Trustees members, Wyoming community college (WYCC) presidents, state legislators and other community leaders have offered invaluable partnership and support throughout the series as well.

Community Engagement Spotlight: UW Extension

ABOUT UW EXTENSION

The University of Wyoming Extension serves Wyoming communities by helping residents apply university research and resources to practical problems. Since 1914, UW Extension has provided educational programs and tools to the state's 23 counties and the Wind River Indian Reservation. From 4-H programming and pesticide safety education to food preservation and nutrition courses, Extension upholds the university's land-grant mission by offering learning opportunities for people of all ages. UW Extension staff help Wyoming residents boost agricultural production, care for lawns and gardens, cultivate future leaders, support individual and community well-being, and develop thriving businesses.

UW Extension Focus Areas

UW Extension programs can be broadly categorized into the following focus areas, each supported by teams of dedicated educators and specialists across the state.

4-H Youth Development

Wyoming 4-H is a youth development program designed to empower young people with lifelong leadership skills through mentorship, hands-on learning, and meaningful community engagement. With the support of extension educators and a network of caring volunteers, 4-H members explore project-based educational opportunities in animal science, expressive arts, healthy living, leadership and civic engagement, science and technology, and natural resources.



Agriculture and Natural Resources

UW Extension educators and specialists focused on agriculture and natural resources serve Wyoming farmers, ranchers, and rural communities, from large-scale producers to small-acreage landowners and home gardeners. Using the latest research-based information, they help Wyoming residents explore options for range management, livestock nutrition, crop production, lawn and garden care, farm and ranch economics, and more.

Community Vitality and Health

UW Extension educators and specialists on the community vitality and health team offer programming and resources for Wyoming residents interested in all aspects of individual and community well-being, from nutrition, food safety, and physical fitness to financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and leadership development.

Cent\$ible Nutrition Program (CNP)

The Cent\$ible Nutrition Program provides nutrition and physical activity education to Wyoming residents with limited resources. Funded by the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), CNP collaborates with state and local partners to help support healthier communities. CNP is available in every Wyoming county and on the Wind River Indian Reservation.



SELECT 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Through the Grow a Little Extra program, UWE's Cent\$ible Nutrition Program (CNP) partnered with Wyoming Hunger Initiative and Wyoming Master Gardeners to donate more than 27,000 pounds of Wyoming-grown food to anti-hunger organizations in 2023.

Since 2021, UWE's Cent\$ible Nutrition Program has partnered with the James C. Hageman Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension Center (SAREC) to donate thousands of pounds of potatoes to Food Bank of Wyoming each fall. In October 2023, volunteers harvested more than 13,000 pounds of potatoes, which Food Bank of Wyoming distributed to anti-hunger organizations across the state. The 2023 harvest also included volunteers from the Wyoming Women's Center; graduate students from UW's Family and Consumer Sciences Department and Chemistry Department; students enrolled in a UW agricultural education course; and Platte County 4-H members.

UWE's annual 4-H Virtual Career Night encourages Wyoming youth to dream big and explore a diverse variety of career options. Organized and hosted by Wyoming 4-H, the free event connects students with successful professionals across the country, from firefighters, wildlife biologists, and local entrepreneurs to chefs, jet engine mechanics, video producers, and even a deep-sea diver. In 2023, more than 200 participants from 26 states registered for the online event.

The UWE Sheep Task Force, launched in 2023, leads educational workshops, webinars, and other programming to share research-based information on parasite management, nutrition, wool evaluation, lambing barn infrastructure, and more. In addition to facilitating public workshops and webinars for Wyoming producers, the Sheep Task Force hosted five "Train the Trainer" sessions designed to help extension educators expand their skillsets and better serve sheep producers in their counties.

In 2022, Wyoming SNAP-Ed collaborated with the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) to develop a mini-grant program to engage early childcare & education (ECE) sites in community intervention efforts. The pilot project utilized funding from the Maternal & Child Health Title V Block Grant to provide \$500 mini-grants to ECEs to support the adoption of community interventions detailed in the Healthy Policies Toolkit. The program expanded in 2023 with additional funding from WDH and the Wyoming Head Start Collaboration Office. Since 2022, 38 mini-grants have been awarded to 34 sites, leading to the adoption of over 180 community interventions and new partnerships with ECEs that have turned into long-term collaborations.



- **4,811 Programs Taught**
- **11,457 Instructional Hours**
- **Reached 117,361 Youth and Adults**



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