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June 25, 2015 Visit <u>edu.wyoming.gov/press</u> for contact details

STEM CONFERENCE TO UNITE EDUCATION WITH BUSINESS

CHEYENNE - A conference in Sheridan will bring educators and industry together to learn how to implement Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs in Wyoming schools. The 2nd Annual Roadmap to STEM conference is building on last years' event by welcoming participation from business representatives.

Wyoming Contractors Association Executive Director Katie Legerski says industry must be a key stakeholder in building STEM programs in the state, "In an emerging economy in which the need for highly skilled workers is expanding exponentially, it is critically important for the construction industry to partner with educators and the communities in our state to prepare students for those highdemand jobs that will be available."

A Share-A-Thon has been added to allow an opportunity for educators and industry representatives to learn about STEM programs being integrated into classrooms, and conference participants will tour several Sheridan businesses.

"This year's Roadmap to STEM conference introduces the strong partnerships that are forming between Wyoming businesses and education," says Superintendent of Public Instruction Jillian Balow. "One challenge with STEM education is determining how to create learning experiences that mirror real-life and our students' futures. Partnerships between business and education create opportunities to close this gap and ensure that STEM knowledge translates to meaningful skills."

The 2015 Roadmap to STEM conference will take place August 3-5, 2015 at Sheridan College. Information about the conference and registration can be found at: <u>goo.gl/hKQe9F</u>.

For questions, contact Kari Eakins, Communications Director, at (307)777-2053 or <u>kari.eakins@wyo.gov</u>.