



Welcome to the team of business and industry leaders who are dedicated to promoting Southwest Wyoming manufacturing, technology and workforce development.

Visit our website

*This Issue
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ExxonMobil

SOUTHWEST WYOMING MANUFACTURING PARTNERSHIP

OUR MISSION AND GOALS INCLUDE:

Awareness of career opportunities.

Alignment of education and skill development for career paths.

Planning for what is needed now for future opportunities.

Results for how to measure success.

Greetings!

Welcome to the SWMP newsletter!

Send info or questions to swmpnewsletter@gmail.com

swmppartnership.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Registration Deadline: August 15

MANUFACTURING MAKES AMERICA STRONG



Western Wyoming Community College (Western) in partnership with the Southwest Wyoming Manufacturing Partnership (SWMP) is planning the 2nd Annual MFG Day event on Friday, October 6, 2023 to highlight careers in manufacturing and showcase manufacturing as a S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) based industry. The audience will be high school students, educators, and community members from Sweetwater, Uinta, Carbon, Lincoln, and Sublette counties. The event will be held at Western's Main Campus, 2500 College Drive, Rock Springs, from 10a.m. – 1p.m. This event is part of the workforce development initiative to raise awareness about careers in manufacturing and related fields.

As part of the program, we would like to have table top displays staffed by companies. We need businesses who are willing to showcase manufacturing's diversity, its innovativeness and its range of careers (welding, operations, IT, industrial maintenance, instrumentation, engineering, cybersecurity, human resources, and R&D to name a few.) Hosting a display can be an effective way to introduce high school students and educators to the manufacturing industry and to you as a future employer. Each business will be provided an 8' table. Please be creative in designing your displays that are innovative yet substantial will entice students to stop and encourage them to learn more about your company.

We need your help to make this a successful event. May we count on you to staff a display table at the event? In addition, we are offering companies an opportunity to help support the cost of the event through sponsorships. If you are interested in participating in the event, please complete the attached form, and if you are willing to sponsor the event, please complete the 2nd page. ***We are asking all employers to register for the event by August 15th.*** Thanks in advance for supporting the education of our future workforce.

Registration Form



Offers of Employment for Western Students

Several Western Wyoming Community College (Western) students have received offers of employment from area companies. It was a great month for Western's students and graduates of the Plant Operations, Electrical & Instrumentation Technology (E&I), and Industrial Maintenance programs. One of the companies that made contingent offers was Genesis Alkali. On Tuesday, May 2, 2023, representatives from Genesis Alkali met with Western instructors, students, and graduates of the Plant Operations Program to conduct interviews for the purpose of making contingent job offers. ExxonMobil also hired Western students to fill a variety of roles. Western's program has been a huge success, and it has dramatically helped industry partners hire the skilled workforce needed.

Genesis Alkali is looking forward to providing students from the program with opportunities. With current expansions happening across Southwest Wyoming Western anticipates that students who successfully complete their program will find employment opportunities in their industry, prior to or upon completion of having received their certificates or degrees. The program feeds the pool for future hires into Trona and other related industries.

ExxonMobil hired three students who will be graduating this May, and they will begin their full-time employment in May. Those students will work in operations, E&I, and industrial maintenance. These students had the opportunity this past semester to work as interns for ExxonMobil, and when the chance to become full time was made available, they applied and were hired!

With the increased demand for these positions, Western was able to start a second cohort this academic year. In their potential and new positions, these graduates will be able to apply the knowledge they've gained at Western on a daily basis. Congratulations to each of them on their success!

With the launch of the Plant Operations program in 2019, Western continues to appreciate the industry's dedication to our students and community. Those from the Plant Operations program traditionally operate the equipment that is used to manufacture products, ensuring that countless systems work together. Since the program's inception, Genesis has provided all program graduates with the opportunity to interview for open positions.

E&I graduates will likely be responsible for the programs and systems that take the product from start to finish. Industrial Maintenance graduates will maintain and repair machinery in many industries. Some of the areas they keep running with repairs are power plants, manufacturing factories, mines, industrial plants, an oil and gas distribution system, or a wind farm—wherever there is rotating equipment.

For more information on any of these programs, visit westernwyoming.edu/industry.

To speak to the School Chair email Carlton DeWick, for Manufacturing, Industry, and Technology, at cdewick@westernwyoming.edu.



The 2023 graduates of Western's Plant Operations and E&I programs with conditional offers of employment from Genesis (left to right): Michele Long (Genesis Production Supervisor), Kaleb Busby, Rhett Davidson, Nick Howe, Hunter Kauchich, Tara Stewart, Aspen Abrams, and Eric Sorrells (Genesis CM Production Coordinator)

Western Announces the 2023 Innovative Educators of the Year!

Western Wyoming Community College is proud to announce the 2023 Innovative Educators of the Year award recipients which were Stephen Schutten (Associate Professor of Physics) and Rich Ackerman (Instructor of Electrical and Instrumentation)! This award recognizes instructors who demonstrate a commitment to education by bringing innovative learning experiences to Western's students. These individuals brought something new or different into their instructional practice to broaden learning or experiences of students at Western.



Stephen Schutten's passion for teaching is evident in everything he does, from his engaging lectures to his tireless efforts to support his students during office hours. He creates a welcoming and inclusive learning environment that fosters student engagement and success. Stephen's ability to connect with students and help them understand complex physics and engineering concepts is a testament to his teaching excellence.

His dedication to education is also evident in his commitment to providing students with valuable experiential learning opportunities. He takes his engineering students on field trips to local mines, providing them with hands-on experiences that deepen their understanding of the engineering field. Stephen's innovative approach to teaching physics and engineering has had a significant impact on the academic and personal growth of his students. His ability to engage and motivate them through creative, experiential learning opportunities is truly remarkable.

Everything **Rich Ackerman** does he has his students in mind ALWAYS! He also gets the best instrumentation devices and tools to give real-world applications. He is ALWAYS in great mood and ALWAYS ready to teach. When you walk into Rich's class, it is immediately clear that he is solely there to help students succeed. He will always meet students where they are, regardless of whether they need just a tiny nudge in the right direction or if they need his undivided attention.

No matter, Rich is always willing to give his time and knowledge freely and will do so in a way that best fits the person standing before him.

His classes are by no means easy but he devotes so much time to making sure everyone solidly grasps the information that you walk out his classroom feeling like there isn't any concept beyond your grasp. Rich helps you believe you can learn anything if you approach it with an open mind and a willingness to not know until you do know.



Presentation at the Wyoming Association for Career and Technical Education (WACTE) Conference



Ron Wild, Rocky Mountain Power, Jessica Evans, Royal Flush Advertising, Amy Murphy, Dean of Outreach and Workforce Development at Western Wyoming Community College, and Melissa Atkinson, Green River High School presented at the Wyoming Association for Career and Technical Education (WACTE) Conference in Cheyenne. Their topic was Strategic Partnerships with Business/Industry and Education Designs In-Demand CTE Programs.

Strategic partnerships are the foundation to designing in-demand CTE programs and fulfilling the workforce gap. The NextGen Southwest Wyoming Manufacturing Partnership (SWMP) has successfully determined programming needs not only for the Southwest Wyoming service area but the State of Wyoming as a whole. Learn how this partnership has generated the concept, development, and implementation of several CTE programs that did not exist in Wyoming as well as the collaboration with education to recruit high school students into these programs.

UW President and Pinedale High School Visits Genesis Alkali



University of Wyoming President Ed Seidel, Senator Dan Dockstader, and Gabrielle Allen, Director of the UW School of Computing visited the new Genesis Alkali Granger facility June 14. Aaron Reichl, Fred von Ahrens and Joe Vasco provided the visitors with a comprehensive briefing on the soda ash industry and the plant expansion.



Pinedale High School students recently visited Genesis Alkali and toured the facility. The students signed up for a summer school course to explore careers in different industries. Their instructors reached out to Genesis Alkali and asked if the class could come on a field trip to see the mining and surface manufacturing operations, giving them an opportunity to see the various career opportunities offered at Genesis.

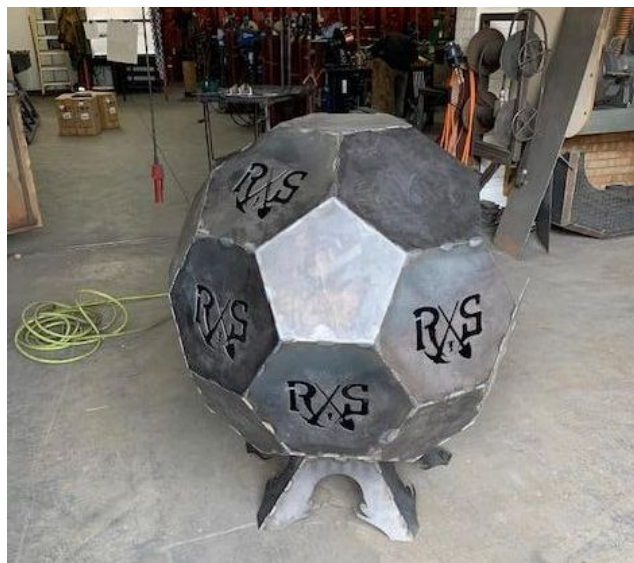
RSHS Students Purchases New Plasma Cutter

This semester, Sweetwater County School District #1 and Rock Springs High School purchased a new plasma

cutter for use in their welding and metals classes. Students at Rock Springs High School have been busy designing projects, cutting them out on the plasma cutter and assembling/fabricating them. The trash cans were designed by Kevin Mitchell and Mason Hanson, cut on the plasma cutter and then they were assembled and welded by Landen Morrill and Bailee Williams. The Fire Ball Fire Pit was designed by Teacher, Greg Buel with the help of Etsy and then it was assembled and welded by Noah Hymas and Jed Hoyt. Rock Springs High School students will take their skills and knowledge to state level competitions such as the SkillsUSA competitions and will use projects like this as a means to fundraise to attend those events.



Trash Cans designed by Kevin Mitchell & Mason Hanson.



Fire Ball Pit Designed by Teacher, Greg Buel and welded by Noah Hymas and Jed Hoyt.

Western Student Takes Top Spot at Wyoming's SkillsUSA State Championship

The Wyoming SkillsUSA championship took place in Casper in April. It was a three-day event in which college and high school students from around the state compete for a chance to go to the national championship. SkillsUSA is a national organization dedicated to developing the country's workforce through personal, workplace, and technical skills. During the Wyoming SkillsUSA Championship, competitions are held for career and technical education students.

SkillsUSA serves more than 300,000 middle school, high school, and college students annually, with 4,000 local chapters. The organization's framework contributes to students being job-ready after graduation because participants have a better understanding of what employers want in an employee. Western's Skills USA faculty sponsors are Jake Mannikko, Rich Ackerman, Christine Maddy, Steven Jackson, and Beau Murray.

Awards received at state:

- First Place for High Point Chapter – This award was based on Western's skill students GPAs, interview skills, and growth of the chapter
- First Place for Welding Sculpture – Daniel Guymon
- Second Place for Welding Fabrication – Aiden Runnion, Hunter Gross, and Aaron Ortiz
- Second Place for Welding Individual – Sheenan Archuletta
- Second Place for Mechatronics – team consisted of Tristen Heslep and Gregory Sherwin, and alternate Jerry Starner
- Third Place for Early Childhood Education – Jessica Lang

The Welding Sculpture win also takes the gold-medal-winning student, Daniel Guymon (pictured), to Atlanta to participate in the SkillsUSA Nationals held from June 19-23. Western's SkillsUSA director and professor of welding Jake Mannikko expressed his gratitude that the school continues to be at the forefront in the state in fields of trade, technical



skills, and industry.

“Having an opportunity to showcase our student’s skills proves that our technology programs generates highly skilled students,” Mannikko said.

For more information on any of these programs, visit westernwyoming.edu/industry.

To speak to Western’s SkillsUSA director and professor for Welding, email at jmannikko@westernwyoming.edu.

Adding Virtual Reality into the Classroom at Western



Western Wyoming Community College received a Virtual Reality (VR) grant from the Wyoming Community College Commission through the Wyoming Innovation Partnership funds. Kayla Hawley and Jennifer Allen (pictured) wrote a grant to implement VR into their computer science courses.

To share what the team will be doing, one must first understand what virtual reality is and how it differs from augmented reality (AR). AR is used on a smart device to project a layer of

educational text and lesson-appropriate content on top of a user’s actual surroundings, providing students with interactive and meaningful learning experiences. VR creates an entire digital environment, a 360-degree, immersive user experience that feels real. In a VR setting, students can interact with what they see as if they were really there.

Jenn and Kayla will be receiving training in May to understand the implementation of this new technology into their coursework through the University of Wyoming. They hope to provide students with immersive learning experiences as well as other benefits of virtual reality in education including the ability to inspire students’ creativity and spark their imaginations. And this can motivate them to explore new academic interests. VR in education also helps students struggling to understand difficult academic concepts. The benefits of virtual reality in education go beyond academics as well to include cultural competence, the ability to understand another person’s culture and values—an important skill in today’s interconnected, global society. For example, a virtual reality field trip to other parts of the world, whether it be Peru or China, exposes students to cultures other than their own.

Growing evidence suggests that VR in education can improve student outcomes and Western is excited to bring this opportunity to our students.

Would an intern help your company?

Companies Offering

INTERNSHIP

OPPORTUNITIES



wants to partner with you to provide our students with real-world experience.

Contact Amy Murphy at
amurphy@westernwyoming.edu
to arrange summer internships.



Explore the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services website for current job openings or to post an opening within your company.



Thank you to our Sponsor

ExxonMobil

LaBarge captures between 6 and 7 million metric tons of CO₂ per year, which is nearly 20% of all CO₂ captured in the world annually.

Our CCS expansion plans at LaBarge will capture an additional 1 million metric tons of CO₂, bringing ExxonMobil's total global capture capacity of CO₂ to about 10 million metric tons per year.

The LaBarge expansion project will require around \$400 million in investment. We anticipate it will create some 400 jobs during construction and add another 10-15 long-term roles to our employee base.



Black Canyon Dehydration Facility



Shute Creek Treating Facility

Learn more at corporate.exxonmobil.com

Friendly Reminder

What is our Purpose and How do we Get There?

Purpose:

Improve outcomes for our students and those seeking career changes

- **Business, Educators, Government Services and the Community working together to improve**
 - **Awareness** of career opportunities
 - **Alignment** of education and skill development for career paths

- **Planning** for what is needed now and for future opportunities
- **Results** for how to measure success
- **Awareness**
 - Increase awareness of career opportunities within our community
 - Students, Educators, Counselors, Government Agencies, Parents and the Community
 - Engagement events and opportunities
 - Career Fairs,
 - Jr. High and High School events
 - Mentoring and job shadowing etc.
 - Engagement & Dialog with the stakeholders
- **Alignment to better prepare our students for careers in our community and beyond**
 - Direct from high school including career technical training
 - Secondary education, certificate programs, two-year degrees, CTE
 - University alignment (pathways and career paths)
- **Planning**
 - What is needed now,
 - Where will the opportunities be
 - What will we do to prepare and fill the pipeline?
 - Promotion, Communication processes, Scholarships, etc.
 - Measurements; Create metrics such as % Secondary Education, % successful career changes
- **Membership**
 - **Southwest Wyoming: Carbon, Fremont, Sublette, Sweetwater, Uinta, Lincoln**

Membership:

Core Business Champions: Fred von Ahrens, Ron Wild, Craig Rood, Matt McQueen, Carl Lembke, Lauren Schoenfeld, Kim Dale, Kelly McGovern, Craig Barringer, Joan Evans, Jed Vigil, Marty Carollo

Core Co-Conveners: Bridget Stewart, Lacey Bluemel, Tosha Garner



Get In Touch