



**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:*



## 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](mailto:swmpnewsletter@gmail.com)

[swmppartnership.org](http://swmppartnership.org)





SWMP will soon be announcing its  
**Business to Business Forum**

Approx. 1:30-3:30 pm (September date to be chosen)

Goals:

- 1: Identify barriers to regionally available opportunities
- 2: Identify work force issues
- 3: Identify certification/compliance needs
- 4: identify methods of effective communication for regional opportunities
- 5: Discuss current methods used for success (aka – what is working)

This will be a chance for you to come together with others to help identify road blocks to your growth as well as help us understand what is working for you.

You will also have the opportunity to hear from WWCC about ways they can enhance and train your workforce as well as see the modernized training facilities at your disposal. Look for final details in next month's newsletter!



Mark your calendars for this FREE event ~ You won't want to miss the FIRST ANNUAL Sweetwater County Innovation Launchpad!

Details: Come support your innovative, local entrepreneurs as they compete for seed funding made possible by Governor Gordon's Wyoming Innovation Partnership, Wyoming Business Council, JP Morgan Chase, First Bank of WY, State Bank, Commerce Bank of WY, RSNB and Rocky Mountain Power!





*Register  
Today*



**Friday, October 7, 2022 ♦ 10a.m. - 1p.m.**

**Western Wyoming Community College Atrium  
2500 College Drive, Rock Springs**

## **Manufacturing and Academia Work Together**

### **Partnering Together to Educate the Future Workforce on the Importance of a Career in Manufacturing**

What is Manufacturing (MFG) Day? MFG Day is an initiative of The Manufacturing Institute. It is held annually on the first Friday in October to celebrate this important sector of the nation's economy. MFG Day encourages careers in this important sector by spurring companies and educational institutions across the nation to open their doors to students, parents, teachers and community leaders. It also empowers manufacturers to come together to address their challenges.

Southwest Wyoming Manufacturing Partnership (SWMP) in partnership with Western Wyoming Community College (WWCC) is hosting an event on Friday, October 7, 2022, from 10a.m. – 1p.m. at WWCC's Rock Spring's Campus, to showcase manufacturing by providing an educational opportunity for high school students, educators, administrators and the community on the various careers in manufacturing in Wyoming. This event is part of the workforce development initiative to raise awareness about careers in manufacturing and related fields.

### **MANUFACTURERS**

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.) to host a table at this event. Hosting a display can be an effective way to introduce high school students and educators to the manufacturing industry and to your company as a future employer.

***Interested manufacturers are encouraged to sign up by September 1<sup>st</sup>.***

### **EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

will have the opportunity to interact with these manufacturers to educate their students the career pathways available to them. This allows the high school students and educators to engage in discussions on the careers and the education required to obtain these positions. Our goal is to provide this information earlier in their educational journey and put them on the path to a successful career!

***Educational institutions are encouraged to sign up by September 15th.***

***Register the school with an estimated number of attendees to ensure our manufacturing partners have the appropriate material available at the event.***



UNIVERSITY  
OF WYOMING

### Career Fair Description

University of Wyoming students majoring in Agriculture, Arts & Sciences, Business, Energy Resources, Environment/Natural Resources, and more, are encouraged to attend the *in-person* Big Job Fair on September 27.

- Many students that attend will be graduating and wanting to learn about current and upcoming job opportunities,
- others will be looking for internship and summer job opportunities, and
- some will be freshman and sophomore level students seeking information about college majors that your company/organization is most likely to hire in the next few years.

#### **In-person job fairs at UW will occur over a two-day period:**

**-Sept. 27 (10 am - 2 pm) - Big Job Fair** (general job fair, open to all students from a variety of majors within Agriculture, Arts & Sciences, Business, Energy Resources, Environment/Natural Resources, and more)

**-Sept. 28 (10 am - 3 pm) - STEM Job Fair** (targeted to students majoring in Engineering, Mathematics, Energy Resources, Computer Science and tech fields)

Both events will be held on campus in the **WYOMING UNION, YELLOWSTONE BALLROOM.**

Employers can select to attend either one of the career fairs, or both. **The registration process for each event is separate; if you are coming to both, you must register for each event individually.**

REGISTRATION FEE (per event): \$400.00; \$200.00 for Non-Profit & Government Organizations

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 9/7/2022 (or when space is filled)

**Space is limited; employers are strongly encouraged to register early.**

Spaces with access to electricity are also limited; those who register early will get first priority to request electricity.

For cancellations prior to 9/7/2022, registration fee will be fully refunded.

[Register Here](#)

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## Integrating Virtual Reality into Curriculum at WWCC

Virtual reality (VR) has created dynamic learning platforms in the academic environment, primarily around the career and technical education programs.



Examples of how the technology can be integrated will allow students to interact with virtual cadavers for medical and health sciences and to understand cell structure in biological sciences; mine and safety (MSHA) training.

The internet plays a crucial role in people's lives today as a large portion of the population's lives are immersed in digital technology, and VR is one avenue the educational institutions can utilize to

enhance student learning. The Wyoming community colleges working in conjunction with the University of Wyoming received funding in Round 1 of the Wyoming Innovation Partnership (WIP) to develop VR programs that can be integrated within the existing curriculum. By immersing students in virtual or augmented reality and other modern learning tools are a value-add for students, and this partnership will provide a more visual and interactive ways to increase engagement with learners. This fall Western Wyoming Community College will be starting the integration of VR into their manufacturing and industrial technology programs.

For additional information on the programs Western is looking to provide VR learning opportunities, contact Carlton DeWick at [cdewick@westernwyoming.edu](mailto:cdewick@westernwyoming.edu).

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## Midwestern Governors Association Releases Recommendations and Announces Scholarship to Support Chair's Agenda - Preparing Midwestern Communities for Energy Transitions

The Midwestern Governors Association (MGA) and outgoing MGA-Chair Minnesota Governor Tim Walz are pleased to release recommendations that provide strategies and advice from industry experts and stakeholders to help prepare Midwestern Communities that are facing an energy transition, such as a power plant closure. Additionally, Western Governors University has announced [a regional \\$500,000 scholarship](#) to support job training and skills development for impacted Midwesterners.

"Towns and cities that have long hosted energy producers are learning from one another and looking at new ways to support communities and workers to ensure a smooth transition," said Governor Walz.

The MGA led a year-long effort to craft recommendations to prepare Midwestern communities for energy transition in communities where the industry is moving toward clean energy. *Midwestern Governors Association Initiative: Growing the Communities that have Powered the Midwest* is both a summary of these activities and a set of recommendations at the federal, state, and local level that were developed based on participant conversations.

"This report, along with the generous Western Governors University Scholarship, will help communities better manage these challenges," added Walz. I look forward to joining my fellow Midwestern governors in reviewing the recommendations in the report."

"New economic and environmental realities have brought about many changes in energy generation, which have closed power plants, displaced workers, and severely impacted numerous communities throughout the Midwest," said Alison Bell, WGU Regional Vice President. WGU was created by governors to support adult and underserved learners across the country, and this new scholarship fund—in collaboration with Governor Walz's MGA Agenda—will provide a flexible and cost-effective way for displaced workers to get the skills and training they need for the next phase of their careers."

"This chair's agenda topic has been excellent and has brought together a phenomenal cross-section of Midwesterners from economic development groups, local leaders, educational institutions, power companies, NGOs and others to discuss and share information and advice," said Jesse Heier, executive director. "We know that communities across the Midwest are working hard to create new jobs and opportunities for those affected by the national energy production transition. Luckily the Midwest is blessed with smart, hard-working, and innovative thinkers and workers who are facing this challenge head-on and with their typical "can-do" approach to

[Click Here](#) for more information about this initiative.



**SWEETWATER**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
C · O · A · L · I · T · I · O · N

The Sweetwater Economic Development Coalition is pleased to announce jointly with the Wyoming Business Council that Kel-Tec® CNC Industries® is expanding its production capacity with the acquisition of a 33,000 square foot facility in Rock Springs, Wyoming, augmenting its 125,000 square foot industrial space in Cocoa, Florida. I am thrilled to be a part of this new adventure in our story,” stated Adrian Kellgren, Director of Industrial Production. “Wyoming has a rich history as part of the American frontier and it’s fitting for our brand, being that we constantly explore the limits of performance and design, to expand out here.”

KelTec® firearms are known for innovation and performance, so the new facility will focus on cutting edge manufacturing technology, next generation research and development and of course, production of the newest trend-setting firearms available. “We are excited to welcome KelTec to Sweetwater County. The Sweetwater Economic Development Coalition is committed to continuing the relationship that we have built with the team at KelTec as they begin the process of expanding into to Rock Springs.” Stated Kayla McDonald, Economic Development Specialist for the Sweetwater Economic Development Coalition.

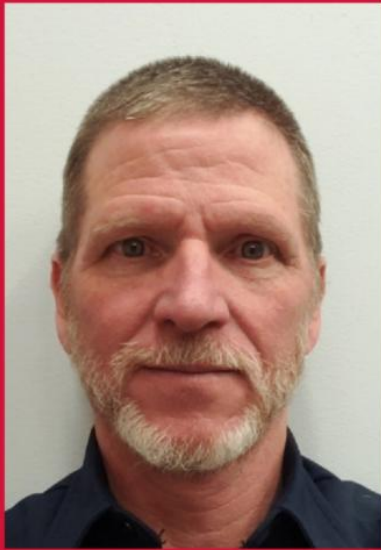
While the company’s initial start-up will be small, the facility is designed to grow up to 250+ employees across multiple industrial disciplines.

“We are very excited about KelTec selecting Rock Springs as the site to expand their business,” said Wyoming Business Council CEO Josh Dorrell. “KelTec brings very innovative designs and cutting-edge manufacturing to a community with a ready and able workforce as well as a community college that does a great job of supporting industry training needs. We feel very confident that KelTec will thrive in our great state.”

“The future of our company is tied to the future of the American free spirit,” concluded George Kellgren, Founder, Chairman and CEO. “Wyoming has been a leading example of liberty and freedom for America, and it is right that we become part of it.

## Teacher Spotlight





**Lance Caldwell**  
*Instructor, Powerline  
Technology*

## Highlights



Mr. Lance Caldwell brings more than 30 years of experience in the utility power industry. He has been employed with Alaska Power & Telephone in Haines, Alaska since April 2011, serving initially as a Crew Foreman, then a Superintendent, currently as a Site Manager.

Lance is a Journeyman Lineman and holds numerous credentials, including Certified Protective Relay Maintenance, Solid-State Technician, Certified Basic Relay Maintenance Technician, Industrial Instrumentation, High Voltage Electrical Safety, Underground School, Fundamentals of Power Quality, Permit Required Confined Space, Buckeye Evacuation Program, Wood Pole Climbing Review and Rescue Procedures.



## Become a Business Champion!

It's simple to sign up!

Send us a short write-up, 3-4 photos, your logo, and contact information.

Email us @ [swmpnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:swmpnewsletter@gmail.com)  
-or call 307-389-1510

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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



Williams handles 30% of the natural gas in the United States that is used every day to heat our homes, cook our food and generate electricity. We work with customers to provide infrastructure that addresses unique challenges to serve growing markets and safely deliver natural gas products to reliably fuel the clean energy economy.



Williams owns and operates a variety of energy infrastructure in Wyoming including natural gas gathering and processing and transmission facilities. Primarily serving producers in the Greater Green River Basin. With 4,602 miles of total pipeline in Wyoming, Williams delivers value to our employees, investors, customers, and communities by running our business with authenticity and a safety-driven culture.

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**Our 191 employees in Wyoming have district offices in Opal, Wamsutter, Green River, Big Piney, and Kemmerer.**

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Williams is also a key supporter of a new center dedicated to applied hydrogen research at the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources (SER). We've committed to giving \$500,000 over five years to support the center and growing hydrogen industry in Wyoming. In the fall of 2021, Williams was a recipient of a grant from the Wyoming Energy Authority as part of the Wyoming Hydrogen Pilot.

Learn more at [williams.com](https://williams.com)



## 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



Phone: 307-251-3980



[Get In Touch](#)