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SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER SUMMIT IN CASPER

Star Lane Center students preforms Mock Trial at conference

CHEYENNE - Educators from around Wyoming will learn new ways to make social studies exciting this weekend in Casper at the 2014 K-12 Wyoming Social Studies Teachers' Summit.

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) is partnering with the U.W. American Heritage Center, the Wyoming Geographic Alliance, Wyoming High School Mock Trial, Wyoming History Day, Project Citizen and We the People to provide professional development for elementary and secondary social studies educators.

"The response has been overwhelming," said Wyoming Geographic Alliance Professional Development Coordinator Germaine Wagner. "Social studies are the mother of all the sciences and teachers are so hungry for current information and ideas that will actively engage students in learning opportunities."

The conference will kick off with a meet and greet at the Hilton Garden Inn Grand Ballroom on Friday from 6-8 pm. Maria Gallo from the Foundations of Democracy will talk about school violence and Wyoming Poet Laureate Echo Klaproth will discuss the power of place.

The Saturday sessions include technology, literacy with close reading of informational text, geography and the new social studies standards. Keynoter Jim Loewen, author of *Lies My Teacher Told Me* and *How to Avoid Them*, will expand on ways teachers can utilize

multiple resources to engage students in the fantastic and important stories of history.

There will even be a mock trial. Students from Star Lane Center will perform selected aspects of

a high school mock trial, using the case from the Wyoming tournament last November, the murder trial of State of Wyoming vs. Cameron Paul. They will present opening statements, witness examination and closing arguments, showing their mastery of the facts and witness affidavits, their use of the rules of evidence and courtroom decorum, and strategies to convince a jury that Mr. Paul is guilty or innocent.

The conference is also a chance for educators to network and collaborate on best practices.

“Teachers feel rejuvenated if they see an idea shared by somebody who is a teacher expert,” said WDE Instructional Leader Sheryl Lain.

“People learn from each other; teachers learn their best practices from each other.”

A free luncheon will be donated by Olive Garden at noon on Saturday at the KWHHS cafeteria.

For more information, visit the [WDE website event calendar](#) or contact Gerry Minick at 307-256-1018 or Travis Hoff at 307-777-2053.