



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

[Visit our Website](#)

## 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.



*This Issue Sponsored By:*



Hello JESSICA,

Welcome to the SWMP newsletter!

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



# UPCOMING EVENTS





DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES


# SWEETWATER COUNTY JOB FAIR


Meet motivated local job seekers in Sweetwater County! All employers and industries welcome!

## FIND:


- Spring & Summer Hires
- Seasonal crews
- Your next great full-time employee


## SAVE THE DATE


 **FEBRUARY 28, 2024**  
10 am - 2 pm

 White Mountain Mall  
2451 Foothill Blvd Ste. 100  
Rock Springs, WY 82901

To reserve your table:

 307-382-2747

 [gregory.madic@wyo.gov](mailto:gregory.madic@wyo.gov)

 [katie.mullen@wyo.gov](mailto:katie.mullen@wyo.gov)



# 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



# 2nd ANNUAL WYOMING FUNDING SUMMIT

PRESENTED BY  
**U.S. SENATORS  
JOHN BARRASSO  
CYNTHIA LUMMIS  
&  
GOVERNOR  
MARK GORDON**

FREE professional training on identifying, applying for, securing and managing grant funding. Interact with and hear directly from state and federal funding agencies. Towns and counties strongly encouraged to attend.



April 8 -12th  
2024

CENTRAL  
WYOMING  
COLLEGE  
RIVERTON, WY

REGISTRATION REQUIRED, OPENS FEBRUARY 1ST, 2024

[LUMMIS.SENATE.GOV/FUNDING-SUMMIT-RSVP/](https://lummis.senate.gov/funding-summit-rsvp/)

PLEASE SEND INQUIRIES TO: [KATHY\\_LENZ@LUMMIS.SENATE.GOV](mailto:kathy_lenz@lummis.senate.gov)





# Save the date

## for the 2024 NextGen Sector Partnerships Academy!

Each regional team will meet with a NextGen facilitator and  
develop its NextGen Action Plan, which could include:

- Helping your existing sector partnership seize new opportunities.
- Growing your team of community partners and industry champions.
- Launching a new sector partnership.

register  
here! April 25, 2024  
in Cheyenne



[nextgensectorpartnerships.com](https://nextgensectorpartnerships.com)

# WHAT'S

# NEW

## 2024 Southwest Regional Science Fair hosted by Western Wyoming Community College

Western Wyoming Community College (Western) hosted science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) students, in grades 6-12, who participated in the *Southwest Regional Science Fair* (Fair) on Thursday, February 1, 2024.

This year 57 participants came from seven different schools across the region. The Fair is an opportunity for students to apply their STEM knowledge, engage in scientific thought, and gain innovative ideas and knowledge from peers and educators. Local STEM teachers dedicate much of their time to prepare their students for this educational opportunity.

*"The Southwest Regional Science Fair is an exciting opportunity for students around our region to investigate, engage with, and study science from a variety of fields. These students continue to impress our judges with their creative projects and eagerness to learn and grow. Many thanks to the*

*sponsors who support and coach their students and to the judges from Western faculty and from our community who helped make this event a success,"* said Sarah Pauley, School of Math and Science Chair.

The Regional Science Fair is an affiliate of *Intel International Science and Engineering Fair* (ISEF), which is the world's largest international pre-college science competition. The categories, divisions, rules, and judging criteria of the Fair are in line with the Intel ISEF requirements.

This year participants presented 37 projects from the following schools: Big Piney Middle School, Kemmerer Junior/ Senior High School, Pinedale Middle School, Pinedale High School, Hanna Elementary, WY Tech Trep Academy, and Rawlins High School.

[View the Winners Here!](#)

In speaking of the student experience Associate Professor of Biological Sciences Katrina Marcos said, "Participating in the Southwest Regional Science Fair provides the opportunity for students to engage with the process of science in ways they may not otherwise experience. It promotes not only scientific literacy and inquiry, but also creativity, responsibility, self-confidence, organization and communication, both written and verbal."

Each year TATA Chemicals donates a monetary prize to the winning student's school. This year TATA Chemicals will donate \$750 to Big Piney Middle School to be used for promoting the STEM program at their educational facility. This is the eighth year TATA has sponsored the Fair.

"Tata Chemicals is pleased to sponsor the Southwest Wyoming Science Fair again. Our mission statement is 'Serving Society Through Science'. We want to encourage the youth in our area to participate and grow from experiences such as the Science Fair and take advantage of all opportunities to learn about science. Many of the jobs in our industry are science-related and we use science every day," said David Young, Project Management Operations at Tata Chemicals.

The regional science fair committee consists of the following dedicated Western educators and employees: Katrina Marcos, Dr. Randy Goff, Dr. Josh Holmes, Jennifer Allen, Wendy Black, and Peggy Cheney.

For more information regarding the Science Fair at Western, please contact Wendy Black at [wblack@westernwyoming.edu](mailto:wblack@westernwyoming.edu) or call 307-382-1712. For information on career fields in STEM, visit the Western academic page or contact the School of Math and Science Chair, Sarah Pauley, at [spauley@westernwyoming.edu](mailto:spauley@westernwyoming.edu).





## Western's Powerline Program Graduate Recognized in the 2024 State of the State Address by Governor Gordon



Today the 67th Wyoming Legislature is set to commence with a joint session of the Wyoming Senate and House of Representatives on the first day of the 2024 Budget Session. This session is marked by the delivery of the State of the State address by Governor Mark Gordon, providing a comprehensive overview of the current state of Wyoming and outlining priorities for the legislative term.

Western Wyoming Community College was honored to be part of Governor Mark Gordon State of the State address. We would like to share part of his address.

"Wyoming is brimming with economic promise. We must greet opportunity when it knocks with a well-trained, prepared workforce, and that is what the Wyoming Innovation Partnership (WIP) is all about. You'll remember, we set a goal two years ago that Wyoming would establish a world-class approach to fostering a highly skilled, ambitious and qualified workforce. The plan called for linking the state's economic strategy with our community goals and then engaged our universities and

community colleges to provide the muscle for economic growth. It's taken awhile to align, but WIP is now yielding results. One example of that is how WIP helped launch the new Powerline Technology Program at Western Wyoming Community College. After an initial investment by WIP, it is now self-sustaining.



Owen Madsen grew up here in Wyoming. He loves the state, and has the ambition we value. Owen saw how Wyoming is powering the nation, and understood what it would take to modernize and expand the grid. Like other young Wyoming men and women he recognized an opportunity and seized it. Now he is a WIP program graduate and still living in Wyoming, and working in the energy industry. Owen, we know that you have a risky job working in all types of conditions to maintain our powerlines and bring power to the people and industry in America. You literally help keep the lights on and make sure businesses have access to affordable power. Owen on behalf of WIP, students across Wyoming, and your hardworking colleagues all the way from Star Valley, would you please stand and be recognized. Thank you, Owen. Lower Valley Energy, Inc. has a great, great person there."

Western is extremely proud of Owen and our other graduates, and cannot thank the State or our industry partners for their support of the program.

For more information on the Powerline Technology Program, visit [www.westernwyoming.edu/powerline](http://www.westernwyoming.edu/powerline).





## SWCSD#2 Meets with Stakeholders to Discuss What Skills Graduates Need



Sweetwater County School District #2 held productive discussions on Wednesday, leveraging Wyoming's Profile of a Graduate to identify priorities for Green River students. Four high school seniors led four separate meetings alongside Adam Rubin of 2Revolutions, facilitating conversations in which student, teacher, and community voices were amplified.

Wyoming's Profile of a Graduate represents a culmination of statewide input gathered through surveys and public meetings. Over 20,000 individuals contributed their views on the essential qualities and skills future high school graduates should possess. By engaging directly with Green River's stakeholders, School District #2 is taking an important step towards building a shared vision for its graduates' success.

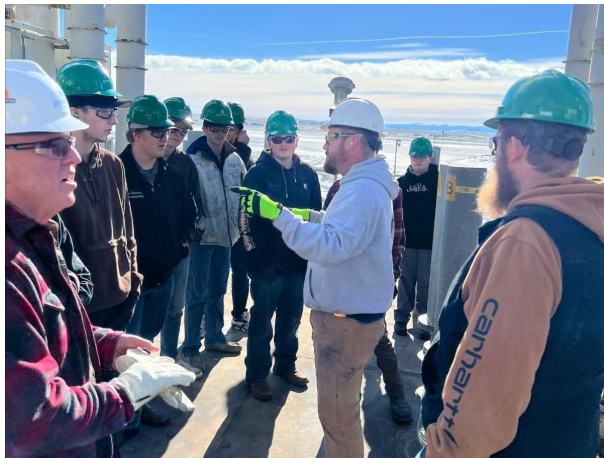
Thank you to 2Revolutions and to our four outstanding seniors (Destyni German, Axel McKinnon, Garrett Smith, and Roman Escobar) who spent their day leading everyone through Wyoming's Profile of a Graduate.

## Rock Springs High School and Farson/Eden High School Students Visit Genesis Alkali

On Thursday January 18<sup>th</sup>, CTE Academy students from Rock Springs High School as well as CAD and Robotics Teacher, Casey Walker had the opportunity to visit Genesis Alkali. Rock Springs High School Students learned about Mining and Manufacturing, the Markets associated with Genesis, US and Global Competition, Mine Safety and the Careers Genesis offers as well as their Hiring Process. Students also had the opportunity to tour several different areas of the surface of the mine. Students were excited to share what they had learned and saw and are excited about the



potential career paths they could take to someday take advantage of working in our local mining and manufacturing industry.





*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.





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Thank you to our Sponsor



The J.R. Simplot Company has an integrated portfolio that includes phosphate mining, fertilizer manufacturing, farming, ranching and cattle production, food processing and packaging plant, food service brands, and other enterprises related to agriculture. Simplot is based in Boise, Idaho with major operations in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Australia, and China. The company distributes products to more than forty countries worldwide.

Simplot's Rock Springs fertilizer plant is a key element to the company's efforts. It began production in 1986 and has been a committed and reliable employer in Sweetwater County, celebrating 37 years in 2023. With expansions done in 1996, 1999, 2014, and most recently in 2017 with the addition of a state-of-the-art Ammonia Processing Plant and tie-in package, Simplot has a significant impact on our local economy. There are 315 residents currently employed and contracts held with additional companies for onsite services in our community.

The Rock Springs plant manufactures and distributes nitrogen and phosphate fertilizer products, anhydrous ammonia, fluoride, and super phosphoric acid to distribute throughout the world, primarily in North America and Australia.

Significant contributors to the facility's ongoing success include a focus on safety, environmental stewardship, community involvement, our highly skilled workforce, and commitment to our values. Today, Simplot is one of North America's major suppliers of crop nutrition. Our Mining and Manufacturing operations are key to this success, building a complementary distribution system to capitalize on our unique phosphate position to achieve Simplot's mission of "Bringing Earth's Resources to Life."





Respect for Resources—like energy—is one of Simplot’s Core Values. We are especially proud to say Simplot’s Rock Springs fertilizer plant has earned the prestigious ENERGY STAR® certification for 2021 and 2022 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We anticipate earning the certification for 2023 as well (application pending). Manufacturing plants must achieve an ENERGY STAR score of 75 or higher using an industry-specific ENERGY STAR Energy Performance Indicator (EPI).

With this Energy Star designation, the EPA acknowledges our plant as one of the most energy-efficient nitrogenous fertilizer manufacturing facilities in the country. The recognition is based on the plants’ rank in the top 25% on EPA’s Energy Star energy performance scale in their industry nationwide. This scale is a statistical model that scores a facility’s production and energy use to benchmark its energy performance against the industry. In 2021, only ninety-three plants in all categories received this certification. The Simplot Rock Springs plant was the only Wyoming facility to receive this award in 2022 and the only facility in the fertilizer category in the US to receive the award in 2022.

[Learn more at simplot.com](https://www.simplot.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



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