



**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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## 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.

Hello JESSICA,

Welcome to the SWMP newsletter!

Send info or questions to [swmpnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:swmpnewsletter@gmail.com)

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



# UPCOMING EVENTS

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SWEETWATER COUNTY START-UP CHALLENGE

# PITCH NIGHT

DECEMBER 6TH, 6:00PM

WESTERN WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE, ROOM 1302

*Join us in cheering on local entrepreneurs as they compete for seed funding!*

[impact307.org/event/2023-sweetwater-county-start-up-challenge-pitch-night/](https://impact307.org/event/2023-sweetwater-county-start-up-challenge-pitch-night/)



Western provides equal opportunity in education and employment. Learn more: [westernwyoming.edu/NDS](https://westernwyoming.edu/NDS)

Seed funding sponsors:



Partners:





# SWEETWATER COUNTY START-UP CHALLENGE PITCH NIGHT

**DECEMBER 6TH, 6:00PM**

**WESTERN WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE, ROOM 1302**



**Aaron Lobo** has founded **Apilloz**, an adjustable, support, pain and pressure relief pillow. ([www.apilloz.com](http://www.apilloz.com); [facebook.com/apilloz/](https://facebook.com/apilloz/); [instagram.com/apilloz.store/](https://instagram.com/apilloz.store/); [twitter.com/RealApilloz](https://twitter.com/RealApilloz))



**Jenefer Tynsky** has founded **Black Gold Jelly Company**, which uses locally sourced fruits and vegetables to create healthy, delicious syrups and sauces. You can bake, slow cook, smoke, BBQ, or use as salad dressing for any event. ([blackgoldjellycompany.com](http://blackgoldjellycompany.com); [facebook.com/BlackGoldJelly](https://facebook.com/BlackGoldJelly); [instagram.com/blackgoldjellyco/](https://instagram.com/blackgoldjellyco/))



**Levi Abrahamson** is the founder of **Gainesha**, which is aiming to connect landowners with potential short-term renters, maximizing earning potential and increasing public access to private lands. ([gainesha.com](http://gainesha.com))



**Jean Joseph** has founded **Mr. Joe's Hot Sauce**, a Caribbean style hot sauce that brings a balance of heat and flavor. ([mrjoehotsauce.com](http://mrjoehotsauce.com); [facebook.com/mrjoehotsauce](https://facebook.com/mrjoehotsauce); [instagram.com/mrjoehotsauce](https://instagram.com/mrjoehotsauce))



**Michelle Schutten** has founded **Purely Persistent**, an online resource providing lessons in academics, life skills, and motivation for students preparing for High School Equivalency tests (GED/HiSET). ([youtube.com/c/purelypersistent](https://youtube.com/c/purelypersistent); [purelypersistent.gumroad.com/](https://purelypersistent.gumroad.com/); [instagram.com/purelypersistent](https://instagram.com/purelypersistent); [tiktok.com>@purelypersistent](https://tiktok.com/@purelypersistent))



**Debbie Stainbrook** has founded **Remi's Clubhouse**, a tail waggin' good doggy daycare providing fun and play for your fur baby when you have to be away! (<https://crm.pawfinity.com/remis-clubhouse/>; [facebook.com/RemisClubhouse/](https://facebook.com/RemisClubhouse/))



A COLLABORATION OF:



[impact307.org/event/2023-sweetwater-county-start-up-challenge-pitch-night/](http://impact307.org/event/2023-sweetwater-county-start-up-challenge-pitch-night/)

Western provides equal opportunity in education and employment. Learn more: [westernwyoming.edu/NDS](http://westernwyoming.edu/NDS)

# CAREER FAIR

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

We would like to invite you to attend and present at the  
Bridger Valley High School Career Fair.

Please help educate our students on potential career opportunities.

Mountain View High School  
9 - 11:30am

Lunch will be served at Lyman High School

Lyman High School  
1:30 - 3pm

Sign up today through the QR Code.







# SAVE THE DATE

## CAREER & TRANSFER FAIR

 **Western Wyoming Community College**

 **April 3, 2024**

 **10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**Questions?**

 307-382-1632

 [tbertagnolli@westernwyoming.edu](mailto:tbertagnolli@westernwyoming.edu)



**sign up here!**

WESTERN PROVIDES EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT. LEARN MORE: [WESTERNWYOMING.EDU/ND](https://westernwyoming.edu/nds)S



Leadership Wyoming is a program that aims to develop and cultivate leadership skills among professionals in the state of Wyoming. It is designed to bring together individuals from different backgrounds and industries to enhance their understanding of Wyoming's unique challenges and opportunities.

Leadership Wyoming plays a role in developing a pipeline of effective and visionary leaders who are committed to making a positive impact in their communities and the state as a whole. By empowering individuals with knowledge, skills, and networks, the program contributes to the

overall growth and prosperity of Wyoming.

With December upon us and all the rush of the holiday season it is important to take a minute for yourself and Being present amid the coldest, darkest month of the year can be a challenge. Leadership Wyoming invites each of us to join a customizable challenge to keep your mind tuned into the present and finish 2023 with intention. This challenge is FREE and open to everyone, no need to be a Leadership Wyoming alumni. To receive your kit, sign up by November 30, 2023.

## Here's how it works

1. Pick your challenge:

**-WALK.** Take a **23 minute walk** once each week with no phone, music, or podcasts.

**-PHONE.** Spend **23 minutes with your phone completely away** from you and be 100% present with your family, friends, or coworkers.

**-GRATITUDE.** Make a list of **23 things you are grateful for** as you go through each week.

**-OVERACHIEVER.** Choose any combination of multiple challenges!

2. Sign up for free below by November 30, 2023 to receive your kit. Again, this is open to non-alumni, too.

3. We will send a special bag for your no-phone time or a journal for your gratitude notes, plus reminders & encouragement each week.

**In early January, we'll be recognizing everyone who completes all four weeks of the challenge. If your family or colleagues join you, we'll give special kudos to the team effort.**

### **BEING PRESENT AMID THE COLDEST, DARKEST MONTH OF THE YEAR.**

This time of the year can hold grim weather and plenty of ways to be distracted. Join us for a customizable challenge to keep your mind tuned into the present and finish 2023 with intention.

This challenge is FREE and open to everyone, no need to be a Leadership Wyoming alumni. To receive your kit, sign up by November 30, 2023.

[Sign Up Here!](#)



## New Kickstart Scholarship Program Targets Those 24 and Older

Kickstart Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarship is an exciting new statewide program offering up to \$1,800 per semester toward tuition at Wyoming's eight community colleges and the University of





Wyoming.

The new state-funded scholarship program is for those age 24 and older who want to pursue degrees or certificates, or who need to take more classes to finish degrees they already started.

Kickstart Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarship was created and funded by the Wyoming Legislature to help working adults obtain the skills and education necessary to reenter the workforce, move up in their current careers or pursue new career paths.

Those eligible could receive up to \$1,800 per semester if they are enrolled in 12 or more credit hours, and students are eligible for up to four full-time academic terms.

"What a great opportunity for our adult learners in Southwest Wyoming to either start or finish their degrees and pursue certificates needed to achieve their career goals," Western Wyoming Community College President Dr. Dale shared. "Western was able to expend their funds before the Fall 2023 semester started. There is a definite need for these dollars, and we cannot thank the legislation for their vision and support of this program."

Scholarship funds are limited, so all awards are dependent on funding availability. Beyond the age requirement, applicants must be Wyoming residents, complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid and register for the Wyoming at Work program through the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services. This program provides access to information and career resources to assist in the job search process. For more information on the program, [CLICK HERE](#).

The Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarship program and its initial endowment fund contribution of \$10M were established by the 2022 Wyoming State Legislature. Currently, the scholarship program endowment fund is only partially funded, so the 2023 Legislature set aside \$1.25M to "kickstart" the scholarship program until its endowment fund reaches the required \$50M and the scholarship is fully funded. By kickstarting the scholarship program, scholarship funds are available now rather than later to assist those that want to pursue their degree or certificate at a Wyoming college or university.



## Governor Highlights Early Successes of Wyoming Innovation Partnership

October 26, 2023



In 2021 Governor Mark Gordon launched the Wyoming Innovation Partnership (WIP) utilizing federal funds to support economic growth and diversification, and build a highly skilled Wyoming workforce. Phase I of WIP was launched in 2022, and a recently released report highlights the partnerships that have led to early success.

“The Phase I report showcases the impact WIP has already made across the state, and we are just getting started,” Governor Gordon said. “WIP marks an important watershed in how we think about post-secondary education. Instead of only talking about a program, we will now be able to evaluate its progress, its performance and its value. WIP program graduates will secure quality jobs with Wyoming companies, ensuring they can advance their careers while remaining in the state.”

The first phase of WIP sought to address workforce gaps across the state that included energy, tourism and hospitality, healthcare and entrepreneurship. Nearly 500 students enrolled in WIP programs, there were 469 workforce training participants and 29 programs were developed or are in progress.

The WIP collaboration includes the University of Wyoming and the state’s eight community colleges, as well as the Wyoming Business Council, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services and the Wyoming Department of Education. Programs launched during Phase I include:

- The development of Wyoming’s first applied software development degrees through a partnership with Sheridan College and the University of Wyoming
- A Powerline Technology program at Western Wyoming Community College
- An Echocardiology program at Laramie County Community College
- Support for expanded efforts at the University of Wyoming’s Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

The complete Phase I report is available at the Wyoming Innovation Partnership [website](#).

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## SWMP Recognized at the Governor's Business forum as a Wyoming Success Story



The Southwest Wyoming Manufacturing Partnership had the honor of presenting at the 40th Annual Governor's Business Forum, highlighting the remarkable success achieved through their collaboration with educators. They emphasized the importance of bridging the gap between industry and education, and how this partnership has positively impacted the manufacturing sector in the region. By working closely with educators, they have been able to align curriculum with industry needs, providing students with the skills and knowledge required for the job market. This collaboration has not only increased the employability of graduates but has also boosted the competitiveness and growth of the manufacturing sector in Southwest Wyoming. The presentation served as a testament to the power of partnerships between industry and education in driving economic progress and creating a skilled workforce.

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# What does collaborative success actually look like?

The synergy between Western Wyoming Community College (WWCC), with the Powerline Technology Program, and the Southwest Wyoming Manufacturing Partnership epitomizes the essence of collaborative success. WWCC's commitment to launching the Powerline Technology Program in Fall 2022 demonstrates a proactive response to local and statewide industry needs for skilled powerline technicians. This innovative initiative was not created in isolation; it is the fruit of cooperative dialogue and input from local industry partners, such as Rocky Mountain Power, Rural Electric Association, UWA 127 and IBEW 57, among others. These partnerships have been crucial in shaping a curriculum that aligns with the real-world demands of employers, ensuring that graduates are not only educated but truly ready to meet the challenges of the field.

The program is possible through funding from a broader initiative known as the Wyoming Innovation Partnership (WIP), championed by Governor Mark Gordon. WIP represents a transformative approach to post-secondary education and workforce development, emphasizing strategic collaboration between the state's higher education institutions. Through WIP, nearly 500 students enrolled in innovative programs addressing workforce gaps in critical sectors such as energy, tourism, and healthcare. This alliance exemplifies how joining forces can result in a fortified educational offering that promises quality jobs and career advancement opportunities, keeping talent within the state.

Collaborative efforts underscore the power of partnerships in fostering economic growth and diversification. By connecting education with industry through initiatives like the Powerline Technology Program, Wyoming is setting a precedent for how targeted educational programs can fill workforce gaps and support local economies. The success of these endeavors, as seen in the early triumphs of WIP, signals a promising future where educational institutions and industry partnerships work in concert to achieve common goals, ensuring that individual success translates into prosperity for the entire community.



Are you part of the decision-making team of the future?

If not **[CLICK HERE](#)** and join us in creating our future.





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## Focus on Education

### GRHS CTE Teachers Showcase Student Opportunities

In November, Green River High School held its Perkins Advisory Meeting. This year, instead of telling the community how Perkins funds are used in Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, students showcased their work and how to progress from entry-level classes to advanced-level classes.

Sweetwater County School District #2 received \$48,723 this year to supplement CTE programs. Each fall, CTE teachers provide an overview of their courses, but this year, students took over and shared what happens in class, commencing from their first year in high school to graduation.

SWCSD#2 is fortunate to have such an outstanding group of teachers leading its CTE pathways. Their passion and talents have led to some of the most popular classes in the high school.

Thank you to Ron Wild from Rocky Mountain Power & SWMP Leadership, as well as Todd Moores from Willow Springs Natural Artesian Spring Water in Kemmerer, Wyoming for sponsoring the food and water for the event. We appreciate great relationships with all of our regional partners and look forward to continued



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***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](mailto: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

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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 of 200.



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*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

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

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