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WDE'S LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM SLATED FOR JUNE IN RIVERTON

CHEYENNE – The Seventh Annual Leadership Symposium is the premiere professional development for educators in Wyoming. The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) sponsored symposium is slated for Central Wyoming College in Riverton June 23-26, 2014.

“We’ve asked our districts what they need and what they want to see in the Leadership Symposium,” said Jennifer Krause, Education Consultant with the WDE. “Most of our agenda was developed with input from our districts.”

The conference is split between the Best Practice Institute (June 23-24) and an Education Law Seminar (June 25-26), which will feature eight special education attorneys offering presentations and answering questions.

Among the offerings of the Best Practices Institute are sessions on co-teaching, classroom partnerships, Universal Design, methods for general educators to partner with the special education process, and transitions from early childhood to post-secondary education.

Dr. Laurie Barron will be one of the headliners at the conference. Dr. Barron is a former National Middle School Principal of the Year and will present methods used by her staff to work together to establish a modern culture where every student feels valued and achieves. Another feature of the Best Practices Institute will be Eye-to-Eye, a mentoring program that matches college students with learning disabilities and ADHD with elementary students with similar issues.

The Education Law Seminar will feature panel discussions and breakout sessions that will focus on activity specific to the 10th court circuit. The sessions will discuss special education pitfalls and speed bumps, residential placements, Section 504 compliance, and more.

Professional Teaching Standards Board, University of Wyoming Graduate, and Continuing Law Education credits will be available.

Conference attendees have three different registration options. Registrants can attend one of either two-day tract for \$150, or can attend the entire week's sessions for \$250. Registration is available online at <http://wde.memberlodge.com> or can be done onsite in the Peck Center for the Performing Arts on the campus of Central Wyoming College. The sessions will be held on the campuses' Tribal Center, the Classroom Building, as well as the Health Science Building.

The Leadership Symposium regularly attracts 300 or more professionals, the majority of whom work in special education. Krause said the conference also holds relevance for general education instructors. The WDE is offering districts one free general educator registration with any two paid special education registrations.

“Because so much of a special education student’s time is spent in the general education classroom, the WDE wants to reach out to general educators to help them learn more about Special Education Best Practices,” Krause said.

For a complete event agenda, or for more information, contact Jenny Krause at 307-857-9258 or Jennifer.krause@wyo.gov