

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

To foster collaboration between industry, education, and the community to meet the region's workforce demands.

VISION STATEMENT:

To be a catalyst for Southwest Wyoming's industrial growth, powered by a future-ready, skilled workforce. Through strategic partnerships and lifelong learning, we aim to build a sustainable talent pipeline that drives economic prosperity and provides individuals with rewarding career opportunities.

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 Sponsored By:

BARCH
INDUSTRIES

Greetings!

Welcome to the SWMP newsletter!

Have something you want to share in the newsletter?

Send info or questions to swmpnewsletter@gmail.com

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

Training Series at the Green River Chamber of Commerce

2025

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING SERIES

brought to you by



MANUFACTURING
WORKS



Sept.
16th

CRUCIAL COMMUNICATIONS

Green River Chamber Conference Room

Oct.
21st

VALUE - ADDED SALES

Green River Chamber Conference Room

Nov.
18th

CUSTOMER INTERACTIONS

Green River Chamber Conference Room

Dec.
8th

TACTICAL LEADERSHIP

Green River Chamber Conference Room

For More Information

www.grchamber.com

Training Series at the Rock Springs Chamber of Commerce

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING SERIES

brought to you by



MANUFACTURING
WORKS



Sept.
30th

BUILDING TRUST

Western Wyoming Community College



Oct.
28th

VALUE - ADDED SALES

Western Wyoming Community College



Jan.
14th

TEAM BUILDING

Western Wyoming Community College



Mar.
3rd

CUSTOMER INTERACTIONS

Western Wyoming Community College

For More Information

www.rockspringschamber.com

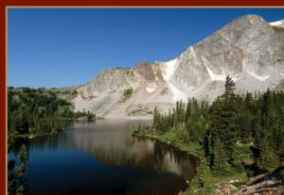
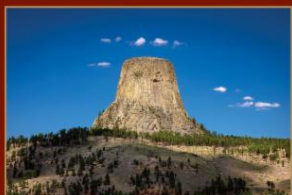


CRITICAL MINERALS

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

AUGUST 3-10, 2025 | LARAMIE, WYOMING

Assembling future leaders with diverse backgrounds to build a strong domestic critical minerals network and contribute to the build out of critical minerals industries.



The Inaugural CMLA 2025 program will consist of lectures, workshops, and field excursions in Wyoming, highlighting conventional and unconventional critical mineral research and development.

Applications will be accepted from graduate students and early career professionals invested in critical minerals research and development across the supply chain, including those working in geology, engineering, data analytics, business, community engagement, social science, law, policy, and other disciplines.

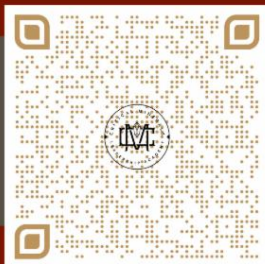
Applicants must have U.S. Citizenship.

VISIT WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND APPLY!

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U.S. DEPARTMENT
of **ENERGY**



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UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

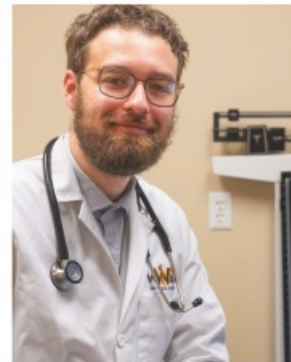
School of
Energy Resources



MONDAY, OCTOBER 13TH
9AM – 2PM

University of Wyoming
College of Health Sciences
(Off of 9th Street)

The University of Wyoming, the Wyoming Department of Education, Wyoming Community Colleges and community partners would like to invite you and your students to an interactive day of exploring health careers. Some you may have heard of, some that may be new!



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

College of
Health Sciences



For more information, visit www.uwyo.edu/hs

WHAT'S

NEW

**THE SUN MAY SHINE
BECAUSE IT MUST.
BUT HERE, SOMEONE
FINALLY LOOKED UP—
AND DECIDED
TO SHINE BACK.**



The day breaks with the promise of success; it whispers of potential, drizzled on the edges of the morning dew. The sun, reluctant yet resolute, pushes above the horizon answering the call of the rooster, not because he wants to, but because he must. It shines not from some lost hope, but from duty, fulfilling its role in the great, indifferent engine of the universe. The world below stirs in response—coffee brewed, doors locked behind hurried steps, inboxes opened like tombs.

And yet, for all the movement, there is little motion. Time slips through the fingers of a million people, each one chasing a version of progress they rarely define. They tell themselves they'll do the important thing tomorrow. Just need to get through today. And so, the hours fade, unremarked. Another hour, another day is lost not to tragedy or chaos, but to repetition. Quietly, hope is extinguished from the eyes that gaze upon the sun.

But in one small town, the day begins with a slightly different focus. It starts behind the old post office, where a sagging building, long surrendered to decay and cobwebs, waits. Clara, two doors down and long retired from teaching, decides to clean it out. Not because anyone asked. Not for recognition. But because she couldn't bear to let one more thing rot under the sun's weary gaze. She rebuilds. She paints. She opens the door to a new future.

The kids come first, curious and cautious. Clara shows them how to mend broken dreams, find miracles in the constellations, build something—with their hands. And then others come: a welder, an artist, a woman who once built planes. The post office becomes a meeting room, a haven. Not a nonprofit. Not a government program. Just a place for neighbors and friends to come together to congregate and discuss how to help themselves.

Here, time is not wasted. It is invested. It is reclaimed. When those with insight and wisdom take the time to invest a few moments in those around them — the world can be transformed.

A boy who never spoke in class becomes the coder who builds a new software to organize the chaos. A girl with scraped knuckles from too many fights becomes the welder's apprentice. What begins as a place of decay becomes a catalyst for purpose. What begins as a kind gesture becomes a movement. The old post office is still small. The sun still rises with indifference. The world still spins its complicated spin. But now, in this corner of it, something is different.

The future is no longer a vague horizon. It is hands reaching out—not from afar, not from some distant solution, but from next door. It is neighbors saying, *We are not waiting anymore, we can affect the future by*

And so, while some let the day slip away unseen, others grip it tightly and shape it into something worth keeping. The sun may shine because it must. But here, someone finally looked up—and decided to shine back. Which one will you choose to be?

Contact swmpnewsletter@gmail.com to shine your light into the darkness.

Hospital to Open August 4th



Sublette County's first Hospital has reached a major milestone in the journey to opening its doors, officially receiving its provisional hospital license from the State of Wyoming on June 23, 2025.

This achievement follows the hospital's successful life safety and construction inspection, which verified that the new facility meets all necessary standards to safely care for patients. Passing this inspection—one of the most critical steps in the licensing process—demonstrates that every space, system, and safety measure in the hospital has been thoughtfully designed and built to deliver high-quality care.

"This milestone is the result of extensive teamwork, attention to detail, and months of preparation," said Gregory Brickner, Interim CEO. "Our staff worked proactively to prepare our hospital license application, which allowed us to submit it immediately after our life safety inspection and stay right on track."

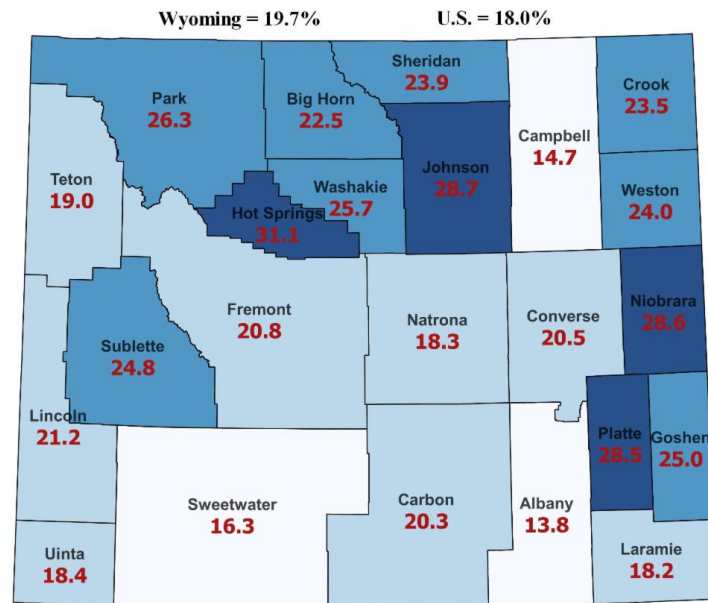
With the provisional license secured, the hospital is now focused on the next regulatory step before opening: obtaining its license from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Once approved, this will enable the facility to begin delivering care to the community.

The hospital is also preparing for its future designation as a Critical Access Hospital (CAH), a federal program that supports rural hospitals in maintaining essential services. "By preparing early and staying organized, we're ensuring smooth transitions every step of the way," said Brickner.

These back-to-back accomplishments mark exciting progress for Sublette County Health and bring the new hospital one step closer to serving the people of Sublette County with expanded care and

Wyoming Faces Rapid Population Aging, Outpacing All Other States

Percent of Population Age 65 and Over: 2024



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

CHEYENNE – The elderly population (age 65 and over) in the state grew 3.2 percent between July 2023 and July 2024, according to U.S. Census Bureau estimates. In comparison, Wyoming’s total population only grew 0.4 percent during the year. The median age (half of the population is younger, and the other half older) rose 0.3 to 39.9 years, while it increased from 39.0 to 39.1 in the U.S. from 2023 to 2024. The new data indicate that the aging of Wyoming’s population continued to be speedy, and the pace was the most rapid in the country. “The primary reason was the impact of aging Baby Boomers (born between 1946 and 1964), but the outmigration of young people and a decline in the fertility rate also contributed to the situation,” said Dr. Wenlin Liu, Chief Economist with the State of Wyoming, Economic Analysis Division. Since the initial Baby Boomer cohort reached the age of 65 in 2011, there has been a precipitous increase in the size of the older population. With the quick aging, Wyoming’s median age increased to the 19th highest compared to other states in 2024, and eclipsed all neighboring states except Montana.

Wyoming has one of the highest proportions of the Baby Boom population (age 60-78 in 2024), and one of the lowest proportions of Generation X (age 44 to 59 in 2024) in the country. For example, the number of residents age 50-59 was 12,500 (or 16.2%) less than the age 60-69 group. “The state has been facing a labor shortage as the number of resident workers is insufficient to fill the positions vacated by retiring Baby Boomers under normal economic circumstances,” Liu commented. Wyoming’s population age 65 and older increased from 99,786 in 2020 to 115,668 in 2024, or 15.9 percent, while the population under age 18 decreased by 4.5 percent during the same period. The share of the State’s elderly population (65 and over) grew to 19.7 percent in 2024, compared to the proportion of 21.8 percent for children. “The population age 65 and older in Wyoming is expected to expand by 10.0 percent from 2024 to 2030, while the number of total residents is projected to increase less than 2.0 percent during that period.”

Wyoming’s total minority population reached 102,298 in July 2024. Minority is defined as any group other than single-race, Non-Hispanic White. The growth of minorities was 8,331 persons, or 8.9 percent between 2020 and 2024, compared with 1.9 percent increase for the State’s total population. In fact, it’s the addition of the minority population that contributed three-fourths of the state’s population growth in recent years. Hispanic was the largest minority group with 65,028 in July 2024, an increase of 10.0 percent from four years ago. The Black or African-American population increased 1.2 percent to 6,028. American Indian

grew slightly, while Asian and Two-or-More Races recorded 18.5 percent and 11.4 percent, respectively. The majority, Non-Hispanic White, grew only 0.5 percent since 2020. With 17.4 percent of the State's total population, the proportion of minorities in Wyoming was still ranked the 6th lowest in the nation, while 42.5 percent of U.S. residents are minorities. "The demographic composition of the United States, including the state of Wyoming, is becoming increasingly diverse with respect to race and ethnicity," said Dr. Liu.

The U.S. Census Bureau also released 2024 county population estimates by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin. Here are some highlights:

- The Black or African-American population in Hot Springs County in 2024 was 35.7 percent higher than four years ago. Big Horn and Campbell counties also experienced around 30.0 growth rates during the period.
- The Hispanic population increased the fastest in Crook, at 63.7 percent between 2020 and 2024, followed by Lincoln (31.1%), Hot Springs (30.7%), Niobrara (29.8%), and Weston (29.5%) counties.
- Fremont County had the highest percentage minority population in 2024 at 30.1 percent, which was dominated by the American Indian population. Carbon (24.0%), Laramie (23.0%), Sweetwater (22.0%), and Teton (21.5%) counties followed, where most of the minority population was Hispanic.
- The largest county, Laramie, also had the largest minority population in 2024, including 16,557 Hispanic, 1,961 African-American, 1,389 Asian, and 2,750 Two or More Races. They made up 25.5 percent, 32.5 percent, 20.3 percent, and 23.2 percent of the state's total Hispanic, Black, Asian, and Two or More Races population, respectively.
- Counties with the smallest proportion of minority population in 2024 were Crook (5.9%), followed by Johnson (9.0%)
- The State's oldest county was Hot Springs. With a median age of 49.8 years, 31.1 percent of its population was 65 and over in 2024. Other counties with a higher proportion of elderly population (65 and over) were Johnson (28.7%), Niobrara (28.6%), and Platte (28.5%). These counties also tend to have the smallest proportion of the children's age population and their median ages were all higher than 46.0 years.
- The youngest county was Albany, with a median age of 28.9 in 2024, followed by Campbell (37.0), Sweetwater (38.5), and Uinta (38.6). The median age in the state's two largest counties, Laramie and Natrona, were 38.7 and 39.2 years each.
- Uinta and Campbell counties had the highest percentage of children (under 18 years), at 25.9 percent and 25.8 percent, each, in 2024, followed by Lincoln (24.1%), and Sweetwater (23.9%). The statewide proportion in 2024 was 21.8 percent.
- Albany and Campbell counties had the lowest percentage of population age 65 or older, 13.8 percent and 14.7 percent, each, followed by Sweetwater (16.3%) County.

You may download the PDF report here:

http://eadiv.state.wy.us/pop/POP_NEWSRLSE_ASR24.pdf

or our new website at:

<https://ai.wyo.gov/divisions/economic-analysis>

Complete population figures are available online at <http://eadiv.state.wy.us/pop/> or our new website at <https://ai.wyo.gov/divisions/economic-analysis/demographic-information/estimates>

MANUFACTURING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

Purpose of the Survey

My name is Jake Rohn, and I am a PhD candidate at Adler University. I am currently in the middle of my dissertation study. My dissertation focuses on the impact of workforce development activities on manufacturing organizations. For the purposes of this study, workforce development activities will be defined as internships and/or apprenticeships.

The study is designed to give direction as to what perceptions shift as manufacturing organizations become more involved with workforce development activities.

Details of the Survey

The survey is nine questions long and should only take 5 minutes to complete. The responses are anonymous, and no identifiable information about the manufacturing organizations themselves will be collected, including the names of the manufacturers. The questions focus on a range of topics from organizational size to thoughts on your current laborpool and others.

Survey Link Below:

Please complete by August 1st



[Manufacturing
Workforce
Development
Survey](#)

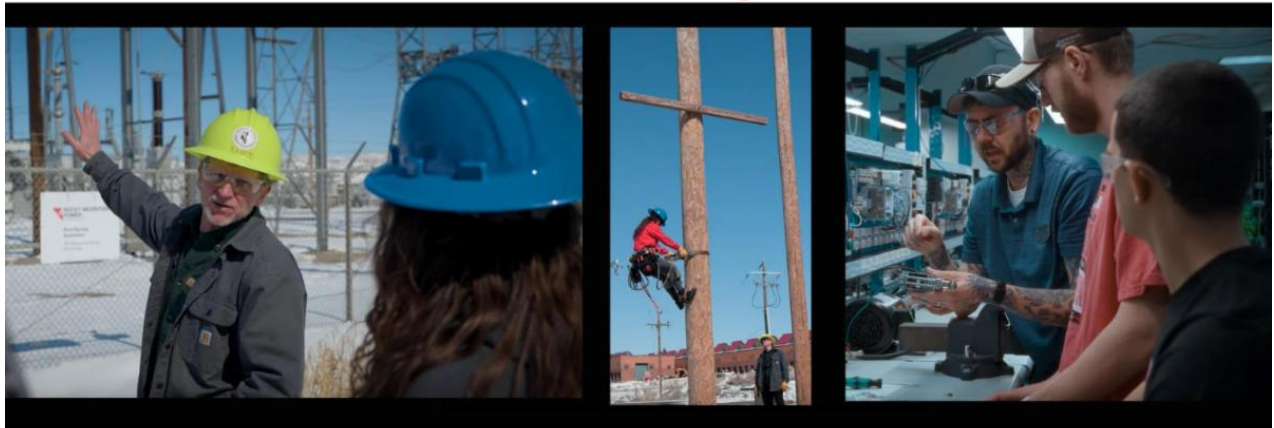


Please reach out if you have additional questions about the study to Jrohn@adler.edu

Survey Link



Teachers
Wanted



Substation Technology - Powerline Technician - Electrical & Instrumentation
Join a great team, and train the future workforce!

Apply Today!

<https://www.westernwyoming.edu/about/employment/faculty.php>

Western Wyoming Community College is looking for individuals who want to give back to their profession. Current openings for a Substation, Powerline, Industrial Maintenance and/or Electrical and Instrumentation Instructors. If you or someone you know would be interested, please apply online at <https://www.westernwyoming.edu/about/employment/faculty.php>

Western has a great team, and we are looking forward to adding talented faculty members who want to share their expertise and knowledge with the future workforce.

How Business and Industry Help Prepare

Students for Success

Preparing high school students with critical professional skills is vital for their success after graduation. Businesses and industries can play a pivotal role in this process by engaging with schools to create opportunities that go beyond traditional classroom learning. These collaborations bridge the gap between academic knowledge and practical skills, ensuring that students graduate with the tools they need to thrive in their careers.

Read below to discover ways that business and industry can directly impact how students are prepared for successful future careers.

Internship and Apprenticeship Programs

Establishing internship and apprenticeship programs allow students to gain hands-on experience in a professional environment. Businesses can partner with schools to provide structured programs where students earn credit while working alongside professionals to learn practical skills and gain insights into various industries.

Mentorship Initiatives

Providing high school students with professional mentors in a chosen field of interest can provide them with invaluable guidance and connections. Mentorship activities, which may consist of regular meetings,

discussions, and shadowing experiences, provide students with a realistic understanding of different career paths and the skills necessary for success in those fields.

Workshops and Skill Development Sessions

Organizing workshops on essential professional skills such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and time management can greatly benefit students. Industry professionals can lead these sessions, sharing their expertise and real-world insights.

Guest Lectures and Career Talks

Inviting professionals to speak at high schools can broaden students' horizons, and inspire them to explore various career options. These talks can cover industry trends, career pathways, or the importance of specific skills.

Real-Life Projects and Challenges

Collaborating with schools to present students with real-life projects or challenges to solve in coursework. This type of hands-on experience encourages critical thinking, problem-solving, and innovation, while exposing students to the dynamics of working on practical tasks.

Industry-Relevant Curriculum Input

Partnering with schools to align high school curricula with the skills and knowledge required in the job market can help ensure that students are learning relevant information to attain in-demand skills.

Networking Opportunities

Facilitating networking events where students can interact with professionals from different industries helps them build connections and interest early on. These interactions can provide insights, potential career opportunities, and valuable contacts for the future.

Scholarships, Grants, and Sponsorships

Supporting scholarships, grants, or sponsorships to fund new programs encourages students to pursue higher education or certifications in their chosen fields.



Unlock Your Future: Share Your Internship Interests!

We want to hear from you! Help us tailor our internship programs to better suit your career aspirations and interests. Your insights will guide us in creating opportunities that align with your goals and passions. Take a few minutes to complete our survey and shape the future Southwest Wyoming's internship offerings. Your feedback is invaluable!

[Click for Survey](#)

Shape the Future of Internships: We Need Your Expertise!

We're reaching out to industry leaders like you to help us design internship programs that truly prepare the next generation of professionals. Your insights and experiences are invaluable in creating opportunities that align with industry needs and expectations. Please take a few minutes to complete our survey and share your thoughts. Together, we can build a brighter future for interns and the industry alike!

[Click for Survey](#)

Thank you to our Sponsor



Barch Industries: Industrial Strength, Wyoming Roots

When the work is tough, the conditions harsh, and the margin for error slim — that's where **Barch Industries LLC** steps in.

Headquartered in **Rock Springs, Wyoming**, Barch Industries is a full-service industrial contractor serving clients across **Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, and Colorado**. We specialize in **industrial abrasive blasting, coating & painting, concrete resurfacing, insulation, and structural strengthening** for facilities that demand precision, durability, and safety.

Our crews operate in some of the most challenging environments in the West — from deep in trona mines to high-pressure oil and gas plants. Whether we're prepping structural steel, applying high-performance coatings, or restoring process-critical equipment, we show up with the experience, gear, and mindset to get the job done right.

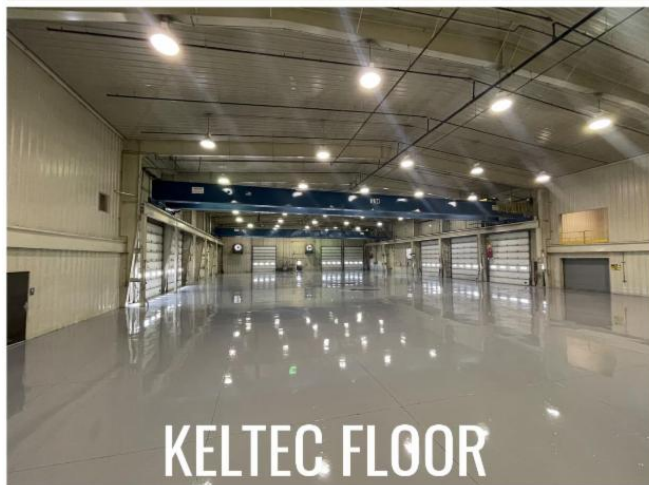
What sets us apart isn't just what we do — it's how we do it:

- Quality matters — we take pride in **doing the job right the first time**
- We invest in and prioritize our team's training and skills
- We build long-term relationships with clients who know we deliver

We're also proud of the work we do right here in our own community. From resurfacing concrete floors at the KelTec manufacturing facility to preserving the Rock Springs Historical Museum, and restoring facilities at Western Wyoming Community College. For us, helping maintain and restore community infrastructure isn't just a contract — it's personal.

At Barch, we take pride in working with our hands and leading with our values: integrity, craftsmanship, and a no-excuses work ethic. We're not just here to complete jobs — we're here to build things that last and grow opportunity for people in our region.

As a new member of the **Southwest Wyoming Manufacturing Partnership**, we're excited to highlight our people, projects, and purpose in future newsletters. We look forward to being part of a stronger, safer, more skilled workforce across the Mountain West.



Southwest Wyoming Manufacturing Partnership | 123 | Rock Springs, WY 82901 US

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