



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

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.

Manufacturing ROCKS!

Greetings!

Welcome to the SWMP newsletter! Winter is here and with that comes the holiday season! We all hope you had a great Thanksgiving and are looking forward to Christmas and the New Year.

In this issue you will find some great information with a link to the "Post Secondary Educational Attainment Plan". We will discuss a potential partnership with "Build Our Way Out" and what goals this group has to provide funding to Wyoming to satisfy its workforce needs.



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Post Secondary Educational Attainment

"Post-secondary educational attainment refers to people obtaining credentialed education after high school. Higher education plays a critical role in diversifying the



economy and ensuring a vibrant future for the state. Wyoming has identified five economic engines/economic pillars to ensure long-term economic vitality: Advanced Manufacturing, Agriculture, Knowledge & Creative, Natural Resources, and Tourism & Recreation. In order to increase the level of higher education in our state's workforce, Wyoming leaders

have worked together to establish statewide goals for increasing the number of degrees, certificates, and certifications, also called education credentials, held by Wyoming citizens. This document sets forth Wyoming's statewide goals with specificity and explains the actions various state entities will take over the next ten years to achieve them."

[Click here](#) to learn more about the 5 and 10-year plan for people obtaining credentialed education after high school.

Manufacturing Facility Assessment Toolkit

A new [Manufacturing Facility Assessment Toolkit](#) is now available for occupational safety & health professionals and state & local public health officials. The toolkit can help assess COVID-19 infection prevention and control measures at manufacturing facilities. Resources for these facilities' overall hazard assessment and control plans are included. This toolkit is based on CDC and OSHA interim guidance.



Are you interested in participating in the sub-committee meetings?

Please Contact:

Training: Fred.vonAhrens@genlp.com

B2B: CJLembke@wyomingcat.com

Marketing: Ron.Wild@rockymountainpower.net

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF AMERICA

Build Our Way Out is an industry-driven training initiative for building America's next generation of diversified skilled trades and manufacturing workforce.



Supported by a coalition of business and labor, we advocate for a \$1B corporate tax credit to expand industry-driven technical academies and workforce programs in low-income and working-class communities that will lead to blue collar/new collar jobs. Ultimately, the initiative will diversify America's workforce, rebuild America's infrastructure, and return manufacturing to the U.S.

The Build Our Way Out coalition is organizing national, state, and local workforce, industry, and private trade union leaders from all 50 states as well as identifying and developing 20 "shovel-ready" sites to advocate for and demonstrate the effectiveness of this bi-partisan, legislative Initiative.

Why It Is Needed

- Companies need skilled workers, and it is increasingly difficult to identify and hire trained and skilled workers in their regions - specifically around long-term projects.
- Unions/skilled trades want to secure employment opportunities for their members and increase membership - especially within communities of color.

- Existing investment and development zones and sites are beyond shovel ready – but they need the talent pipelines and the economic incentives/support, today.

How it Works

- Build Our Way Out supports a federal corporate tax credit that provides a 100% credit for contributions to qualifying workforce programs that train skilled workers aligned with contributors' local workforce needs.
- Driven by a broad and powerful coalition, it has imbedded political support within both D and R leadership and has key bi-partisan constituency support (labor, disenfranchised communities, rural, industry/infrastructure/manufacturing, tax/budget, domestication of supply chain, etc.).
- Alignment of private and public sectors, combined with national political momentum around investment in transportation/infrastructure, creates perfect opportunity with new administration and new congress.

What We Are Doing

- We're currently building an advisory board with industry experts who can both guide the policy and fund the campaign. We're seeking to have an advisor in every state, representing workforce schools and programs leaders, heads of associations, philanthropy and Fortune 500 executives. Once the advisory board is complete, we are seeking to raise \$3.6M from individuals, corporations and foundations to finance the campaign.
- Engaging and creating shovel ready sites; we've identified plans ranging from "space academies" to serve aerospace workforce needs, "skilled trade academies" to provide African American communities access to trade apprenticeships, and specialized rural workforce programs to meet local agricultural and environment workforce needs. We're seeking to broaden the list.
- Developing federal legislative pathways/vehicles and engaging early potential elected champions.

Build Our Way Out is led by Resolute Executive Vice President Myles Mendoza, a national leader in building innovative training programs that serve low-income and working-class families.



The CTE Team has been working on an exciting project called Roadtrip Nation (RTN). RTN has been working with professionals and students for 15 years. They load the big green RV with roadtrippers and travel the state asking local business people to tell the story of why they love what they do and how they figured it out.

We believe that story has the power to change people's perspectives—and maybe even their lives.

Thousands of students, young adults, and career-seekers who are searching for advice about life and careers can benefit from hearing the story of how you got to where you are today.

And yes, we're talking about your story!

With Share Your Road (SYR), you can become a digital mentor to students by sharing what you do, how you got into your line of work, and the lessons you've learned on your journey.

If you are interested in telling your story, please contact Ilaine Brown at ilaine.brown1@wyo.gov to learn more about Sharing Your Road!

We look forward to the opportunity to work with you in the experience of enriching the lives of students, young adults and career-seekers everywhere!

ROADTRIP NATION



Local Business Champion Spotlight



From the days, in the early 1900s, of linking crude telephone lines using barbed-wire fencing to connect ranches in Bridger Valley, it would have been hard to imagine that the Union Telephone Company would grow into a premier regional telephone and wireless service provider. But thanks to the determination of its founders, John D. Woody and his son, Howard, now 98, that's exactly how Union's story has unfolded.

In its second century, still family-owned, Union employs over 250 people and serves 40,000 customers. Along with landline and wireless service, the company has built a fiber-optic network infrastructure that crisscrosses southern Wyoming and parts of northern Utah and Colorado. As this network grows, so grows high-speed internet availability in unserved communities that would otherwise be without reliable internet service that's taken for granted in more densely populated parts of the country. And as the pandemic has shown, broadband service is no longer a nicety, it's an essential utility.

Bringing high-speed internet service to small towns across Wyoming is no small achievement. The investment in infrastructure for the relatively small financial return has made other providers wary of the undertaking. (The same challenges befell smaller landline and wireless companies across the US. Once numbering in the hundreds, the Unions of the world are now far and few between.)

But as a Wyoming-born business, Union's leadership embraces the challenge.

Dig a little into its expertise and you'll find a diversity of skillsets and knowhow perfectly suited for building and maintaining a wireless and fiber-optic network – engineers, right of way specialists, construction crews, and planners who, among other things, know how to successfully bid on federal projects aimed at bringing broadband service to virtually every American; it's an important mission.



Union's commitment to the communities it serves goes beyond a business relationship. A core company value is: *"We are responsible to the communities in which we live and work and to the world community as well."* Putting that philosophy into action, a dedicated Event Manager oversees the support of charitable endeavors and economic development, public education, and health and safety programs. Union has also been a long-time supporter of Wyoming athletic and academic programs and is an official sponsor of the Wyoming High School Association.

An important example of its commitment to community came in early 2020, when the pandemic forced school closings and many adults to work from home. In response, Union installed free outdoor Wi-Fi hotspots at 12 schools in Carbon, Lincoln, Sublette, and Uinta counties, as well as free public hotspots at its retail stores. The hotspots allowed students to safely study from their vehicles. Existing

internet subscribers also received free upgrades to the maximum available speed to help address the need for increased bandwidth.

This level of reach into the lives of its customers and local communities may seem outsized. But for that small telecommunications company from Mountain View, it's an ethic that is understood and embraced by its people, from the Woody family to the Customer Care representatives and every employee in between.



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!



Mission Statement

Wire Brothers Inc. endorses the following Safety Mission Statement, which supports our belief that safety is everyone's responsibility. Providing a safe environment for our employees, our customers, and families is a primary mission for all of us at Wire Brothers, Inc. We will strive to eliminate unsafe conditions and minimize related risks by identifying and supporting safe work practices, promoting safety awareness, furnishing necessary tools and equipment, and providing employee training and education. We will work together to protect our customers, ourselves, and each other by promoting a culture of shared responsibility and the open exchange of suggestions, ideas, and concerns. Our safety mission benefits us all by minimizing exposures, reducing injuries, preventing property damage, and enhancing the environment at Wire Brothers, Inc.

Core Competencies

- Reclamation
- Environmental Remediation

- Process gas construction and maintenance
- Pipeline Services
- Well pad construction and hookup
- Location abandonment
- ASME plant maintenance and construction
- Pressure testing services
- Crane services
- Custom fabrication
- Welding Services
- General Dirt Work
- Road Maintenance

Differentiators

- 30 years of customer satisfaction
- OQSG certified workforce
- "R" stamp for vessel repair projects
- On Staff C.P.W.I.
- Extensive inventory of specialty tools
- Hazwoper capabilities
- Variety of recent model equipment
- Specialty fab shop with plasma CNC
- Extensively trained employees
- ASME certified mobile welders



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:

- **Exec. Core Team:** Fred von Ahrens, Ron Wild, Craig Rood, Pam Heatherington, Carl Lembke, Lauren Schoenfeld, Kim Dale, Kelly McGovern, Craig Barringer, Joan Evans, Jed Vigil
- **Co Conveners:** Kayla McDonald, Bridget Stewart, Lacey Bluemel



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Get In Touch

