

## **Constitution of the Wyoming School-University Partnership**

The Wyoming School-University Partnership is made up of organizations engaged in education in the state of Wyoming. These organizations, and the individuals within them, collaborate to achieve educational goals that cannot be achieved alone.

The Wyoming School-University Partnership, founded in 1986, is one of the original settings of the National Network for Educational Renewal (NNER). Guided by NNER's foundational beliefs, the Wyoming School-University Partnership promotes close cooperation among its member organizations.

NNER's foundational beliefs are as follows:

- We are all responsible for improving the realities of our schools, universities, and communities.
- We believe that all students, regardless of race, poverty, geography, or any other circumstance, deserve equal access to high quality learning and enriching life experiences.
- We believe deep, enduring teaching and learning occurs when students are both loved and challenged.
- By embracing the above beliefs, we are engaged in what inspires us most—educating and preparing students to fully engage as considerate and critical citizens who know their value and capacity to make a profound impact in this world.

Based on these foundational beliefs, the Wyoming School-University Partnership focuses on teacher and leader development through partnership among K-12 schools, higher education, and other education stakeholders. This focus is designed to support prospective and current teachers and educational leaders as they make Wyoming and the world a better place to live and learn.

This Constitution sets out information about the Partnership's vision, mission, member organizations, structure, and responsibilities.

### **Vision**

The vision of the Wyoming School-University Partnership is continuous and collaborative engagement in a process of ongoing renewal among Wyoming educational partners.

### **Mission**

Member organizations work together to ensure that students at all levels reach their full learning potential and that educators are prepared to provide high quality education.

### **Member Organizations**

The Wyoming School-University Partnership consists of member organizations, including Wyoming school districts, University of Wyoming's College of Arts & Sciences, University of Wyoming's College of Education, Wyoming Department of Education, Wyoming community colleges, Wyoming Education Association, Wyoming Professional Teaching Standards Board, and Wyoming education-related organizations. Additional member organizations may be invited to join with agreement by the Wyoming School-University Partnership Governing Board.

## **Structure**

### *Partnership Governing Board*

Each member organization has representation on the Wyoming School-University Partnership Governing Board, which makes policy decisions, oversees financial affairs, and provides guidance to an executive director. Each member organization is entitled to one vote.

The Governing Board may choose to establish short-term or long-term task forces or committees to work on particular issues as they arise.

### *Executive Committee and Officers*

The Governing Board chooses a chair-elect, two years prior to the candidate taking office.

After taking office, the chairperson collaborates with the executive director to organize board and executive committee meetings, set the agenda for the meetings, and manage the affairs of the Partnership. The chairperson serves a two-year term, beginning after the summer meeting.

The executive committee is composed of the chairperson, chair-elect, immediate past chair, the College of Education representative, the College of Arts & Sciences representative, and the Partnership's representatives to the NNER's Governing Council and Tripartite Council.

The executive committee conducts a yearly evaluation of the Wyoming School-University Partnership and/or the executive director and makes recommendations to the Governing Board; participates in formal meetings and related activities of the NNER; and advises the executive director.

### *Partnership Administration*

The business of the Partnership is facilitated by an executive director with administrative support.

An executive director is appointed by the Governing Board and is a faculty member in the College of Education at UW. The executive director reports to the Governing Board

for all aspects of the job description, serves as an ex officio member of the board, and facilitates the work of the board. The term of the appointment is at the discretion of the Governing Board. Office space for the Partnership is provided by the College of Education at UW. Partnership funds are used to provide all other operating expenses.

### *Budget*

In January of each year, the executive director presents to the Governing Board an annual budget for the upcoming fiscal year, July 1 to June 30. Revenues in the operating budget consist of yearly dues from member organizations, as well as in-kind contributions. In addition to the operating budget, specific project budgets may be established to support the work of the Partnership for designated initiatives. Efforts to secure additional funds from external funding sources may be made by the executive director and Governing Board members.

### **Responsibilities of Member Institutions**

Members of the Partnership participate in the formulation of Partnership policies and practices and agree to abide by those policies and practices. In addition, each member organization has the opportunity to be involved in all Partnership activities, to have access to all publications, reports, and other materials developed. In order to qualify for membership, each member organization agrees to support the Partnership by

- Committing to active involvement in the Partnership, including payment of annual dues;
- Ensuring representation to attend scheduled meetings;
- Releasing staff to attend appropriate Partnership meetings and to give leadership to designated programs of the Partnership;
- Communicating information about the Partnership to members of their own organizations;
- Contributing to the work of NNER by participating in national meetings and/or symposia; and
- Engaging in a process of critical inquiry directed at crucial problems.

### **Amending the Constitution**

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the Governing Board.