



Wyoming Department of Education

Dr. Jim McBride, Superintendent of Public Instruction

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2007-010

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Jim McBride, Ed.D. 

DATE: January 12, 2007

SUBJECT: UW School of Energy Resources: Summer Institute

INFORMATION TO SHARE

I had the privilege of attending the press conference announcing private, business, and legislative support for the new University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources. This combined effort seeds this visionary effort with 24 million dollars. In an effort to get our students and teachers involved early, the School of Energy Resources is sponsoring a summer institute for interested teachers, students, and counselors (K-12). This is an amazing opportunity! Please distribute copies of the attached letter to your staff, counselors, and students (possibly through appropriate classes) and consider supporting this truly visionary new school. As we receive information on this program, we will share it with you. Thank you.

JM:cg

Enclosure

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

School of Energy Resources
209 Bureau of Mines
Dept. 3012, 1000 E. University Ave.,
Laramie, WY 82071
(307) 766-6254 • Frost@uwyo.edu • <http://uwacadweb.uwyo.edu/ser/>

5 January 2007

District Superintendents
State of Wyoming

Re: *UW School of Energy Resources: Summer Institute*

Dear Superintendents:

I write to alert you to an exciting summer opportunity for your Wyoming high school students as well as your high school and middle school teachers and counselors. As you may know, the 2006 Wyoming Legislature created the School of Energy Resources (SER) at the University of Wyoming. The School has been charged with preparing students for energy-related careers while bolstering Wyoming's energy economy through a variety of academic, research, and service-oriented programs. A significant component of the academic enterprise is to develop strong and lasting links with Wyoming's K12 teachers, counselors, and students.

As part of our efforts to connect with Wyoming's youth, the School of Energy Resources intends to bring 16 rising high school sophomores and 4 teachers/counselors to UW for an annual Energy Summer Institute. The Summer Institute for 2007 is planned for 2 weeks and is scheduled to begin on June 10th. The Institute will consist of two independent programs developed by UW faculty in the areas of energy science. Possible project areas include:

- Coal gasification.
- Enhanced oil recovery.
- Renewable energy, alternative energy, or energy conversion.
- CO₂ capture and storage.

The intent of the Summer Institute is to fire the imagination of high school students related to the challenging energy problems facing the world while exciting teachers and counselors about the energy industry and the SER, thereby motivating them to bring this information back to school classrooms across the state.

Complete details of the Summer Institute will be forthcoming in the form of a brochure and accompanying application materials to be distributed to all high schools, junior high schools, and middle schools in your district. An important point to note is that all travel and room and board expenses will be paid by the SER. In addition, teachers and counselors will receive a stipend of \$1,500 for their participation. Best of all, there are no grades!

Wyoming and the nation are facing both exciting and daunting energy challenges in the coming decades. One could argue that the development of new conventional energy sources as well as alternative and renewable energy, and the looming issues associated with the global

effects of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases, represents a technological challenge the likes of which has yet to be encountered by humanity. We are fortunate in that Wyoming's vast and varied energy resources make the state a natural laboratory for future energy research and development.

We are excited to make the SER Summer Institute a memorable and rewarding experience for all participants. Moreover, in addition to the relevant programmatic content, the Institute affords the youth of our state a terrific opportunity for exposure to higher education and all that UW has to offer. Please contact me via email (hansen@uwyo.edu) or telephone (307.766.3209) if you have any questions regarding the Summer Institute. In the meantime, please alert your principals to this opportunity to engage K12 with Wyoming's energy future through the UW School of Energy Resources.

Sincerely,



Andrew Hansen, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Academic Coordinator, SER

Cc: Carol Frost, Interim Director, SER
Myron Allen, Vice President of Academic Affairs
Sara Axelson, Vice President of Student Affairs
Jim McBride, State Superintendent of Public Instruction