



WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Leadership Symposium*

M a k i n g e d u c a t i o n s p e c i a l



15 year-old student - C Y Jr High

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS DIVISION**

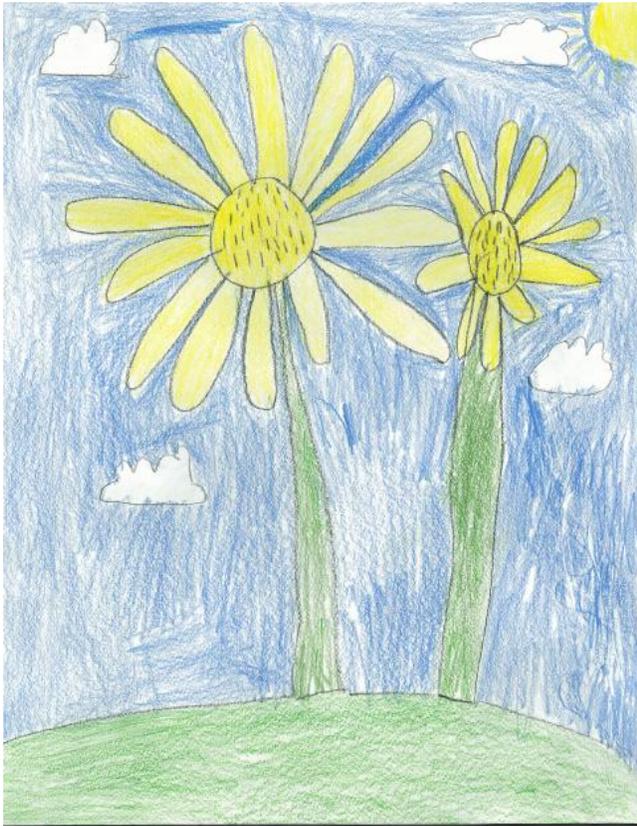
**LANDER, WYOMING**

**JUNE 25-28, 2012**

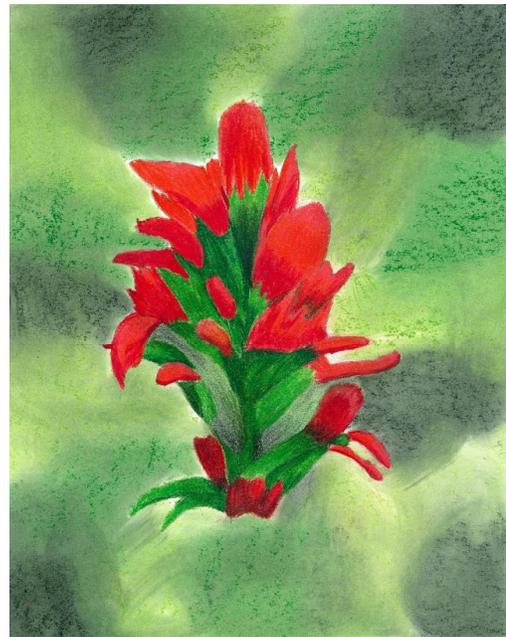
**Lander Valley High School**

Artwork in this agenda and on display at the  
6<sup>th</sup> Annual Wyoming Leadership Symposium courtesy of  
Wyoming Department of Education Special Programs Division

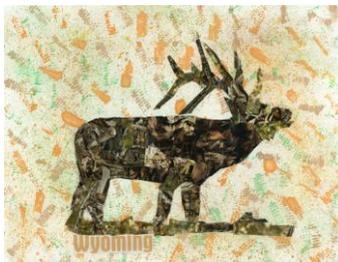
# Art Contest for Students with Disabilities



9 year-old student – Spring Creek Elementary



16 year-old student – Star Valley H S



10 year-old student – Etna Elementary



12 year-old student – Star Valley M S



21 year-old student – NEW BOCES

**Congratulations to all our winners and to every student who participated!**



## Wyoming Department of Education

Cindy Hill, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Hathaway Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 2300 Capitol Avenue  
Cheyenne WY 82002-0050

Phone: 307-777-7673 Fax: 307-777-6234 Website: [edu.wyoming.gov](http://edu.wyoming.gov)

June 25, 2012

## Welcome to the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Leadership Symposium

The Wyoming Department of Education is once again delighted to provide an amazing agenda full of esteemed speakers with deep-rooted knowledge and promising practices to share with Wyoming administrators, teachers, related service providers, paraeducators, parents and other staff. Thank you for being here!

This year, the Symposium format has been modified to provide practice opportunities in addition to the always popular legal perspectives (including current hot topics). We know the quality of the presentations here at Wyoming's Leadership Symposium is as good as or better than what you would find at any national conference, but this event allows all participants the opportunity to hear from expert presenters with a specific focus on issues in Wyoming. Also we structure the Symposium with an emphasis on making this an environment that allows participants to interact with speakers and colleagues comfortably in order to make the most of your time here in Lander.

As we end one school year and look forward to another, it is important to take time to recognize the work of Wyoming educators—we have many accomplishments to celebrate! In the past six years, we have seen huge improvements in outcomes for students with disabilities. We have data too: more than 62 percent of students with disabilities spend 80 percent of their school day in a general education classroom, an increase of almost 10 percent since 2005-06. Also, the graduation rate gap between students with and without disabilities has narrowed by over 13%: 62.9 percent of students with disabilities graduate with a regular diploma after four years of high school, which is an increase of almost 13% since 2005-06. Finally, when one compares Wyoming's 2011 PAWS data with those from 2006, we are experiencing significantly higher proficiency rates for students with disabilities in both reading and math. This is fantastic news and reflects the continued focus of district, school and classroom leadership on high quality instruction.

Each of us has the opportunity to be leaders, whether in our homes, at work and/or in our community. As educators, most of us have chosen a path of leadership through service to others and must maintain a keen awareness of how our actions affect those around us. Use your time at the Symposium to learn new skills, expand knowledge or refine current practice, but be willing to immerse yourself in something that challenges you to be extraordinary. We may not be able to control all aspects of our jobs, but how we perform our jobs is entirely within our control.

*"Whatever you are, be a good one."*

*--Abraham Lincoln*

Best regards,

***Stephanie***

Stephanie Weaver, MBA  
Deputy Director of Special Education

\*\*\*SESSION PLANNING PAGE\*\*\*



17 year-old student - Big Piney H S

## AGENDA June 25, 2012 – June 28, 2012

6th Annual Wyoming

### Leadership Symposium

## Monday, June 25

**7:00am - 8:00am**

Commons

**REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

**8:00am – 8:45am**

Auditorium

**WELCOME**

**Cindy Hill, Superintendent of Public Instruction**

**8:45am – 9:00am**

**BREAK**

*(\*) indicates sessions that are presented once Monday and once again on Tuesday.*

**9:00am – 5:00pm**

Auditorium

**(\*) “STRATEGIES FOR SEVERE BEHAVIOR AND/OR MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS”**

Presented by **Dr. Clayton Cook**

This presentation will explore the beliefs, knowledge, skills, and procedures that underlie effective school-based practices for students with emotional and behavioral problems. Specifically, the development and implementation of a multi-tiered, continuum of school-based services will be presented as a model to prevent, intervene, and treat emotional and behavioral disorders.

Attendees will walk away with practical knowledge and skills they can take back to their schools, as well as an understanding of how this work can be integrated into a school’s overarching service delivery framework.

**9:00am – 5:00pm**

Bridger Room

**(\*) “REDUCING BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS IN THE CLASSROOM”**

Presented by **Melissa Genaux, Renee Schroeder, and Christine Revere**

Evidence based strategies have been proven to reduce behavior problems in the classroom. Positive behavior is strongly correlated with academic success. Presenters will demonstrate how to modify the classroom learning environment to decrease problem behavior, teach and reinforce new skills, appropriate behavior and promote a positive environment, identify the specifics of problem behavior and the conditions that reinforce it, draw on relationships with professional colleagues and families for continued support, and use school wide strategies to reduce negative and foster positive interactions.

**9:00am – 5:00pm**

Morris Room

**(\*) “KEY COMPONENTS OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROCESS”**

Presented by **WDE Staff** and **Lenore Knudtson**, Attorney at Law

This session will address the process of linking federal regulations to writing effective and compliant IEPs. A major focus of the session will be the opportunity for districts to dialogue with one another regarding IEP development strategies. The session will be a combination of lecture, and participant conversation. Lenore Knudtson will cover the Federal Regulations and Chapter 7 Rules, and participants will have the opportunity to work through practical application activities.

**9:00am – 5:00pm**

Washakie Room

**(\*) “A DAY IN COMPREHENSIVE LITERACY”**

Presented by **Dr. Jane Brutsman**, **Tori Leshner**, and **Sheryl Lain**

This session will steep participants in the research and evidence-based best practice in delivering a Comprehensive Balanced Literacy Framework (CBLF) program to all pre-K through adult students building on their abilities. You will come away with a stronger approach to accelerating student achievement to grow learners and, oh, by the way, improve your school's AYP status.

**9:00am – 5:00pm**

Popo Agie Room

**CO-TEACHING**

**(By Invitation Only) --- This is a continuation of the work started at the fall of 2011 Co-Teaching Summit in Casper, Wyoming.)**

Presented by **Dr. Marilyn Friend**

Note: See tomorrow's schedule to attend a general Co-Teaching Session.

**“CO-TEACHING: BEYOND THE BASICS”**

For students with disabilities, co-teaching holds tremendous promise. However, co-teaching requires far more than strong teacher partnerships—the quality of the instruction in the co-taught class must reflect current best practices. The purpose of today's session is to share ideas and strategies for increasing the instructional intensity of co-taught classrooms. The goal is to review and then build on participants' basic understanding of co-teaching in order to take co-teaching practice to the next level, one that is certain to improve the educational outcomes for students with disabilities as well as typical learners.

**11:30am – 1:00pm**

**LUNCH ON-YOUR-OWN**

**5:00pm**

**ADJOURN**

\*\*\*Notes\*\*\*



10 year-old student - Truman Elem.

## Tuesday, June 26

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**7:00am – 8:00am**

Commons

**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

**8:00am – 9:15am**

Auditorium

***THE “THINK DIFFERENT AMBASSADORS AND DIPLOMATS”***

Presented by **LeDerick Horne, Marcus Soutra, Matt Herron, and Kory Ingersoll**  
(Plenary)

The *Think Different* Ambassadors and Diplomats will walk you through their journeys of educational and personal change. They will provide new and unique perspectives on LD and ADHD and the impact of these disabilities on learning and social growth. The heart of their message is of personal empowerment, academic success, and educational revolution for people who think differently. Presenters will assist the audience in understanding the emotional experiences of students who think differently, and provide concrete tools to accommodate and empower students both inside and outside of the classroom. They will also empower teachers, administrators, students, and parents to enrich the concept of “learning disabilities” with the revolutionary concept of “cognitive diversity.”

**9:15am – 9:30am**

Commons

**BREAK**

**9:30am – 5:00pm**

Popo Agie Room

***CO-TEACHING: “CLASSROOM PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPROVE STUDENT OUTCOMES”***

Presented by **Dr. Marilyn Friend**

The field of education has been changing rapidly over the past decade, and the changes promise to continue. Increased emphasis on higher standards, early and intensive interventions to improve students’ achievement, and more attention to preventing behavior problems characterize today’s schools. All students are affected by these changes, including those who are gifted/talented, those with disabilities, those who are “average,” and those who are English Language Learners. They must access the curriculum, be taught by highly qualified teachers, and achieve the academic benchmarks being set. For students with special needs, this often means an increased emphasis on learning in the general education settings, and one option for accomplishing this that is receiving widespread attention is co-teaching.

The purpose of this workshop is to provide an overview of co-teaching as well as detailed information about effectively planning, implementing, and evaluating co-teaching programs. Participants will have the opportunity to explore both the conceptual and the operational aspects of this innovative approach to providing an education to students in the least restrictive environment as well as discussing issues and concerns related to their own practices. The goal is to ensure that participants take their practice to the next level, designing instruction that fully utilizes the contributions of each professional so that all students reach their potential.

**9:30am - 5:00pm**  
Auditorium

***(\*) "STRATEGIES FOR SEVERE BEHAVIOR AND/OR MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS"***

Presented by **Dr. Clayton Cook**

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**9:30am - 5:00pm**  
Bridger Room

***(\*) "REDUCING BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS IN THE CLASSROOM"***

Presented by **Renee Schroeder and Christine Revere**

Evidence based strategies have been proven to reduce behavior problems in the classroom. Positive behavior is strongly correlated with academic success. Presenters will demonstrate how to modify the classroom learning environment to decrease problem behavior, teach and reinforce new skills, appropriate behavior and promote a positive environment, identify the specifics of problem behavior and the conditions that reinforce it, draw on relationships with professional colleagues and families for continued support, and use school wide strategies to reduce negative and foster positive interactions.

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Presented by **WDE Staff and Lenore Knudtson, Attorney at Law**

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regarding IEP development strategies. The session will be a combination of lecture, and participant conversation. Lenore Knudtson will cover the Federal Regulations and Chapter 7 Rules, and participants will have the opportunity to work through practical application activities.

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Washakie Room

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Presented by **Dr. Jane Brutsman, Tori Lesher, and Sheryl Lain**

This session will steep participants in the research and evidence-based best practice in delivering a Comprehensive Balanced Literacy Framework (CBLF) program to all pre-K through adult students building on their abilities. You will come away with a stronger approach to accelerating student achievement to grow learners and, oh, by the way, improve your school's AYP status.

**11:30am - 1:00pm**

**LUNCH ON-YOUR-OWN**

**5:00pm**

**ADJOURN**

\*\*\*NOTES\*\*\*

## Wednesday, June 27

**11:00am – 12:30pm**

**REGISTRATION OPEN FOR THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND MONDAY & TUESDAY**

**12:30pm – 2:00pm**

Auditorium

**PANEL DISCUSSION**

***“SPECIAL EDUCATION: WHAT IS IT AND WHO PROVIDES IT?”***

Facilitated by **Lenore Knudtson**, Attorney At Law

Including Attorneys:

**Tara Ford   Amy Goetz   José Martín   Kathleen Mehfoud  
Dave Richards   Tom Shorter   Julie Weatherly**

Difficult and provocative questions will be presented to this expert panel, resulting in varied and rich opinions. Dialogue starters will include:

- What is the difference between specially designed instruction and any other kind of instruction? What makes it “special?”
- Can specially designed instruction be delivered in regular education?
- Who can deliver specially designed instruction? Who can’t?
- When should the IEP team develop an annual IEP goal?
- How is special education different from a related service?

The audience will be invited to submit questions directly to the panel, allowing panelists to address the unique needs of Wyoming educators.

**2:00pm – 2:15pm**

Commons

**BREAK**

*(\*\*) indicates sessions that are presented at multiple times on Wednesday and Thursday*

**2:15pm – 3:30pm**

Auditorium

**PAIRED ATTORNEY PRESENTATIONS**

**(\*\*) *“COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATIONS”***

Presented by **José Martín and Tom Shorter**, Attorneys at Law

This session will address legal requirements for comprehensive evaluations. These include notice, consent, and fundamental safeguards, while also providing practical guidance on tricky issues such as proper scope of evaluation, avoiding common problem areas, reconciling conflicting data, reviewing evaluations at IEP meetings, answering parents’ questions about evaluation reports, issues involving SLD evaluations, and making proper use of evaluation data in developing students’ IEPs.

**2:15pm – 3:30pm**

Bridger Room

**(\*\*) “504 ISSUES”**

Presented by **Dave Richards and Julie Weatherly**, Attorneys at Law

This session will provide insight into some of the most common questions asked regarding 504. Specific areas of focus will include eligibility, services, health plans, 504’s relation to RtI, and the school’s responsibility regarding disability harassment. Julie & Dave will share their thoughts on these and other critical questions and address yours as well.

**2:15pm – 3:30pm**

Popo Agie Room

**(\*\*) “PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS:  
ASPIRING TO ENSURE A FAIR PROCESS UNDER IDEA”**

Presented by **Tara Ford and Amy Goetz**, Attorneys at Law

Presenters will focus on the importance of procedural safeguards in IDEA, highlighting specific procedures. The presentation will include discussion of “gray areas” related to many procedural protections. In addition, the workshop will address when violations of procedural safeguards matter under the law and will review the law and its application by courts, agencies and hearing officers.

**2:15pm – 3:30pm**

Washakie Room

**(\*\*) “IMPLEMENTING WYOMING’S RULES ON  
SECLUSION AND RESTRAINT”**

Presented by

**Lenore Knudtson and Kathleen Mehfoud**, Attorneys at Law

The statute is final, the rules are final, and district policies are final. Districts must now implement policies and train staff in the appropriate and safe use of seclusion and restraint. What are the requirements? How is this different from the past? What does it mean for all students? How can we keep students and staff safe? Recent OCR data demonstrates that 70% of seclusion and restraint incidents involve students with disabilities. We will also explore the intersection of these rules and the concept of LRE.

**3:30pm – 3:45pm**

**BREAK**

**3:45pm – 5:00pm**

Auditorium

**INDIVIDUAL ATTORNEY SESSIONS**

**(\*\*) *“WEAVING DISCIPLINE AND FAPE”***

Presented by **José Martín**, Attorney at Law

A variety of disciplinary rules and requirements under IDEA pertain to the provision of FAPE and educational services during disciplinary removals. This session will review these requirements, providing practical guidance on services during long-term disciplinary removals, the “modified” FAPE requirement, services during in-school suspension, and knowing when services are required during short-term removals. Case examples will serve to illustrate how some schools’ notions and practices can run afoul of the FAPE requirement with respect to discipline.

**3:45pm – 5:00pm**

Bridger Room

**(\*\*) *“ISSUES SURROUNDING THE IEP TEAM”***

Presented by **Julie Weatherly**, Attorney at Law

This interactive session will cover a wide range of IEP Team issues, including when to convene, who should be there, reaching consensus and ensuring appropriate participation of parents and other IEP Team members. A practical overview and examples of important “do’s” and “don’ts” will be provided for discussion.

**3:45pm – 5:00pm**

Colter Room

**(\*\*) *“FUNCTIONAL BEHAVIOR ASSESSMENTS AND BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION PLANS”***

Presented by **Amy Goetz**, Attorney at Law

In certain circumstances, the IDEA requires school districts to conduct FBAs and implement BIPs. The presenter will review these requirements, provide information on legal challenges to FBAs and BIPs, discuss how courts, agencies and hearing officers have decided these claims, and offer some suggestions for advocacy and best practices considerations.

**3:45pm – 5:00pm**

Downey Room

**(\*\*) *“WYOMING’S UNIQUE TRANSITION FROM PRE-KINDERGARTEN TO PUBLIC SCHOOL”***

Presented by **Lenore Knudtson**, Attorney at Law

Wyoming has a unique preschool delivery system that manages its IDEA Part B preschool services in a separate agency. This delivery system can present challenges when transitioning students from preschool to kindergarten. We will explore the differences between service provision at developmental preschools and school districts and address questions such as: when should the transition begin? Who should participate? What do we tell parents? What can school

districts reasonably expect to receive when the transition is complete? What happens if the transition doesn't go well? This dialogue will delve into both challenges and solutions.

**3:45pm – 5:00pm**

Fremont Room

**(\*\*)** *“THE IEP: REASONABLY CALCULATED & IMPLEMENTED”*

Presented by **Tom Shorter**, Attorney at Law

The U.S. Supreme Court's 1982 decision in *Board of Education of Hendrick Hudson Central School District v. Rowley* established the standard that an IEP is to present a program that is “*reasonably calculated to enable the child to receive educational benefits*”. This standard is at the heart of every IEP and, ultimately, every due process hearing regarding whether a free appropriate public education has been provided. This session will review the most current cases on the “reasonably calculated” expectations.

**3:45pm – 5:00pm**

Morris Room

**(\*\*)** *“LEGAL ISSUES RELATED TO EDUCATION OF STUDENTS WITH MENTAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES”*

Presented by **Tara Ford**, Attorney at Law

Given the prevalence of mental health diagnoses among school age youth, it is imperative that schools are prepared to identify and meet the needs of these students. Through the use of three case studies, this session will promote dialogue related to issues such as eligibility determinations under Section 504 and IDEA, medication, stigma, suicidal threats, and bullying.

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**(\*\*)** *“DETERMINING THE IDEA PARENT AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE RESIDENT DISTRICT”*

Presented by **Kathleen Mehfoud**, Attorney at Law

Who qualifies as a parent for special education purposes? What happens when parents disagree over education issues? Does your district have legal exposure if it only deals with one parent? Can one parent dismiss a student from all special education services over the objection of the other parent? These important questions and others of this nature will be addressed during this presentation.

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Washakie Room

**(\*\*)** *“THE LRE CONTINUUM: CLASSROOM AND BEYOND”*

Presented by **Dave Richards**, Attorney at Law

IDEA's LRE requirements are about more than just maximum exposure to nondisabled peers and a presumption of a regular classroom placement. LRE also includes a curricular component. This session will look at both components of the LRE requirement. We'll discuss services and strategies that help

students succeed in the Least Restrictive Environment, as well as the dynamics that may complicate these efforts. We'll also look at the school's responsibility under IDEA to provide appropriate exposure to grade-level curriculum, or "curricular LRE."

**5:00pm**

**ADJOURN**

**5:30pm – 8:00pm**

**MEET-N-GREET: At The Cowfish Restaurant 148 Main Street**

*Reconnect with old friends and colleagues, or make new connections! Enjoy some hors d'oeuvres, relax, recharge. You deserve it!*

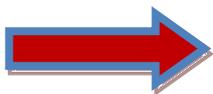
\*\*\*NOTES\*\*\*

Wyoming Wild Flowers



## Thursday, June 28

7:30am - 9:00am



**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST and  
WIND/WATR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DISPLAY!**  
(Display will be continued throughout the day in the *Warren Room*)

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9:00am - 10:15am

Auditorium

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**1:00pm – 2:15pm**

Downey Room

**(\*\*)** *“WYOMING'S UNIQUE TRANSITION FROM PRE-KINDERGARTEN TO PUBLIC SCHOOL”*

Presented By **Lenore Knudtson**, Attorney at Law

Wyoming has a unique preschool delivery system that manages its IDEA Part B preschool services in a separate agency. This delivery system can present challenges when transitioning students from preschool to kindergarten. We will explore the differences between service provision at developmental preschools and school districts and address questions such as: when should the transition begin? Who should participate? What do we tell parents? What can school districts reasonably expect to receive when the transition is complete? What happens if the transition doesn't go well? This dialogue will delve into both challenges and solutions.

**1:00pm – 2:15pm**

Fremont Room

**(\*\*)** *“THE IEP: REASONABLY CALCULATED & IMPLEMENTED”*

Presented by **Tom Shorter**, Attorney at Law

The U.S. Supreme Court's 1982 decision in *Board of Education of Hendrick Hudson Central School District v. Rowley* established the standard that an IEP is to present a program that is “*reasonably calculated to enable the child to receive educational benefits*”. This standard is at the heart of every IEP and, ultimately, every due process hearing regarding whether a free appropriate public education has been provided. This session will review the most current cases on the “reasonably calculated” expectations.

**1:00pm – 2:15pm**

Morris Room

**(\*\*) "LEGAL ISSUES RELATED TO EDUCATION OF STUDENTS WITH MENTAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES"**

Presented by **Tara Ford**, Attorney at Law

Given the prevalence of mental health diagnoses among school age youth, it is imperative that schools are prepared to identify and meet the needs of these students. Through the use of three case studies, this session will promote dialogue related to issues such as eligibility determinations under Section 504 and IDEA, medication, stigma, suicidal threats, and bullying.

**1:00pm – 2:15pm**

Popo Agie Room

**(\*\*) "DETERMINING THE IDEA PARENT AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE RESIDENT DISTRICT"**

Presented by **Kathleen Mehfoud**, Attorney at Law

Who qualifies as a parent for special education purposes? What happens when parents disagree over education issues? Does your district have legal exposure if it only deals with one parent? Can one parent dismiss a student from all special education services over the objection of the other parent? These important questions and others of this nature will be addressed during this presentation.

**1:00pm – 2:15pm**

Washakie Room

**(\*\*) "THE LRE CONTINUUM: CLASSROOM AND BEYOND"**

Presented by **Dave Richards**, Attorney at Law

IDEA's LRE requirements are about more than just maximum exposure to nondisabled peers and a presumption of a regular classroom placement. LRE also includes a curriculum component. This session will look at both components of the LRE requirement. We'll discuss services and strategies that help students succeed in the Least Restrictive Environment, as well as the dynamics that may complicate these efforts. We'll also look at the school's responsibility under IDEA to provide appropriate exposure to grade-level curriculum, or "curricular LRE."

**2:15pm – 2:30pm**

**BREAK**

**2:30pm – 4:00pm**

Auditorium

**PANEL DISCUSSION:**

***"WHAT ALL EDUCATORS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DISCIPLINE AND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES"***

Facilitated by **Lenore Knudtson**, Attorney At Law

Including Attorneys:

**Tara Ford   Amy Goetz   José Martín   Kathleen Mehfoud**

**Dave Richards   Tom Shorter   Julie Weatherly**

IDEA's discipline provisions can be difficult to understand, and even more complicated to implement. This diverse panel of

experts will bring their expertise and different perspectives to the discussion giving you plenty to think about after you leave this year's Symposium.

- Does behavior interfere with learning? Whose learning?
- When should an FBA be conducted and a BIP be utilized?
- What are the components of a good behavior plan? Should it be flexible?
- Can the student be sent home? What if the parent chooses to take the student home?
- How can we address behavior and maintain safety?
- How does the team know when behavior is a manifestation of a disability?
- What happens when a student with a disability is bullied and reciprocates? What happens when the student is the bully?

The audience will be invited to submit questions directly to the panel, allowing panelists to address the unique needs of Wyoming educators.

**4:00pm**

**ADJOURN**

\*\*\*NOTES\*\*\*



# PRESENTERS

## 6th Annual Wyoming Leadership Symposium June 25, 2012 – June 28, 2012

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### **Dr. Clayton Cook**

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Dr. Clayton Cook is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Washington. He received his PhD from the University of California, Riverside. He has previous experience working as a paraprofessional, teacher and school psychologist. He also worked at Boys Town in Omaha, Nebraska in the Behavioral Pediatrics and Family Services Outpatient Clinic. Following his time at Boys Town, he did a stint as a professor at Louisiana State University. Dr. Cook has published numerous peer-reviewed articles and three books on the topic of students with or at risk for emotional and behavioral disorders and the application of RTI practices for these students. When he is not teaching and conducting research at the University of Washington, he serves as an educational consultant working with school systems across the country on developing and implementing RTI models of service delivery in both general and restrictive educational settings.

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### **Tara Ford, Esq.**

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Tara Ford is the co-director and co-founder of Pegasus Legal Services for Children, a non-profit organization in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She has been involved in children's issues for over fifteen years and has worked with many courageous and dedicated parents and caregivers who strive to ensure that children have what they need at home, in their schools and communities. In 2005 the State Bar of New Mexico recognized Ms. Ford for her "Outstanding Contribution to People with Disabilities." She was also awarded the 2004 Children's Champion in Legal Advocacy from Parents for Behaviorally Different Children. Pegasus Legal Services for Children was awarded the 2006 Justice Mary Walters Award from the UNM Women's Law Caucus and the Henrietta Pettijohn award from the NM Women's Bar Foundation. Ms. Ford is a graduate of Stanford Law School.

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### **Melisa Genaus, M.Ed.**

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Melisa Genaus works with school districts across the country as a consultant and trainer in the areas of Asperger Syndrome and other Autism Spectrum Disorders, behavior and classroom management, applied behavioral analysis, social skills instruction, consultation skills, and special education legal/compliance issues. She has worked for many years as a program supervisor and special education coordinator, Behavior and Autism Specialist, and professional consultant to the Utah State Office of Education.

Recognized nationally as an expert in her field, Melisa now directs and presents at workshops and conferences for teachers, parents, school administrators, and related services staff. In addition, she provides extensive consultation services to schools in program development and individual student case management. She is a recipient of multiple awards from the Utah Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders and has published articles in the national Behavioral Disorders Journal as well as the Utah Special Educator. She has written and produced videos for LRP Publications and has been a speaker at the LRP National Institute on Legal Issues of Educating Students with Disabilities for the past 12 years.

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### **Amy Goetz, Esq.**

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Amy J. Goetz has worked in school law since 1995, first as a staff attorney with the Minnesota Disability Law Center, then as a complaint investigator at the Minnesota Department of Education, and most recently in private practice. Her practice has focused on legal issues involving special education disputes, discrimination and other civil rights claims, including harassment and bullying, discipline matters including expulsion, and juvenile court proceedings implicating educational failure. She has successfully raised and resolved hundreds of student and family claims through formal and informal means, obtaining favorable results that have improved individual educational outcomes, as well as impacting school and legal systems. Amy has litigated school claims in administrative hearings and in appeals through the federal courts. She has provided training and teaching to parents, attorneys, judges and other groups, as well as presentations as a guest lecturer in various education and law classes in the Twin Cities area. Before working in education law, Amy worked in legal services offices for nineteen years on issues including family law, child custody, adoption, juvenile court proceedings, housing, and government benefits.

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### **Matthew Herron, *Think Different* Diplomat**

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Matthew Herron hails from Green River, Wyoming. He's currently studying Social Work at Western Wyoming Community College, and he plans to pursue a career in school-related social work. In his free time, Matt enjoys spending time with family and friends, swimming, hiking, listening to music, and studying fashion. He hopes that his story will inspire other students with learning disabilities to strive for success.

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### **LeDerick Horne, *Think Different* Ambassador**

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LeDerick Horne, spent most of his time in school believing he did not have much of a future. A severe learning disability (LD) combined with low self-esteem led him to doubt he would be able to go to college or pursue a meaningful career. But in the challenging academic environment at Middlesex County College--and with the support offered for his disability through Project Connections, a Learning Disabilities Resource Program at the College--LeDerick became an outstanding student, compiling a 3.75 grade point average. He transferred to New Jersey City University and graduated with honors from NJCU in 2003.

Since graduation, LeDerick has become the head of his own real estate investment company, Horne & Associates, LLC, and was appointed the Board Chair of Project Eye-To-Eye. He is also recognized across the country as an advocate for people with disabilities. LeDerick has facilitated workshops, delivered keynote presentations, and spoken to thousands of students, teachers, and service providers about his experiences.

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### **Kory Ingersoll, *Think Different* Diplomat**

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A native of Salt Lake City, Kory found his home in Star Valley, Wyoming, twelve years ago. A student at Western Wyoming Community College, Kory enjoys photography and travel. He's an avid sportsman who spends his free time hunting, hiking, camping, fishing, and riding motorcycles. He's thrilled to share his story of educational and personal empowerment with others in the hopes that it will make a positive impact.

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### **Lenore Knudtson, Esq.**

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Lenore Knudtson completed her undergraduate work at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. After working for a brief time in juvenile probation, Lenore obtained a Masters +60 in School Psychology at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls. As a school psychologist, Lenore served children and young adults with disabilities in Minnesota schools for several years prior to attending law school at William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota. Lenore is a member of the bar in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Arizona and dedicates most of her practice to children and special education law.

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### **Sheryl Lain**

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Sheryl Lain is a veteran WY teacher, Instructional Facilitator, and district language arts coordinator K-12. She is the author of *A Poem for Every Student* as well as other books, articles and poems. Currently, she serves as a WDE Instructional Leader under Superintendent Cindy Hill.

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### **Victoria Lesher**

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Victoria Lesher is a teacher trainer with the Wyoming Department of Education. She enjoys working with teachers in all corners of the state to strengthen their teaching practices. Her latest professional development work has been in the area of literacy and has included Readers Workshop, Writers Workshop, Comprehensive Balanced Literacy Framework, WyR - a tutoring model for older students, and 3+8 - a focus on using constructed responses to help students deeply comprehend narrative, expository, and functional texts.

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### **Jose L. Martin, J.D., Attorney At Law**

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Jose Martín is a partner with the school law firm of Richards Lindsay & Martín, L.L.P. in Austin, Texas. For the last twenty years, his practice has focused on matters involving the education of disabled students under the IDEA and Section 504. He is a graduate of the University of Texas and the University of Texas School of Law. A background in journalism has led Jose to frequent publication in the area of disabilities laws and their effect on public schools. He currently serves as Contributing Editor to the national LRP publication *The Special Educator* and LRP's online-based *Special Education Connection*. As a speaker, Jose presents numerous topics on disabilities laws to numerous audiences at national, regional, and state conferences, as well as local education agency staff development programs.

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### **Kathleen Mehfoad, Esq.**

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Kathleen S. Mehfoad is a partner in the Richmond, Virginia office of the international law firm of Reed Smith LLP. She has practiced law for 33 years and has concentrated her practice in education law and, most particularly, in special education law. Ms. Mehfoad provides consultation services, in-service training and advice to a large number of school districts, state education agencies and other educational groups. She lectures nationally on a frequent basis, and has presented multiple times for NSBA. Ms. Mehfoad is a former Chairperson of Virginia's COSA group. She has been recognized for a number of years in the publication Best Lawyers in America in the field of education law. Ms. Mehfoad was recognized as one of the top Influential Women of Virginia in 2011 by Virginia Lawyers Weekly.

Ms. Mehfoad also serves as Chairman of the University of Mary Washington Foundation, is Past-President of the University of Mary Washington Alumni Association and was a member of the University of Mary Washington Board of Visitors for eight years and Rector of the University for two years.

Ms. Mehfoad received her undergraduate education at Mary Washington College and earned a Masters of Commerce degree from the University of Richmond. She obtained her law degree from the University of Richmond.

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### **Christine Revere, M.S., C.H.E.S.**

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Christine Revere works for the Wyoming Department of Education's Special Programs Division in Riverton. She has worked for several divisions of the WDE for over seven years and earned her M.S. from the University of Wyoming with an emphasis in Health Promotion. She currently serves as the division consultant for Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) as part of WySIS (Wyoming System of Instructional Support) and provides professional development and support to school districts throughout the state. She conducts PBIS training events on-site at school buildings as well as at large conference events throughout the state and has presented at several national conferences including "Public Health in the Rockies, American School Health Association Conferences and the Scientific Conference for the Society of Public Health Educators." Her background in coordinated school health and systems development have made her a strong advocate for school and community partnerships.

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### **David Richards, Esq.**

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David Richards is a partner in the Austin law firm RICHARDS LINDSAY & MARTIN, L.L.P., where his practice is focused on the defense of school districts and special education co-ops. He is the General Counsel for the Council of Educators for Students with Disabilities and is a frequent presenter on Section 504, IDEA, NCLB and other school law topics at education service centers, school districts, and conferences in Texas and throughout the country. His analysis on education law issues frequently appears in LRP's publications *The Section 504 Compliance Advisor*, *The Special Educator*, and *Your School and the Law*. He is a graduate of Texas Tech University, and the University of Texas School of Law.

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### **Renee Schroeder**

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Renee Schroeder is a Licensed Professional Counselor, a Nationally Board Certified Counselor as well as Certified by Wyoming Professional Teaching Standards Board as a K-12 Counselor, and is a Highly Qualified Social Studies 7-12 teacher by the Wyoming Professional Teaching Standards Board.

Renee began teaching after graduating from the University of Wyoming in Secondary Education with a B.S. in 1976. During her time in education she has worked as a classroom teacher, later she managed Carol Perkins Funds and programs for at risk youth. Renee then worked as a school counselor after receiving her Master of Science in Counselor Education at the University of Wyoming in 1995. During her career she has worked with Catholic Social Services with women who were considering adoption, doing home studies on potential parents and doing family observations after the adoption placement. Currently Renee works as a counselor in Sweetwater School Dist. #1. She also performs duties as District Mental Health Dept Chair, Chair of the Building Intervention Team, and as the PBIS coach for the district.

Renee has received certification for training and practicing in EMDR Level 1 and 2, CIS Emergency Management -100, National Incident Management Systems, Certified CISM Responder TruThought Corrective Thinking Practitioner, Basic and Domestic Mediation, Family Solutions Program Facilitator, Boys Town Social Skills Training, and Triple P Parenting Level 5.

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### **Thomas N. Shorter, Esq.**

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Thomas N. Shorter is a shareholder in the Education Practice Group in the Madison, Wisconsin office of Godfrey & Kahn, S.C. Tom represents educational institutions, providing counsel in special education (IDEA and Section 504), privacy (HIPAA, FERPA), labor and employment, and regulatory matters such as collective bargaining, FMLA compliance, discrimination issues and discipline and discharge. His education clients include public and private K-12 educational institutions.

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### **Marcus Soutra, *Think Different* Ambassador**

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Marcus Soutra was diagnosed with dyslexia and ADHD at a young age and spent most of his childhood feeling stupid, misunderstood, and ashamed of his learning disability. Over time, Marcus grew to understand that his learning disability was, in fact, not going to determine his fate--and after finding success in school, he chose to devote his life to paving the path for all students to find success in their education.

Marcus holds a degree in Social Science and Secondary Education from Keene State College and has taught in both middle and high school classrooms. In addition to creating Keene State Disabilities Advocates (KSDA), Marcus is the founder of the Keene State College chapter of Project Eye-To-Eye. He also co-founded Camp Vision, the Project Eye-To-Eye summer program, which has three regional locations and continues to grow.

As Managing Director, Marcus oversees Project Eye-to-Eye's nationwide programming. He has given lectures at the University of California-Santa Barbara, Dartmouth College, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Radford University, Brown University, and the Wyoming Department of Education Statewide School Improvement Conference. He was also the keynote speaker for Purdue University's Focus Awards, the Maryland Department of Disabilities' Statewide Summit, and the New Jersey City University Conference on Transition. Furthermore, Marcus especially has enjoyed sharing his story with school classrooms across the country. All of Marcus' work is done with the goal of ensuring that other students who are labeled with learning disabilities are able to celebrate their differences and find success in that celebration.

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### **Julie Weatherly, Attorney At Law**

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Julie Weatherly, Esq. is the owner of Resolutions in Special Education, Inc. in Mobile, Alabama and is a member of the State Bars of Alabama and Georgia. For twenty-six years, Julie has provided legal representation and consultative services to educational agencies in the Southeast and across the country in their efforts to comply with the laws applicable to educating students with disabilities. In June of 1996, Julie appeared with Leslie Stahl on CBS news program "60 Minutes" to discuss the cost of meeting the legal requirements of the IDEA. She has been a member of the faculty for many national and state legal institutes and is a frequent speaker at special education law conferences. Julie has developed a number of videotape training series on special education law and has been published nationally as a part of her trainings, workshops and seminars. She is the author of the legal update article for the National CASE quarterly newsletter and is a member of LRP's Special Education Attorneys Advisory Council. In 1998, Julie was honored by Georgia's Council for Exceptional Children as Georgia's Individual who had Contributed Most to Students with Disabilities.



16 year-old student – Arvada-Clearmont HS

## LANDER AREA

## RESTAURANT GUIDE

**Asian Cuisine**

Address: 140 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Lander, WY 82520

Phone: 307-335-7171

Features: Asian fine dining

**Atlantic City Mercantile**

Address: 100 E. Main Street, Atlantic City, WY 82520

Phone: 307-332-5143

Features: Specializing in aspen-grilled steaks, seafood and giant burgers (including the famous "Mother-Lode Burger"). Fine dining in an old-time gold mining town saloon 45 miles from Lander, but worth the drive! Full service bar.

**Thai Chef Family Restaurant**

Address: 975 Lincoln, Lander, WY 82520

Phone: 307-332-3102

Features: Specializing in Thai & American cuisine. Dine in or have your food delivered.

**The Breadboard**

Address: 1350 W. Main Street, Lander, WY 82520

Phone: 307-332-6090

Features: Specializing in submarine sandwiches - bread made fresh daily.

**China Garden**

Address: 162 N. 6th Street, Lander, WY 82520

Phone: 307-332-7666

Features: Authentic Mandarin cuisine. Dine in or carry out.

**Cowfish**

Address: 148 W. Main Street, Lander, WY 82520

Phone: 307-332-8227

Features: Steaks, seafood, pasta, brewery and bar.

**Deka-Guy Hee**

Address: @ Shoshoni Rose Casino, 5690 N US Hwy 287, Lander

Phone: 307-332-7529

Features: Full service family menu.

**El Sol De Mexico**

Address: 453 Main Street, Lander, WY 82520

Phone: 307-9298

Features: Authentic Mexican food, margaritas, and beer

**Gannett Grill**

Address: 126 Main Street, Lander, WY 82520

Phone: 307-332-8228

Features: New York style pizzas, large hamburgers and sandwiches. Dine in, carry out or have your food delivered. Full service bar.

**The Hitching Rack**

Address: 785 E. Main Street, Lander, WY 82520

Phone: 307-332-4322

Features: Fine dining with a seafood and pasta special nightly. Full service bar.

**The Maverick Motel & Restaurant**

Address: 808 W. Main Street, Lander, WY 82520

Phone: 307-332-2300

Features: Home-style cafe dining. Bar.

**McDonald's**

Address: 235 McFarlane, Lander, WY 82520

Phone: 307-332-3955

Features: Kids will enjoy the indoor play place. Dine in or drive thru

**The Oxbow**

Address: 170 E. Main Street, Lander, WY 82520

Phone: 307-332-0233

Features: Family dining, banquet facilities. Dine in their enclosed patio area. Bar.

**Silver Spur Lanes**

Address: 1290 W. Main Street, Lander, WY 82520

Phone: 307-332-5830

Features: Whether you are bowling or not you can enjoy their hamburgers, hot dogs and chili. Full Service Bar.

**Subway**

Address: 960 W. Main, Lander, WY 82520

Phone: 307-332-9554

Features: Enjoy sub sandwiches and more while dining in or take out with their convenient drive thru.

**Svilar's**

Address: 173 S. Main Street, Hudson, WY (12 miles from Lander; between Lander and Riverton)

Phone: 332-4516

Features: Quality steaks, seafood, and more in a rustic Wyoming atmosphere. Full service bar.

**Taco Johns**

Address: 870 Main Street, Lander

Phone: 307-332-0291

Features: Mexican food

**Tony's Pizza**

Address: 637 Main, Lander, WY 82520

Phone: 307-332-3900

Features: Specializing in hand-made pizza, lasagna, stromboli, and salad breadbowls. Dine in, carry out or have your meal delivered. Beer and wine.

**Wildflour Restaurant** at the Best Western Inn at Lander

Address: 260 Grand View Drive, Lander, WY 82520

Phone: 307-332-2847

Features: Full service menu and bar



13 year-old student – Hulett HS

**A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO  
FREMONT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1 AND  
LANDER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL**

Sponsored by the Wyoming Department of Education Special Programs Division  
Cindy Hill, Superintendent of Public Instruction

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