



Wyoming Department of Education

Dr. Jim McBride, Superintendent of Public Instruction

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2007- 178

TO: School District Superintendents
Principals

FROM: Jim McBride, Ed.D. 

DATE: October 26, 2007

SUBJECT: Heritage Foundation Event – *Education: Wyoming's Choices*

IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ

On November 15-16 in Casper, the Wyoming Business Alliance will be holding its Heritage Foundation Event called "*Education: Wyoming's Choices.*"

The forum provides an excellent opportunity to bridge the gap between business leaders across the state and the education community. There will be many speakers and panels discussing a range of topics.

Some of those speakers include state, regional and national business leaders and educational professionals who will be discussing a variety of issues such as No Child Left Behind, post-secondary transition, and strong core curriculum.

I encourage you to attend the event and take the opportunity to meet some of the Wyoming business leaders who understand the importance of education in a growing workforce.

Attached are brochures and information on the event and how to register.

JM:tl

WYOMING FORUM SUMMARY
Education: Wyoming's Choices
November 15-16 2007
Parkway Plaza Hotel and Convention Centre
Casper, Wyoming

Overview

The **Wyoming Forum**, organized by the Wyoming Heritage Foundation, selects a different topic for each year's November Forum. This is the 25th annual Wyoming Forum; four have been on education. Normally 600-800 people attend the two day event.

Wyoming is privileged to have at this year's forum **nationally recognized** and **well known state** business and education leaders. They will address education quality, funding, long distance learning, the Hathaway Plan, Wyoming's Education Report Card, classroom issues and school reform.

▪ **National Speakers**

President, Thomas B. Fordham Foundation and Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution
National Education Commentator
Author of 14 books, including "Leaving No Child Behind"; "The Educated Child"; and "What Do Your 17 Year Olds Know?"
Washington, D.C.

Chester Finn – Leading advocate and behind the scenes leader of *Leave No Child Behind*; promoter of primary and secondary education reform.

Education Division President and Chief Operating Officer
ACT (American College Testing Program)
Iowa City, Iowa

Cynthia Schmeiser – ACT is the benchmark. Learn why core courses in high school are essential for college preparation and ACT achievement.

The First Private Sector Superintendent of a Public School District
President, Bush Foundation
Author, "The Price of Government: Getting the Results We Need in An Era of Permanent Fiscal Crisis"
St. Paul, Minnesota

Peter Hutchinson – America's first private sector school superintendent company—and innovative three-year contract based on performance.

Teacher and Author of "Tales from the Teachers' Lounge" and "Daddy Needs a Drink"
National Public Radio Commentator for the "Morning Edition" and "On Point" Programs
Sante Fe, New Mexico

Rob Wilder – Fifteen minutes in a teachers' lounge and you'll know what's going on—a teacher with passion and the acclaimed author of *"Tales from the Teachers' Lounge"*. Plus, a national speaker with a Cheyenne connection!

Founder and CEO, K¹² Inc
Herndon, Virginia

Ron Packard – Businesses' imprint and the school of the future. Long distance learning is a virtual reality; innovative curriculum for every kid; and education's next frontier.

Deputy Chief of Staff
U.S. Department of Education
Washington, D.C.

Holly Kuzmich – Six years ago resistance to “Leave No Child Behind” was everywhere. A high stake challenge given factors like smaller classes and social issues, but insistence on quality and measurement is here to stay. Find out why.

West Virginia Governor, 2001-2005
President, Alliance for Excellent Education
Washington, D.C.

Bob Wise – Data comparisons state by state. The data is startling. But without good data, improvement is impossible. How does Wyoming compare? Grading perception versus the reality? Take a look at Wyoming’s Education Report Card...

▪ **Education Quality...Wyoming’s made the financial commitment, but is quality defined by**

- * A graduation rate of 70%...America’s 70% graduation rate is one of the lowest of industrialized nations and of those who graduate, only 50% are prepared for post-secondary education.
- * \$545 million life-time lost income for the 2095 Wyoming high school dropouts in the class of 2006.
- * NAEP scores in Wyoming are improving...a positive sign! Hathaway, just beginning...
- * \$10 million yearly in remediation at Wyoming Community Colleges for high school graduates...Nationally, 35% of college freshman are enrolled in remedial math, 23% in writing, and 20% in reading.

▪ **High Schools/Workforce Preparation**

- * National data...the lack of preparation for the demands of college and the modern workforce: weak curricula, vague standards, and the lack of alignment between content and expectations between colleges and employers.
- * 80% of the fastest growing jobs in the US will require at least some post-secondary education.
- * The Hathaway Plan...with core coursework and ACT standards maintained...is a key building block for growing and diversifying Wyoming’s economy.
- * Did you know that savvy business relocation/expansion decisions place a premium on school quality (ie, top 25% in national tests, graduation rates, etc.).

▪ **Participation from Concerned and Committed Leaders**

Speakers and Panelists...Education: Nineteen, including an author; advocates of Leave No Child Behind; teachers, principals and superintendents; state administrators; and University of Wyoming and community college representatives...**Legislators:** Five, including the Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, current and past Speakers of the House, and members of the House Education Committee...**Business:** Twelve, including CEO’s from energy, mining, banking, utilities, and private foundation ...
Sponsors: Thirty-four state and national associations, foundations, and businesses.

Quality Education: Working Together is Essential Today!





EDUCATION: Wyoming's Choices



A WYOMING HERITAGE FOUNDATION EVENT
 PARKWAY PLAZA HOTEL AND CONVENTION CENTRE • CASPER, WYOMING
 NOVEMBER 15-16, 2007 • 25TH ANNUAL WYOMING FORUM

Thursday, November 15, 2007

10:00 A.M. REGISTRATION
 12:00 Noon LUNCH PROGRAM
Managing with Expectations
Peter Hutchinson
 The First Private Sector
 Superintendent of a Public School District
 President, Bush Foundation
 Author, "The Price of Government:
 Getting the Results We Need in an
 Era of Permanent Fiscal Crisis"
 St. Paul, Minnesota
Moderator
Jim Lowham, Superintendent
 Natrona County School District
 Casper, Wyoming
 1:45 P.M. **Wyoming Education Report Card**
Moderator
Roy Cohee
 Speaker of the House
 Casper, Wyoming
Governor Bob Wise
 West Virginia Governor, 2001-2005
 President, Alliance for Excellent Education
 Washington, D.C.
Jim McBride
 State Superintendent of Instruction
 Cheyenne, Wyoming
Fred Parady
 Vice-President, EnerCrest
 Former Speaker of the House
 Big Piney, Wyoming
 3:45 P.M. BREAK
 4:15 P.M. **ACT, the Hathaway Connection, and
 Leave No Child Behind**
Cynthia Schmeiser, PhD
 Education Division President and
 Chief Operating Officer
 ACT (American College Testing Program)
 Iowa City, Iowa
 ACT's mission "Helping people achieve
 education and workforce success." ACT:
 1400 employees worldwide; founded in 1959.
Responders
Representative Sue Wallis
 House Education Committee
 Recluse, Wyoming
David Nightingale
 President, Hyland Enterprises, Inc.
 Rawlins, Wyoming
 5:15 P.M. ADJOURN
 5:30 P.M. -
 6:30 P.M. NO HOST RECEPTION
 6:45 P.M. DINNER PROGRAM
**National Education and
 Workforce Goals**
Holly Kuzmich
 Deputy Chief of Staff
 U.S. Department of Education
 Washington, D.C.
Responders
Ron Pasco, President
 1st Interstate Bank
 Casper, Wyoming
Ron Hughes
 Resident Manager, Solvay Minerals
 Green River, Wyoming

Friday, November 16, 2007

7:00 A.M. BREAKFAST
**The Taylor Plan, An American Success
 Story**
 "Taylor Kids" from Louisiana Will Chart
 the Success Paths of TOPS
 Wyoming's Hathaway Scholarship Plan is
 modeled after the Louisiana Program
Moderator
Patrick Goggles
 State Representative
 Ethete, Wyoming
 8:30 A.M. **School Reform for Wyoming (and the
 Nation): World Class Students and
 Choices**
Chester Finn, Ph.D.
 President, Thomas B. Fordham Foundation
 and Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution
 National Education Commentator and
 Author of 14 books, including "Leaving
 No Child Behind"; "The Educated Child"; and
 "What Do Our 17 Year Olds Know?"
 Washington, D.C.
Moderator
Allan Tessler, Chairman
 International Financial Group
 Chairman, The Hudson Institute
 Jackson, Wyoming
 9:30 A.M. BREAK
 10:00 A.M. **Education Quality and Accountability**
Moderator
Steve Rennell, President
 Foundation Coal West
 Gillette, Wyoming
Panelists
Hank Coe, Chairman
 Senate Education Committee
 Cody, Wyoming
Ken Daraie, Director
 Wyoming Capital School
 Facilities Commission
 Cheyenne, Wyoming
Debbie Hammons
 House Minority Whip
 Worland, Wyoming
Steve Hollis
 President, CEO and Chairman of the Board
 Double Eagle Petroleum
 Casper, Wyoming
Barb Maguire
 Elementary School Teacher/
 Instructional Facilitator
 Park School
 Casper, Wyoming
Jim Rose, Executive Director
 Wyoming Community College Commission
 Cheyenne, Wyoming
Kathryn Valido, President
 Wyoming Education Association
 Cheyenne, Wyoming
 11:35 A.M. BREAK

11:45 A.M. LUNCH
The Teachers' Lounge and More
Rob Wilder
 Teacher and Author of "Tales from the
 Teachers' Lounge" and "Daddy Needs a
 Drink"
 National Public Radio Commentator for the
 "Morning Edition" and "On Point" Programs
 1:15 P.M. BREAK
 1:30 P.M. **THE CLASSROOM TODAY**
Moderator
Susan Thomas
 Thirty Year Educator and Founder,
 Susan G. Komen, Race for the Cure
 Casper, Wyoming
Becky Barrett, President
 Wyoming School Counselors Association
 Guidance Counselor
 Hillcrest Elementary School
 Gillette, Wyoming
Rick Lear, Director
 Small Schools Project
 Coalition for Essential Schools
 Seattle, Washington
Mary Krisko, Ph.D.
 Curriculum Director and Grant Manager
 Washakie County School District
 1998 Wyoming Teacher of the Year
 Worland, Wyoming
Kelly Rankin
 Assistant U.S. Attorney
 Wyoming District
 Casper, Wyoming
 3:00 P.M. BREAK
 3:15 P.M. **Benchmark Wyoming: Setting
 the Standard**
Moderator
Michelle Sullivan, Chair
 Wyoming State Board of Education
 Sheridan, Wyoming
Rollin Abernethy,
 Interim Chair, P16-Education Council
 Associate Vice-President, Academic Affairs
 University of Wyoming
 Laramie, Wyoming
Mary Ellbogen Garland, President
 Ellbogen Foundation
 Laramie, Wyoming
Audrey Kleinsasser, Director
 Wyoming School - University Partnership
 Laramie, Wyoming
Mike Matthews, President
 Wells Fargo Bank of Wyoming
 Casper, Wyoming
Ron Packard
 Founder and CEO
 K-12 Inc
 Herndon, Virginia
Dirlene Wheeler
 Principal
 Sheridan High School
 Sheridan, Wyoming
 5:00 P.M. ADJOURN

One Contact Hour/CEU Credit Available

We Thank These Sponsors

Arch Coal • BP America • Cheyenne Light Fuel and Power • Devon Energy • Ellbogen Foundation
 EnCana • EnerCrest • First Interstate Bank • K12 Inc • Kinder Morgan • Marathon Oil
 McMurry Foundation • Natrona County School District • NFIB • Peabody Energy
 Petroleum Association of Wyoming • Questar • Qwest • Rocky Mountain Power • Solvay Chemicals
 University of Wyoming • Wells Fargo Bank • Wyoming Bankers Association • Wyoming Business Council
 Wyoming Business Report • Wyoming Chamber of Commerce Executives
 Wyoming Community College Commission • Wyoming Contractors Association
 Wyoming Department of Education • Wyoming Economic Development Association
 Wyoming Mining Association • Wyoming Taxpayers Association • Pepsi / 7Up • Parkway Plaza

We've taken care
 of the funding...
 What results should
 we expect?



Registration Form

Education: Wyoming's Choices

A Wyoming Heritage Foundation Event

November 15 - 16, 2007 • Parkway Plaza Hotel and Convention Centre • Casper

Registration Form

Name: _____ (AS YOU WOULD LIKE IT TO APPEAR ON NAME TAG)

(Please place check mark in appropriate area for your registration)

Organization: _____

____ Forum - Early Bird Registration (by 11/9) \$115
 ____ Forum - Late Registration/At the Door (After 11/9) \$130

Address: _____

(Please place a check mark in all events you will be attending)

City/State/Zip: _____

____ Thursday Luncheon Buffet (Additional to Registration Fee) \$25

Phone: _____

____ Thursday Reception and No Host Bar Complimentary

Email: _____

____ Thursday Dinner (Additional to Registration Fee) \$30

____ Friday Breakfast Buffet (Additional to Registration Fee) \$15

____ Friday Lunch Complimentary

TOTAL \$ _____

If interested in obtaining a booth at the forum, please contact WBA/VHF office at (307) 577-8000.

Please make checks payable to: The Wyoming Heritage Foundation

145 S. Durbin, Ste 101, Casper, WY 82601 • Telephone (307) 577-8000 • Email: wyba@qwest.net

Continuing Education Credit Available

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Wyoming Business Alliance
 Wyoming Heritage Foundation
 145 South Durbin, Suite 101
 Casper, WY 82601
EDUCATION:
 Wyoming's Choices

2007 Forum Speakers



Peter Hutchinson
 The First Private Sector
 Superintendent of a Public
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 President, Bush Foundation
 Author, "The Price of
 Government: Getting the Results
 We Need in an Era of
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Holly Kuzmich
 Deputy Chief of Staff
 U.S. Department of Education
 Washington, D.C.



Michelle Sullivan
 Chair,
 Wyoming State Board of
 Education
 Founder, Inspired Learning
 Environments
 Sheridan, Wyoming



Rick Lear
 Director,
 Small Schools Project
 Coalition for Essential Schools
 Seattle, Washington



Ron Packard
 Founder and CEO,
 K12 Inc
 Herndon, Virginia



Wyoming Heritage Foundation
 presents



EDUCATION:
 Wyoming's Choices

Educators are committed
 to improvement and excellence.

Are the
 citizens of Wyoming?

Parkway Plaza Hotel and Convention Centre
 Casper, Wyoming
 November 15-16, 2007
 25th Annual Wyoming Forum

Forum Moderator: Mike Ceballos, Vice-President, Wyoming Qwest;
 Chairman, Wyoming Business Alliance/Wyoming Heritage Foundation

Did you know that...

- Nationwide, 3 out of 10 students will not graduate
- Of those who graduate, 3 of 10 will not be prepared for college or the workforce
- There has been a 14% decline in enrollment over the past 10 years in Wyoming
- There has been a 73% increase in school year spending since the 1995-96 school year
- Lost lifetime income of \$545 million for the 2006 high school class had they graduated
- \$10 million is spent yearly in Wyoming for remedial education courses at community colleges

