

Level Up Alumni - 2026



Andrea Hayden - Albany County School District #1

Andrea Hayden serves as the Lead Teacher for the Albany County School District #1 Extensions Team, bringing 25 years of dedicated experience in elementary education to her role. A veteran of the K-6 classroom, Andrea is a National Board Certified Teacher who holds a Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Wyoming.

Her commitment to pedagogical excellence and innovative practice has earned her the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). Andrea is a frequent contributor to the broader educational community, sharing her expertise at both the state and national levels. Her presentation credits include the Wyoming Innovations Conference, as well as national gatherings for the NSTA, NNER, UNM Mentoring, NAGC, and AERA. In her current work with the Extensions Team, she focuses on enriching student learning through evidence-based instruction and curriculum design that challenges and inspires.



Josey Allen - Big Horn County School District #2

Josey Allen is a veteran science educator at Lovell High School in Big Horn County, bringing 21 years of experience in secondary education to the classroom. A specialist in the physical sciences with a focus on student success rates, Josey holds a Master of Science in Geoscience from Mississippi State University and a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from Brigham Young University.

His commitment to innovative pedagogy is marked by his designation as a Distinguished Modern Classroom Expert and Mentor. Josey's leadership extends to the state level as a current member of State Superintendent Megan Degenfelder's Teacher Cabinet, where he provides vital classroom perspectives on Wyoming's educational initiatives. A past recipient of Teacher of the Year honors from both administration and students at Kemmerer High School, he currently focuses on integrating Artificial Intelligence into the curriculum and bridging the gap between high school academics and future careers.



Laura Godfrey - Big Horn School District #4

Laura Godfrey is a K-2 Special Education Teacher at Laura Irwin Elementary School in Basin, Wyoming, with seven years of experience in the field. Recognized for her classroom excellence and dedication to her students, she was named the 2023 Big Horn County School District #4 Teacher of the Year.

As a graduate of the Level Up Fellowship and a current member of the Level Up Alumni Program, Laura is deeply committed to the intersection of instructional practice and educational policy. Her professional interests center on systems-level initiatives that bridge classroom experience with leadership decision-making to drive improved student outcomes across the state. An active contributor to professional learning, she has shared her expertise at the Level Up Summits, presenting on high-impact topics including Love and Logic (2024) and Behavior Regulation (2025).



Revea Smith - Campbell County School District #1

Revea Smith is a Professional Development Specialist for the Campbell County School District in Gillette, Wyoming, where she leverages over 20 years of experience to empower educators and students alike. A National Board Certified Teacher, Revea holds a Bachelor's degree in Education and a Master of Science in English as a Second Language. Her career is marked by a unique, comprehensive "systems-level" perspective of school operations, having served in diverse roles ranging from paraeducator and autism support specialist to classroom teacher and district leader.

Her leadership and impact were formally recognized when she was named the 2024 Campbell County School District Teacher of the Year. Known for her collaborative spirit and creative approach to pedagogy, Revea specializes in implementing Project-Based Learning (PBL), Social-Emotional Learning (SEL), and initiatives that elevate student voice. As a coach and mentor, she is dedicated to fostering environments where collaboration and meaningful instruction intersect to drive district-wide excellence.



Claudia Troxel - Central Wyoming College

Claudia Mashburn is an Assistant Professor of Biology and Physical Science at Central Wyoming College, where she integrates nearly two decades of professional scientific experience into her instructional practice. After an 18-year career as a professional toxicologist, Claudia transitioned into education, teaching secondary science at Riverton and Lander Valley High Schools for eight years before moving into higher education. She holds a PhD in Toxicology with a minor in Public Health from Oregon State University.

A 2021 recipient of the national Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST), Claudia is a leader in fostering authentic scientific inquiry and lifelong learning. She is deeply involved in several professional learning communities, including the RIDE Initiative and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Faculty Online Learning Communities (FoLCs) for two-year colleges. Beyond the classroom, she mentors students in original research through the INBRE Program, where she leads investigations into the effects of wildfire smoke on human lung cells, successfully bridging the gap between professional laboratory research and high-impact science education.



Megan Park - Fremont County School District # 1

Megan Park is the Principal of Gannett Peak Elementary School in Lander, Wyoming, where she applies 16 years of educational expertise to lead her school community. She holds a Master of Science in Educational Leadership from Western Governors University, complemented by Bachelor's degrees in Special Education and Elementary Education from Montana State University.

Her leadership philosophy is rooted in the development of high-functioning professional learning communities (PLCs), the cultivation of inclusive school culture, and the implementation of comprehensive Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). Megan is a highly decorated educator, having received the 2023 Milken Educator Award, the 2024 Wyoming National Outstanding Assistant Principal honor, and the 2021 FCSD #1 Teacher of the Year award. Her influence extends statewide through her service as Vice President of the Wyoming Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals and her role on the Wyoming Superintendent's Supporting and Valuing Teachers Cabinet.



Laura Sloan - Fremont County School District #25

Laura Sloan is a third-grade educator in Riverton, Wyoming, with 11 years of dedicated service to the state's students. A distinguished leader in her school community, she was honored as the 2024 Fremont County School District #25 Teacher of the Year.

An Associate member of the Academy of Orton-Gillingham, Laura is a passionate advocate for the Science of Reading and its role in building foundational literacy. Her classroom practice is characterized by a creative, multisensory approach that extends across the curriculum, ensuring that instructional delivery is both engaging and accessible to all learners. Laura frequently shares her expertise with her peers, presenting on high-impact literacy components including vocabulary development, sentence structure, and phonics to support school-wide growth.



Abby Burch - Goshen County School District #1

Abby Burch is a veteran special education teacher at Lincoln Elementary in Torrington, Wyoming, with two decades of dedicated service to students with diverse learning needs. Her leadership and excellence in the classroom were formally recognized when she was named the 2021 Goshen County School District #1 Teacher of the Year.

Abby holds a Bachelor's degree in Elementary and Special Education from Fort Hays State University and a Master's degree in Literacy, grounding her practice in evidence-based instructional strategies and foundational literacy development.

Throughout her 20-year career, she has served in a variety of specialized roles within the field of special education, developing a deep expertise in supporting student growth across the continuum of service. A leader within her school and district, she actively contributes to numerous professional committees and serves as a mentor through the Wyoming Teacher Mentor Corp at the University of Wyoming, where she helps shape the next generation of educators.



Kara Hill - Goshen County School District #1

Kara Hill is a Business and Computer Science educator at Lingle-Fort Laramie Middle and High School, bringing 14 years of experience to the Goshen County School District. Her commitment to excellence in the classroom and her impact on the school community were formally recognized when she was named the 2022 Goshen County School District #1 Teacher of the Year.

A dedicated advocate for Career and Technical Education (CTE), Kara's professional interests center on the development of academic standards and the legislative processes that shape Wyoming's educational landscape. She is an active contributor to professional growth within the state, having co-facilitated a session on the National Board Certification process at the 2024 Level Up Summit in Thermopolis. Through her work, Kara focuses on equipping secondary students with the technical skills and business acumen necessary to thrive in an evolving workforce.



John Corbin - Johnson County School District #1

John Corbin is an Elementary Principal with Johnson County School District #1, bringing over 18 years of expertise in instructional leadership and classroom practice to his role. He holds a Bachelor's degree in History with a Secondary Education endorsement from the University of Northern Colorado and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Western Governors University.

In 2024, John was honored as the Wyoming State Teacher of the Year, a distinction that highlights his profound impact on the state's educational community. A recognized voice in curriculum and policy, he has presented at the national level on the "Semantics of Misinformation" at the National Social Studies Teachers Conference and contributed to the Governor's RIDE project regarding Competency-Based Education. Currently, John serves on the Wyoming State Social Studies Standards Review Committee, where he continues to influence the state's academic framework while leading his school community with a focus on rigorous, student-centered learning.



Jess Kavitz - Johnson County School District #1

Jessica Kavitz is a veteran Kindergarten teacher in Buffalo, Wyoming, with over 17 years of experience in early childhood education. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Reading Education from Eastern Washington University and a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Black Hills State University. In 2020, Jessica further distinguished her professional practice by becoming a National Board Certified Teacher.

Her dedication to excellence in the classroom was spotlighted in 2022 when she received the prestigious Milken Educator Award. Jessica is known for an innovative instructional style that prioritizes the "learning brain" by incorporating intentional movement and outdoor activities into her daily curriculum. By blending research-based pedagogy with active engagement, she creates a dynamic learning environment that fosters curiosity and foundational success for Wyoming's youngest students.



Rick Simineo - Laramie County School District #1

Rick Simineo is the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program Coordinator at Cheyenne East High School, bringing over two decades of expertise in secondary education to his leadership role. A National Board Certified Teacher, Rick previously spent 20 years in the secondary mathematics classroom and served as President of the Wyoming Council of Teachers of Mathematics (WCTM). His commitment to instructional excellence was formally recognized when he was named a 2023 PAEMST State Finalist.

In his current capacity, Rick oversees the rigorous IB curriculum, ensuring high-quality instruction and academic support for motivated learners. A prolific presenter, he has facilitated numerous workshops at the district and state levels, including recent sessions on "Playground Mathematics" (2025) and "Building Thinking Classrooms" (2022, 2025). Notably, Rick leverages his background as the Artistic Director for Ozymandian Theater to bridge STEM and the arts, presenting unique professional development on improvisation and team-building at conferences such as the Wyoming Educators of Secondary Theater and the Rocky Mountain Theater Association.



Paul Weatherford - Laramie County School District #1

Paul Weatherford has dedicated 12 years to inspiring students through the power of language and literature at South High School in Cheyenne. A prominent leader within his district, Paul was honored as the 2024 Laramie County School District #1 Teacher of the Year, a distinction reflecting his commitment to excellence in secondary English education.

Paul's instructional philosophy transforms the classroom into a space of intentional creativity, curiosity, and cultivation. He is an active contributor to the state's educational dialogue, recently presenting at the 2024 WDE Innovations Conference on leveraging passion and relevance to foster student engagement and build classroom community. Professionally, he is deeply interested in the study of international educational models—specifically those of Finland, Norway, and Sweden—and seeks to integrate their holistic, student-centered approaches into the Wyoming school system to improve long-term student outcomes.



Katie Wheeler - Laramie County School District #1

Katie Wheeler is an 8th-grade English educator at McCormick Junior High in Cheyenne, currently in her 20th year of teaching. A graduate of Iowa State University (BA) and the University of New Hampshire (MST), Katie has dedicated her entire two-decade career to the middle-level classroom. Her leadership and commitment to the profession were formally recognized when she was named the 2025 Laramie County School District #1 Teacher of the Year.

Throughout her career, Katie has remained focused on teacher sustainability and the cultivation of authentic classroom communities. An active and prolific member of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), she has presented at the national level for over a decade on topics ranging from "Policy, Advocacy, and Teacher Voices" (2016) to "Writing Prompts Worth Stealing" (2023). In 2025, she was featured in the NCTE Local Teacher Spotlight for her work on "Individualized Book Talks" and shared her expertise on "Building Classroom Community" at the Level Up Summit. Katie is dedicated to empowering student voices and enhancing success through innovative, "positively defiant" pedagogical approaches that challenge the status quo for the benefit of her students.



Becky Junge - Natrona County School District #1

Becky Junge is a 5th-grade Dual Language Immersion English teacher at Verda James Elementary in Natrona County School District #1, with over 14 years of experience in the field. A graduate of the University of Wyoming and Adams State University, she holds a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Disability Studies and a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction and Reading K-12. Since 2022, Becky has been a distinguished member of the Milken Educator Network and the Level Up Alumni program. A recognized expert in social-emotional learning, Becky has presented extensively at the district, state, and national levels on implementing

Conscious Discipline with older students. Her recent professional engagements include the 2025 Educator Empowerment Summit in Colorado and the NASSP Ignite Conference in Denver, where she led sessions on the K-12 SEL continuum. In addition to her work as a mentor for the Teachers of Promise Institute, Becky is currently focusing her research on the integration of Civil Discourse and civics within the elementary classroom, fostering the skills necessary for students to engage thoughtfully and effectively in their communities.



Ali Roberson - Natrona County School District #1

Alicyn (Ali) Roberson has served as a Science Teacher at Kelly Walsh High School in Casper, Wyoming, since 2013. Her leadership and excellence in the classroom were recently honored when she was named the 2025 Natrona County School District #1 Teacher of the Year.

Ali holds a Master of Chemistry from the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, and a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry with an emphasis in Secondary Education from the University of Northern Colorado. In her current role, she instructs juniors and seniors in Chemistry 1, Chemistry Advanced Studies, and Advanced Placement (AP) Chemistry. Her AP courses are offered through the Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), providing students with concurrent college credit. Ali is dedicated to creating a learning environment that champions 21st-century skills—specifically collaboration, growth mindset, and resiliency—preparing her students for the rigors of higher education and professional scientific inquiry.



Lisa Williams - Niobrara County School District #1

Lisa Williams is the Elementary Principal for the Wyoming Virtual Academy (WYVA), where she has been a foundational leader since 2011. Now in her 17th year in education, Lisa transitioned into her current administrative role in August 2020 following seven years of service as the elementary lead teacher and extensive experience teaching across the K-6 grade levels. Her leadership has been instrumental in the continued success of the Wyoming Virtual Academy, earning her recognition within Niobrara County School District #1 as a principal of the award-winning program.

Lisa holds a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Wyoming and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from the American College of Education, supplemented by a certificate in Early Childhood Education. A veteran of the virtual landscape, she presented on specialized virtual school instruction with AdvancED in 2018. This summer, she continues her commitment to professional collaboration as a featured presenter at TeacherCon, where she will share insights into high-impact digital pedagogy and school leadership.



Necole Hanks - Park County School District #1

Necole Hanks is a veteran STEM educator at Powell Middle School in Powell, Wyoming, with 20 years of experience in the classroom. A nationally recognized leader in her field, Necole is a recipient of the 2019 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST), the highest honor for STEM educators in the United States. Her excellence in the classroom and significant impact on her community were also recognized when she was named the 2018 Park County School District #1 Teacher of the Year.

Necole's teaching philosophy centers on empowering students to become "world changers" through a focus on hands-on learning, creative problem-solving, and rigorous scientific inquiry. She is known for engaging her students in dynamic, real-world projects and high-level competitive academic programs, including Genius Hour, Science Olympiad, Science Bowl, drone piloting, and MATHCOUNTS. Through these initiatives, she fosters a classroom culture that prioritizes student agency and prepares learners to address complex challenges through an innovative, scientific lens.



Darci Ostermiller - Park County School District #1

Darci Ostermiller is a distinguished educator at Westside Elementary in Park County School District #1, bringing 30 years of classroom expertise to her role. A specialist in early childhood development, Darci has dedicated the last two decades to the kindergarten level, where she has refined a high-impact approach to foundational learning. She holds a Master of Education from Lesley University.

Her leadership within the state is underscored by her recognition as the 2022 Park County School District #1 Teacher of the Year. Beyond her classroom, Darci serves as a vital voice in state-level educational policy and professional growth through her strategic appointments to the Wyoming Teacher Recruitment and Retention Task Force and the Wyoming Teacher Mentor Core. Through her committed advocacy and mentorship of fellow educators, Darci continues to influence Wyoming's educational landscape, ensuring a strong start for the state's youngest learners and a supportive environment for the teaching profession.



Alexis Barney - Sheridan County School District #1

Alexis Barney is the District Elementary Literacy Coach for Sheridan County School District #1, bringing 11 years of specialized expertise in elementary education and literacy to her role. A graduate of the University of Wyoming, she holds a B.A. in Elementary Education and an M.S. in Educational Psychology, and is currently a Doctoral (EdD) candidate in P-20 Education. Alexis is a National Board Certified Teacher and was honored as the 2021 Wyoming State Teacher of the Year.

In her coaching and leadership work, Alexis focuses on strengthening Tier 1 instructional coherence through disciplinary literacy and science vocabulary development. She is a dedicated advocate for teacher-centered leadership and trust-building within rural educational contexts, focusing specifically on job-embedded professional learning and assessment design that prioritizes proficiency over standardized testing. A prolific presenter, she has shared her insights at the Level Up Summit, CCIRA, and the University of Wyoming Fall Literacy Conference, most recently presenting "The Learning Hike" at the 2026 SCSD1 Building Day.



Amber Johnson - Sheridan County School District #1

Amber Johnson is a fourth-grade educator at Tongue River Elementary in Ranchester, Wyoming, with 18 years of experience in the elementary classroom. A leader in STEM education within Sheridan County School District #1, Amber was honored as a 2024 PAEMST State Finalist for her excellence in mathematics and science instruction.

Her teaching philosophy is rooted in a holistic approach to student growth, prioritizing the cognitive, emotional, social, and physical development of every learner alongside academic performance. Amber is a long-standing advocate for collaborative classroom environments, having presented on Kagan Cooperative Learning for multiple years. In her current practice, she focuses on the strategic integration of technology and the empowerment of fellow educators, ensuring that instructional design remains student-centered and responsive to the needs of the whole child.



Michelle Davis - Sheridan County School District #2

Michelle Davis is the Literacy Coordinator at Sagebrush Elementary in Sheridan County School District #2, bringing 16 years of specialized expertise in early childhood education and foundational reading to her leadership role. Her career is defined by a deep commitment to the primary classroom, having served as a Kindergarten teacher, 1st-grade teacher, and Reading Interventionist.

In 2023, Michelle's impact on her school community was formally recognized when she was named the Sheridan County School District #2 Teacher of the Year. She holds a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction with a literacy focus and is a National Board Certified Teacher, a distinction that underscores her mastery of evidence-based literacy instruction. A dedicated mentor, Michelle frequently facilitates professional development for new educators, leading K-5 literacy training and school-specific workshops designed to refine instructional delivery and improve student reading outcomes across the district.



Jonathan Broersma - Sheridan County School District #3

Jonathan Broersma is a multifaceted educator and technology advocate at Clearmont K-12 School in Sheridan County School District #3. Serving in a unique hybrid capacity, Jonathan is a 5th-grade teacher, the Assistant Director of Technology, and a member of the district steering committee. His leadership and commitment to excellence have earned him the District Teacher of the Year honors twice (2020 and 2024), as well as the 2025 Best of the Bighorns award for Best Teacher in Arvada-Clearmont.

Jonathan holds a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies with a Theater concentration from Fresno Pacific University and a Master of Science in Educational Leadership from Western Governors University, with endorsements as a K-12 Principal. As a professional speaker and presenter, he focuses on the intersection of school culture and innovation, specifically the effective and ethical use of artificial intelligence to enhance teaching practices. Grounded in a human-centered approach, Jonathan prioritizes strong relationships and student engagement to drive school improvement while remaining a passionate advocate for the integration of technology in rural education.



Lindsay Adam - Sublette County School District #1

Lindsay Adam has 16 years of experience teaching language in Wyoming. She has been teaching English to multilingual students for the past 11 years in Sublette County School District #1. Prior to that, she taught Spanish for five years in Big Piney and 1 year in Seattle, as well as English for one year in South Korea.

A graduate of the University of Washington, Seattle, with a Master of Arts in Teaching, Adam has been an active member of Level Up Alumni since its inception in 2022. She is a member of the WY ELL Educators group, has presented at the Statewide ELL Conference, is currently serving on the PTSB ELA/ELA endorsement subcommittee, and has also served on the State Superintendent's Teacher Recruitment and Retention task force. Adam has testified multiple times before the Joint Education Interim Committee, the Select Committee on School Finance Recalibration, the Wyoming State Board of Education, and the Wyoming Professional Teaching Standards Board on the topics of K-12 literacy, public school funding, and state assessment and accountability measures. She is currently focused on working with a PTSB subcommittee to explore ways for ELL students to have more time in their schedules for elective courses by allowing dual-credit for English and English Language Arts courses.



Weston Lamb-Costantino - Sweetwater County School District #1

Weston Lamb-Costantino is an elementary music educator at Stagecoach Elementary in Rock Springs, Wyoming, with over 13 years of experience in the classroom. His dedication to student engagement and instructional excellence was recognized when he was named the 2024 Sweetwater County School District #1 Teacher of the Year.

Weston holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from the University of Wyoming and a Master's degree in Instructional Design from Western Governors University. A Platinum-certified Whole Brain Teaching trainer, he is known for a high-energy, multisensory approach that prioritizes student-centered learning and inclusivity. Weston's practice is grounded in the belief that strong teacher-student relationships are the foundation of academic success, and he consistently leverages his background in instructional design to create a creative and thriving environment for every child in his music room.



Kodi Schwarz - Washakie County School District #2

Kodi Schwarz is a veteran Kindergarten teacher at Ten Sleep School in Washakie County School District #2, where she has dedicated over a decade to fostering a foundational love of learning in her rural community. Her commitment to excellence and leadership was formally recognized when she was named the 2021 Washakie County School District #2 Teacher of the Year.

Kodi holds a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction and is a member of the University of Wyoming Teacher Mentor Corps, where she helps guide and support the next generation of Wyoming educators. In addition to her work in the elementary classroom, she is an active leader in her school community as a high school track and field coach. By combining her instructional expertise with a passion for holistic student development, Kodi ensures her students have both a strong academic start and a supportive environment in which to thrive.



Zachary Beam - Weston County School District #1

Zachary Beam is a veteran science educator at Newcastle High School with 12 years of experience instructing physical science, physics, and advanced chemistry. He played a pivotal role in the development and implementation of the school's STEM Lab and makerspace, emphasizing a pedagogical approach centered on building, testing, and practical application. In recognition of his instructional leadership and contributions to the field, Zachary was named the 2023 Wyoming State Teacher of the Year.

Zachary holds degrees in math and science education from Black Hills State University and Western Governors University. His professional methodology is informed by his previous experience with the U.S. Forest Service Job Corps, fostering a commitment to experiential learning. An active contributor to professional discourse, he has presented at the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA) Conference, the Innovations Conference, and the Math and Science Teacher Conference, specializing in the implementation of field science and STEM curriculum within rural educational contexts.