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## Wyoming School-University Partnership

### Holiday Season 2024 | The Latest Updates from WSUP



With November behind us and December underway, we're reminded of the season's spirit of gratitude and collaboration. This month, we're excited to share news about the latest initiatives, events, and resources that are supporting education across Wyoming.

#### Partnership Specific

##### Governing Board Meetings

Our next Governing Board meeting will be held virtually on January 15, 2024. Please review October's [materials](#) since we did not have a chance to meet during that month. January's [materials](#) are still being compiled.



##### College for Every Student Schools Of Distinction

Burlington High School and Rocky Mountain High Schools in Big Horn County School District #1 were both recognized as Schools of Distinction at the CFES Brilliant Pathways Conference for their work in advancing college and career readiness. Mrs. Sally Bernhisel is the Career Readiness Advisor for the school district and orchestrated much of the work necessary to receive the recognition. Congratulations!

##### Schools of Distinction

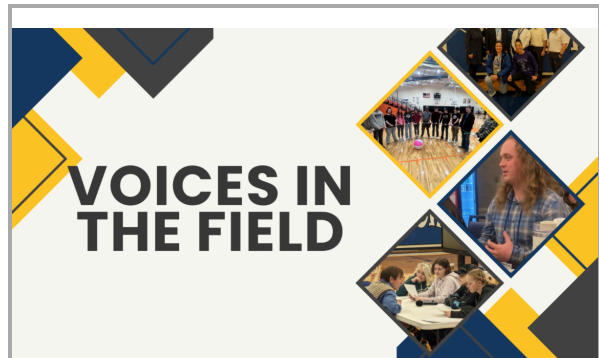


[Read More](#)

## College for Every Student National Conference Presentations

The High Altitude Pathways Grant team held three presentations at the [College for Every Student National Conference](#) in Burlington, VT this past week. Attendees included members from WSUP member districts Albany 1 and Goshen 1. Presentations included:

- Albany 1 Students: Bridging the Gap - [Understanding College and Career Readiness from a Scholar's Perspective](#)
- WSUP's Nicholas Jesse and Cathedral Home's Kaitlyn Souza: [Building Hope and Meeting Needs: Skills-Based Activities and Exposure to Non-Traditional Pathways](#)
- WSUP's Colby Gull: [Cows, Coal, & Classrooms: The Economies of Three Career Clusters](#)



## NASUP Conference Presentation Accepted

Albany 1, Big Horn 1, and WSUP will be presenting at the National Association of School University Partnerships [annual conference](#) on Voices in the Field. The conference is being held March 6-8, 2025 in New Orleans, LA.

Voices in the Field was an original collaboration between Malinda Garcia and the Partnership back when Malinda taught in Fremont 6. Since becoming the principal at Whiting High School in Albany 1, Malinda not only brought Voices along with her, but has shared it with Big Horn 1 and Rock River High School in Albany 1 to boost collaboration between schools and districts. The presentation will host student voices, while centering on the history of this collaboration and how it meets statewide curriculum standards.

[Learn More](#)

## Education Community Updates



UNIVERSITY  
OF WYOMING

College of  
Education

*Weekly updates from the Dean*



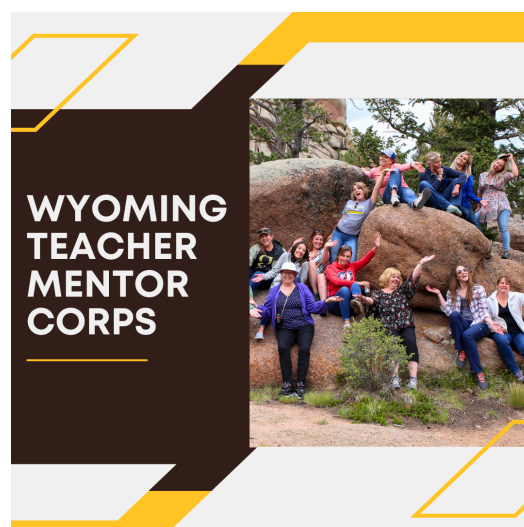
Stay informed about everything happening at the University of Wyoming College of Education.

[Get Updates](#)

## WTMC Cohort 4 Nominations

Just a reminder that nominations for Cohort 4 of the Wyoming Teacher Mentor Corps (WTMC) will begin in early January 2025. WTMC is striving to have 50 teacher mentors in this cohort, so please start identifying teachers in your districts who you would like to participate in this opportunity.

[Learn More](#)



## Wind River Reservation Sabbatical Research

College of Education faculty, Dr. Lydia Nganga, recently presented on her sabbatical research which focused on educational best practices for Native American students on the Wind River Reservation. She examined challenges educators face while promoting Culturally Relevant Pedagogies (CRP) and fostering collaboration among schools, communities, and teacher education programs. Using Collaborative Based Professional (CBP) learning, the project emphasized reciprocity, encouraging innovation and inquiry to support Native students' success. The research highlights social issues and the shortage of culturally prepared educators, advocating for deeper teacher training in culturally sustaining

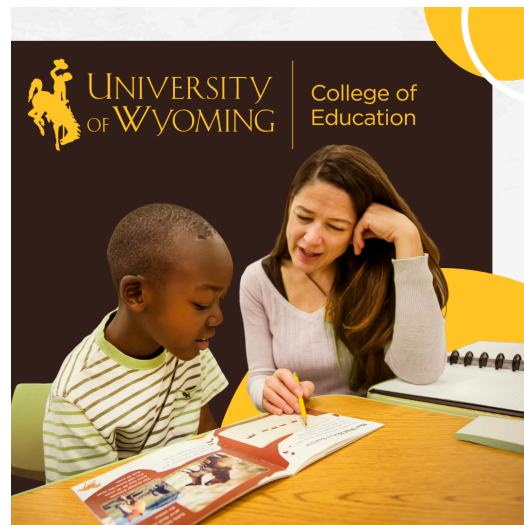
[View the Presentation](#)

pedagogies. Dr. Nganga's work aims to improve outcomes for Indigenous students and advance conversations on decolonizing education systems.

## Early Childhood Education Updates

The College of Education early childhood faculty team, led by Dr. Marisa Macy, is working hard on the new Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. The degree will be blended early childhood education/early childhood special education degree leading to PTSE licensure in Birth-3rd grade education and Birth-age 5 special education. The degree will be offered both on campus and distance.

Dr. Amy Encinger was awarded a \$100,000 grant to complete a secondary analysis of Head Start and Early Head Start data to study predictors of Native American Children's Social Emotional Outcomes using a strengths-based approach. The team recently partnered with the Wyoming Department of Education to establish a preschool certification process for preschools of families participating in the new Education Savings Account program.



[View the Presentation](#)

[Learn More](#)

## WDE *Superintendent's Update*



Stay informed about everything happening at the Wyoming Department of Education.

[Stay in the Know](#)

## Upcoming Conferences and PD Opportunities



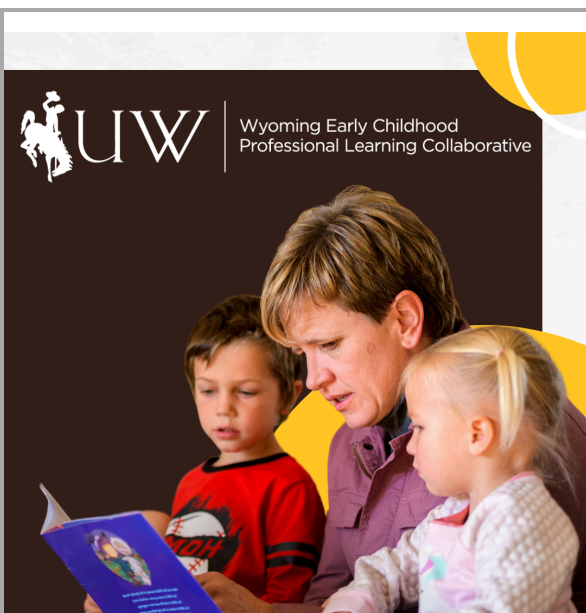
## Free Professional Development for Early Childhood Educators

The Wyoming Department of Education will be hosting nine free monthly virtual Early Childhood Professional Development sessions. The first of these sessions will be held on December 10 from 10 am to noon.

[Learn More and Register](#)



## Educational Resources & Student Experiences



### Wyoming Early Childhood Professional Learning Collaborative

The Wyoming Early Childhood Professional Learning Collaborative continues outreach to childcare and preschool providers across the state; providing free professional learning and coaching to elevate quality in Wyoming.

[Learn More](#)



### Native American Heritage Month

November was Native American Heritage Month which is a time to recognize and celebrate the rich histories, cultures, and contributions of Indigenous communities. Let's take a moment to deepen our understanding of the impact indigenous communities have had on the progress of our nation and society as a whole.

[National Resources](#)

[Wyoming Resources](#)

As December unfolds, it brings a season rich with cultural and religious celebrations that remind us of the beauty of diversity and connection. From [Hanukkah](#), the Festival of Lights, to the global celebration of [Christmas](#), the warmth of family and giving takes center stage. [Kwanzaa](#) highlights African heritage and unity, while the Winter Solstice marks nature's turning point, and New Year's Eve closes the month with hope for the future.

No matter what you celebrate, we wish you a season filled with love, light, and togetherness. See you in the new year!

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