



Wyoming Department of Education
PRESS RELEASE

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Two State Board members fill roles at national level

Cheyenne – Two Wyoming State Board of Education members will be representing Wyoming in national roles at the National Association of State Board of Education.

Joe Reichardt of Wheatland has been chosen to serve on the NASBE Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC) and Dana Mann-Tavegia of Osage has been selected to serve on a year-long NASBE study group called Common Ground: Education and the Military Meeting the Needs of Students.

The NASBE Governmental Affairs Committee is the entity responsible for developing federal policy recommendations and communicating with Congress and federal officials about the education reform priorities of state boards of education. The Governmental Affairs Committee helps state board members understand, influence, and plan for federal education policies

As a member of the 20-member panel, Reichardt will meet with other state education leaders, national policymakers, federal lawmakers, and education reform experts during a series of meetings, events and communications during the course of this year to share their state's experiences and perspective, analyze federal education initiatives, promote state board of education priorities, and serve as a state education resource to congressional offices and staff.

As a member of the Common Ground: Education and the Military Meeting the Needs of Students Task Force, Mann-Tavegia will work with other members to examine the skills and knowledge youths need to become strong students and leaders as they transition from post-secondary education to the next phase of their lives.

As chairman of the 2010 national study group, Mann-Tavegia will meet with other state board members, researchers, and policy analysts to delve into areas in which educators and the military have shared goals, and examine how specific curricula and assessment programs developed by and for the military may be adapted to improve public education.

The 2010 study on examining the coordination between K-12 education and the military to meet the needs of the youths will explore several key issues including:

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- Build a comprehensive understanding of post-secondary choices for students;
- Improving graduation rates;
- Improving the health and fitness of high school students;
- Expanded career exploration/assessment and test preparation resources for educators and students; and
- Elevating the need for well-trained teachers, particularly in the areas of science and mathematics.

The study group will issue a comprehensive report in October 2010 at the NASBE Annual Conference in Salt Lake City, UT. The group's policy recommendations will be disseminated to relevant stakeholders including members of Congress, federal officials, governors, chief state school officers, local education policymakers, and the education and military communities.

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