



School Board Memo

Week of October 2, 2017

Director of Government Relations

WSBA is happy to announce that Ken Decaria has joined the WSBA team as Director of Government Relations. Ken will be very visible at legislative events around the state and during the session in Cheyenne. He can be reached at 307.634.1112 or ken@wsba-wy.org.

Call for Resolutions – Due Next Week

The **2017 WSBA Annual Delegate Assembly** will be held **Wednesday, November 15th** at the **Casper Ramkota Hotel**. At this meeting member school voting delegates will set WSBA Legislative and Position platforms for the 2018 and 2019 Legislative Session. If your board wishes to submit a resolution for consideration by the entire WSBA membership, it must be received at the WSBA Office on or before **Monday, October 9th**. Please click [here](#) for detailed information.

WSBA Awards – Due Next Week

Information has been distributed to school districts regarding the **WSBA Golden Bell Award** and the **WSBA Certificate of Commendation Award**. Nominations will be considered by the WSBA Board of Directors and nominations are due in the WSBA Office by **Monday, October 9th**. Please click [here](#) for nomination forms.

Second Quarter Economic Summary

A new edition of the Wyoming Economic Summary Report is now available. This quarterly publication highlights the State's economic conditions. The economic indicators that are discussed and graphically illustrated include employment by industry, income, housing, taxable sales, tourism, agriculture, and selected revenue. The current report highlights data for the second quarter of 2017 (2Q17). Please click [here](#) for report.

Rural Students Least Likely Group To Attend College

The [Hechinger Report](#) (9/27, Marcus, Krupnick) reports in a greater than 2,000-word article that US students least likely to attend college live in rural areas. According to the Report, fewer students from rural areas attend college than students in other locations not because “rural students aren’t academically prepared” – in fact, they often “score better on the National Assessment of Educational Progress than urban students and graduate from high school at a higher percentage than the national average, the U.S. Department of Education reports” – but rather due to “historic” factors as well as “regional economic competitiveness” and “widening political division.” Many students from small rural towns also face difficulty adjusting to large college settings, and as one policy expert commented, disdain for rural Americans “is the last acceptable prejudice in America.”

STEM Education Grants

The [AP](#) (9/25, Superville) reports that President Trump on Monday signed a memorandum directing Education Secretary Betsy DeVos to prioritize science and technology and to “spend at least \$200 million annually on competitive grants so schools can broaden access to computer science education in particular.” Speaking from the Oval Office, Trump said more than half of US high schools do not have computer programming courses and that more widespread access to such instruction would help equip students with the skills necessary to compete in the workforce.

Board Member Survey from NSBA

The National School Board Association is conducting a survey to gather information on how boards communicate and practice cybersecurity. They would love to get as much participation from Wyoming as possible. Please click [here](#) for survey. Thank you.

Wyoming First Lady’s Leader in Literacy Award

Any Wyoming citizen, organization, business or community may be a Wyoming First Lady’s Leader in Literacy Award nominee. Accomplishments that are noted should reflect substantial contributions made in Wyoming that exemplify a commitment to the literacy development of Wyoming citizens. This is the second year of the Leaders in Literacy Award. Previous Leaders in Literacy recipients will not be eligible for nomination, but nomination of previously unselected nominees is encouraged. Award winners will be announced at the Wyoming Business Alliance

meeting in November in Cheyenne. Recipients will receive a \$4000 award and a plaque recognizing the honor. Please click [here](#) for more information. Nominations are due no later than October 11, 2017.

UW ECHO in School Leadership

UW ECHO in School Leadership builds capacity, increases awareness of evidence-based, best practices and self-efficacy to establish effective mentoring platforms for school district superintendents and leaders to improve community, district and student outcomes. Learning topics for Fall 2017 include PLC topics and teacher collaboration topics. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Legislative Meetings

Select Committee on School Finance Recalibration will meet on October 12-13, 2017 in Casper. [Meeting Notice](#)

Joint Appropriations Committee will meet on October 27, 2017 at Wyoming Oil & Gas Commission in Casper. A formal meeting notice will be available at later date.

Select Committee on School Facilities will meet on October 30, 2017 at Casper College at 8:30 a.m. [Agenda](#)

News Articles

Does your district have news worthy of statewide interest? If so, please email your news articles to wsba@wsba-wy.org. The articles will be included in the next weekly WSBA Memo.

WSBA Partners

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