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## **FREE K-12 LITERACY, ENGLISH AND LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHERS' CONFERENCE**

**CHEYENNE** - Over 100 people are currently registered for the free K-12 Literacy, English and Language Arts Teachers' Conference. The conference will be held the evening of November 14, and all day November 15 at Centennial Junior High in Casper. This event is sponsored by the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) and funded by the Wyoming Legislature. All educators are welcome, including private school teachers, substitute teachers, paraprofessionals, librarians, instructional facilitators, and parents.

"It's high time we have a conference for educators focusing on practical and even inspirational applications for our classrooms," Casper conference coordinator, Deb McCullar, said. "Besides, we need to get together to grow and support one another, especially with so much talk about reading in different school subjects, and teacher accountability."

Featured events include keynoter, Jeff Wilhelm, author of *Reading Don't Fix No Chevys* and arguably one of the most popular national authors and presenters on literacy; Eugene Gagliano, author of the picture book, *C is for Cowboy*, and popular presenter on the Wyoming Arts Council Roster; Sheryl Lain, author of *A Poem for Every Student*; and Mick Wiest, 2014 Wyoming Teacher of the Year.

Also featured will be student programs represented by: Rick Kempa of Western Wyoming College with Poetry Out Loud; George Vlastos of Natrona County Star Lane Academy with Poetry Slam; Teresa Decker of 2014 Blue Ribbon School Glenn Livingston Elementary, former district Teacher of the Year, and president of Wyoming Reading Council with Young Authors; Kelley Norman, Laramie County teacher and director, with *We the People*; and *Letters about Literature* from the Wyoming State Library.

A bevy of Wyoming expert teachers and college professors including Dr. Victoria Gillis, will also

share in the following strands: literacy in the content area, primary, intermediate/middle school, and secondary English.

A free luncheon will be served at noon on Saturday. PTSB and UW credit will be offered.

The Friday evening kickoff is at Centennial in the Commons, starting with registration at 6:30 p.m. Friday's sessions feature Wilhelm, Gagliano and workshops. Saturday's events begin with plenary workshops, featuring Jeff Wilhelm and Sheryl Lain at 8:15 a.m. Workshops continue until 3:30 p.m. A block of rooms is reserved at Marriott Courtyard (\$99) and Sleep Inn (\$83).

To register, go to <http://tinyurl.com/WyoEnglishLanguageArts>.

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