

Level Up Fellowship Cohort (2025-2026)

Collin Binko - Teton County School District #1



Collin Binko is a music educator from Jackson. Currently holding the position of Band, Choir, Orchestra and Musical Director as well as TCSD K12 Music Coordinator Collin works to create a space where students feel safe to take educational chances and express themselves through music. Collin holds a degree in Music Education from Duquesne University and a masters in Educational Leadership from The University of Wyoming. In 2024 Collin was awarded the Milken Educator award for the state of Wyoming.

Ashley Whipp - Fremont County School District #38



Ashley Whipp is a passionate 7-8th grade English Language Arts teacher at Arapahoe Schools with over a decade of experience. She creates a supportive classroom where students explore diverse literature through novel studies, independent reading, and meaningful discussions. Ashley integrates technology, hands-on activities, and differentiated instruction to build strong literacy foundations. Outside the classroom, she mentors new teachers, sponsors events, and fosters strong relationships with students and families. A University of Wyoming graduate with certification from the University of West Florida, Ashley believes reading empowers critical thinking and opens doors to new possibilities. In her free time, she enjoys ranch life, horseback riding, kayaking, hiking, and snowmobiling with her family.

Christina Mayle - Laramie County School District #1



Christina Mayle is a veteran educator with over 22 years of experience in Laramie County School District #1, currently teaching 6th grade Math and Science at Meadowlark Elementary in Cheyenne. Having helped open the school a decade ago, she proudly calls the 5th/6th grade campus her home. Christina holds degrees from Laramie County Community College and the University of Wyoming, and is currently pursuing dual master's programs in Middle Level Math and Learning, Design, and Technology. Passionate about hands-on learning and student agency, she encourages her students to treat math as a puzzle, not a problem—making learning joyful, engaging, and meaningful at every level.

Kristin Ryan - Hot Springs County School District #1



Kristin Ryan is a 1st grade teacher at Ralph Witters Elementary in Thermopolis, where she champions equity, inclusion, and literacy for all learners. With degrees in Elementary and Special Education, a Reading Specialist endorsement, and a Principal Certificate, she brings deep expertise to her classroom. A two-time Voya Unsung Heroes Grant recipient, Kristin is also certified as a Structured Literacy Dyslexia Interventionist. Her teaching is rooted in real-world connections—transforming lessons into immersive experiences like mock hospitals and community partnerships—to spark engagement and make learning meaningful for every student.

Beth Faubion - Campbell County School District #1



Beth Faubion teaches Spanish at Thunder Basin High School in Gillette, bringing a rich background in education and leadership. She holds degrees from the University of Wyoming and Black Hills State University and has earned honors including the Peabody Energy Leaders in Education Award and RE/MAX Teacher Leader Award. A former Miss Wyoming, she has championed impaired driving education at the state level. Beth believes all students can succeed through strong relationships and student-centered learning.

Luke Robertson - Park County School District # 1



Luke Robertson is a physical education teacher at Westside Elementary in Powell, where he inspires K–5 students to move, grow, and thrive through dynamic, experience-based learning. With degrees in Physical Education and Kinesiology from the University of Wyoming and National Board Certification, he brings excellence and innovation to his teaching. Robertson’s signature initiative, the Adventure Awaits Challenge, connects students with their community through real-world activities like fishing, disc golf, biking, snowshoeing, and gardening with long-term care residents. His philosophy centers on educating the whole child, building strong relationships, and promoting lifelong wellness through meaningful, hands-on experiences.

Kevin O’Dea - Albany County School District #1



Kevin O’Dea is the principal at Laramie Middle School. He has been a part of Laramie Middle School for nine years. Kevin previously served at Rawlins Middle School and Spearfish Middle School in Spearfish, South Dakota. Before transitioning into administration, he taught science at both the middle and high school levels. Kevin holds degrees in Botany, Secondary Teaching, and Educational Administration. He is a member of the Wyoming Associations of Elementary and Middle School Principals and the Wyoming Association of Secondary School Principals.

Michelle Roundy - Teton County School District #1



Michelle Roundy teaches 10th grade English, AP Preparation and 12th grade AP Literature and Composition at Jackson Hole High School, where she also serves as an instructional coach supporting diverse learners. A National Board Certified Teacher with 15 years of experience in Wyoming, she holds degrees in Liberal Studies and Teaching from Oregon State University, graduating with honors. Michelle’s approach centers on building authentic relationships and fostering literacy, student agency, and curiosity —creating a classroom where meaningful learning thrives.

Jason Thoren - Washakie County School District #2



Jason Thoren teaches welding, woodworking, drafting, computer science, and work-based learning to grades 7–12 at Ten Sleep School. With degrees from the University of Wyoming, Casper College, and a computer science endorsement from Northwest College, he has transformed the school’s CTE program to align with industry standards. Jason created a work-based learning initiative connecting students to local job experiences and developed the “New Teacher Care Package” to support incoming CTE educators. A passionate mentor and advocate for hands-on, project-based learning, he prepares students with practical skills and real-world readiness.

Billy Farris - Johnson County School District #1



Billy Farris is a veteran educator at Cloud Peak Elementary in Buffalo, currently in his tenth year teaching 4th grade. With over 20 years in the classroom, he's taught 1st and 3rd grades and holds degrees from the University of Northern Colorado and Grand Canyon University. A National Board Certified Teacher since 2012 in Literacy for Early and Middle Childhood, Billy continually refines his practice through reflection and innovation. He plays a key leadership role in the Wyoming RIDE Initiative, leading K–5 workshops and presenting statewide to promote educational transformation. Passionate about Project-Based Learning and equity-focused instruction, Billy is committed to creating meaningful, student-centered learning experiences and advancing public education across Wyoming.

Jennifer Merriam - Laramie County School District #1



Jennifer Merriam has been a dedicated science educator for 23 years, teaching everything from physical science to AP and IB Chemistry. She holds degrees from the University of Wyoming and a master's certificate in Chemistry from Indiana University, which she pursued to expand concurrent enrollment opportunities. Jennifer is known for her hands-on teaching style, leadership in curriculum development, and commitment to supporting both students and fellow educators through roles like Chemistry Olympiad Chair and IB roundtable facilitator. In 2025, she was honored as a state finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching and named the local Air Force Association Chapter Teacher of the Year. Outside the classroom, she enjoys running, cycling, and traveling with her family.

Karin Unruh - Sublette County School District #1



Karin Unruh teaches Kindergarten through 3rd grade at Bondurant Elementary, a one-room school in Bondurant, Wyoming, where she's spent 12 of her 13 years in education. She holds degrees from Illinois Wesleyan University and the University of Wyoming, including a doctorate in Learning, Design, and Technology. Passionate about rural education, Karin mentors preservice teachers through the University of Wyoming's Rural Teacher Corps and has contributed research to improve educator preparation programs. Known for her personalized instruction and strong community connections, she builds lasting relationships with students and families. Outside the classroom, she enjoys backpacking, hiking, paddle boarding, kayaking, and cross-country skiing.

Cheryl Trimble - Goshen County School District #1



Cheryl Trimble teaches special education at Compass Academy in Torrington, supporting students aged 18–21 in employment, independent living, and social-emotional growth. Inspired by a teacher who made her feel seen, she's committed to creating safe, empowering learning environments. Cheryl holds degrees from Saint Cloud State University and the University of Northern Colorado, plus a generalist endorsement from Western State College. She also leads Cotant's Totes of Hope Backpack Program and serves on the district's Advisory Committee for Special Services, advocating for inclusive, high-quality education.