

APPENDIX 9: UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Overview

Wyoming established its University in 1887, as a land-grant institution. The University of Wyoming (UW) has almost 14,000 students, some 10,200 of whom are undergraduates. Most of UW's students (74 percent) are state residents.¹²⁷⁷ The state government has close ties with the University, which is the only university in the state. The main campus is in Laramie, and there is an additional campus at Casper.

The University of Wyoming's New Civics complex is still small. This Appendix describes:

1. Service, Leadership & Community Engagement;
2. New Civics Courses;
3. Honors Program
4. Study Abroad; and
5. Social Justice Research Center.

The University of Wyoming's New Civics complex is limited in extent—less than UNC's, significantly smaller than CSU's, and far more rudimentary than CU-Boulder's. **Service, Leadership & Community Engagement (SLCE)**, the New Civics' administrative kernel at UW, runs much of the New Civics complex, including its **service-learning classes**. Several **New Civics courses** are the kernels of future New Civics programs. **Alternative Breaks** transforms vacation time into New Civics sessions, **Study Abroad** provides opportunities to extend service-learning to semesters away from UW, and the New Civics extends into UW students' extracurricular life via programs that include the **Multicultural Student Leadership Initiative**, the **Rainbow Leadership Series**, and the **Good Mule Project**. The programs collectively work to make the New Civics present in significant portions of student life at UW.

The New Civics programs at UW extend the New Civics throughout UW, both inside and outside the classroom. They are limited in extent, not yet as pervasive as at CU-Boulder, CSU, or UNC.

¹²⁷⁷ University of Wyoming, UW Quick Facts. <http://www.uwyo.edu/profiles/extras/quick-facts.html>.



Service, Leadership & Community Engagement (SLCE)

SERVICE, LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (SLCE): OVERVIEW

The University of Wyoming’s Office of Service, Leadership & Community Engagement (SLCE), operating out of the Wyoming Union (Division of Student Affairs), coordinates volunteering, service-learning, and community engagement at the University.¹²⁷⁸ We will describe:

1. Street Team;
2. Service;
3. Leadership;
4. Community Engagement;
5. Service Learning; and
6. Resources.

SERVICE, LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (SLCE): STREET TEAM

The Street Team consists of students volunteering to work for SLCE itself—assisting at events, doing committee work, doing public relations, and planning. Two internships at SLCE are available each semester. Street Team students receive “a Street Team baseball t-shirt, a 500 ml Nalgene water bottle, portable phone charger, Street Team pull-over sweatshirt and potential internship credit!”¹²⁷⁹

SERVICE, LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (SLCE): SERVICE

SLCE’s Service includes Alternative Breaks, The Big Event, Community Volunteering, National Days of Service, and Volunteer of the Year Award.

¹²⁷⁸ University of Wyoming, Wyoming Union (Division of Student Affairs), “Service, Leadership & Community Engagement,” <http://www.uwyo.edu/union/slce/>.

¹²⁷⁹ University of Wyoming, Wyoming Union (Division of Student Affairs), “Join the SLCE Street Team,” <http://www.uwyo.edu/union/slce/street-team/index.html>.



SERVICE, LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (SLCE): SERVICE: ALTERNATIVE BREAKS

UW also works with the national Alternative Breaks Program. The Summer 2016 trip “will focus on environmental sustainability, education and maintenance of Glacier National Park, with stops in Jackson, WY and Yellowstone National Park. We will also be camping and exploring nature!” At the University of Wyoming, the program is advertised as providing “a sharpened sense of civic duty.”¹²⁸⁰

SERVICE, LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (SLCE): SERVICE: THE BIG EVENT

Students spend three hours one day each year doing service work around Laramie: “raking, painting, window washing, yard work and much more.”¹²⁸¹

SERVICE, LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (SLCE): SERVICE: COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING

SLCE coordinates student volunteering with local organizations, which do not appear to be screened for progressive affiliations. Organizations include Black Dog Animal Rescue, University of Wyoming Art Museum, St. Lawrence School, Special Olympics of Wyoming, Albany County Public Library, Salvation Army Food Pantry, American Red Cross of Wyoming, Biodiversity Conservation Alliance, Laramie Reproductive Health (which does not provide abortions), and Hospice of Laramie.¹²⁸²

SERVICE, LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (SLCE): SERVICE: NATIONAL DAYS OF SERVICE

SLCE facilitates four dedicated volunteering days a year: Martin Luther King Jr. Day (January 19), Earth Day (April 22), 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance (September 11), and Make A Difference Day (October 24). On MLK Day, “We will have multiple stations that Students will be able to do different service activities such as making blankets to give to the hospital or SAFE Project, making scarves to give to Interfaith Good Samaritan, making coffee sleeves with inspirational quotes that local coffee shops will use, and various other activities. We will also be partnering with WASA (Wyoming African Student Association) to incorporate African Heritage.” On Earth Day, students recycle used goods at the Earth Day Rummage Swap, do Bike Safety Inspections and Minor Repairs, participate in an Upcycling (=creating something useful from recycled goods) Competition, and help out on City Cleanup on the streets of Laramie. On 9/11, students take part in a Flag Ceremony, a Memorial Stair Climb at the War Memorial Stadium, and “The Good Deed

¹²⁸⁰ University of Wyoming, Wyoming Union (Division of Student Affairs), “Alternative Breaks,” <http://www.uwyo.edu/union/slce/service/ab.html>.

¹²⁸¹ University of Wyoming, Wyoming Union (Division of Student Affairs), “The Big Event,” <http://www.uwyo.edu/union/slce/service/the-big-event.html>.

¹²⁸² University of Wyoming, Wyoming Union (Division of Student Affairs), “Community Volunteering,” <http://www.uwyo.edu/union/slce/service/community-volunteering.html>.



Challenge”—a commitment to perform some act of service. On Make a Difference Day, students dress up in costumes and take part in a food drive for canned goods.¹²⁸³

SERVICE, LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (SLCE): SERVICE: VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

“The Volunteer of the Year Award was established to recognize a student who has exemplified the spirit of volunteerism and service within the campus or the community.”¹²⁸⁴

SERVICE, LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (SLCE): LEADERSHIP

SLCE’s Leadership includes First Year Institute, Leadership Courses, Multicultural Student Leadership Institute, Rainbow Leadership Series, and Women’s Leadership Program. Leadership programs appear as intellectually null at UW as at any other university.

SERVICE, LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (SLCE): LEADERSHIP: FIRST YEAR INSTITUTE

Freshmen spend a free weekend away from Laramie in September “to learn more about themselves as leaders, the vast involvement opportunities at UW, and meet other first-year students at UW.”¹²⁸⁵

SERVICE, LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (SLCE): LEADERSHIP: LEADERSHIP COURSES

Students can take *CNSL 3010 Student Leadership Strategies*: “Students will develop and practice the leadership skills they need to make a difference in their lives and the lives of others.”¹²⁸⁶

SERVICE, LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (SLCE): LEADERSHIP: MULTICULTURAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

The Multicultural Student Leadership Initiative (MSLI) “is an involvement opportunity for students who support diversity and want to make a difference during their time at UW. MSLI is dedicated to supporting students in their first year on campus by developing their leadership skills and building a supportive social network through mentoring. MSLI promotes an environment where students can prepare for future leadership roles in campus organizations while also enhancing their overall

1283 University of Wyoming, Wyoming Union (Division of Student Affairs), “National Days of Service,” <http://www.uwyo.edu/union/slce/service/national-days-service.html>.

1284 University of Wyoming, Wyoming Union (Division of Student Affairs), “Volunteer of the Year Award,” http://www.uwyo.edu/union/slce/service/volunteer_oftheyear2016.html.

1285 University of Wyoming, Wyoming Union (Division of Student Affairs), “First Year Institute,” <http://www.uwyo.edu/union/slce/leadership/fyi.html>.

1286 University of Wyoming, Wyoming Union (Division of Student Affairs), “Leadership Courses,” <http://www.uwyo.edu/union/slce/leadership/leadership-courses.html>.

academic success.” MSLI includes Mentoring and Leadership Development, the latter of which includes “leadership development workshops and special community building activities.” It is unclear if this is more than a retention program for minority students.¹²⁸⁷

SERVICE, LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (SLCE): LEADERSHIP: RAINBOW LEADERSHIP SERIES

The Rainbow Leadership Series (RLS) coordinates the community organizing of gay (=“LGBTQ”) students by way of “leadership development opportunities.” The RLS calls on participating students to *commit to involvement in one of the opportunities on campus; better understand the role collaboration plays in social change; develop an individual call to action, encouraging others to collaborate in their cause; find a common leadership purpose with other participants in the series; and take part in a leadership activity that promotes social change.*

The RLS awards a Rainbow Leadership Award each year to honor “one student, one faculty/staff member, and one community member for their leadership on LGBTQ issues.” There does not appear to be cash or other goods and services associated with the award.¹²⁸⁸

SERVICE, LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (SLCE): LEADERSHIP: WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Women’s Leadership Program appears to consist entirely of a one-weekend Women’s Leadership Conference. Participants “meet each other and engage in rich dialogue” before they switch over to “dynamic educational programming.”¹²⁸⁹

SERVICE, LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (SLCE): COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SLCE’s Community Engagement includes Alternative Breaks (discussed above), Community Volunteering (discussed above), and Community Engaged Scholars (for which the webpage is empty).¹²⁹⁰ We discuss below the remaining two programs: the Good Mule Project and Pokes Vote.

1287 University of Wyoming, Wyoming Union (Division of Student Affairs), “Multicultural Student Leadership Initiative,” <http://www.uwyo.edu/union/slce/leadership/msli.html> ; University of Wyoming, Multicultural Affairs, “Multicultural Student Leadership Initiative (MSLI),” <http://www.uwyo.edu/oma/msli/>.

1288 University of Wyoming, Wyoming Union (Division of Student Affairs), “Rainbow Leadership Series,” <http://www.uwyo.edu/union/slce/leadership/rainbow-leadership.html>.

1289 University of Wyoming, Wyoming Union (Division of Student Affairs), “Women’s Leadership,” <http://www.uwyo.edu/union/slce/leadership/womensleadership.html>.

1290 University of Wyoming, Wyoming Union (Division of Student Affairs), “Community Engaged Scholars,” <http://www.uwyo.edu/union/slce/community-engagement/community-engaged-scholars.html>.

SERVICE, LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (SLCE): COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: THE GOOD MULE PROJECT

The Good Mule Project (GMP) is a conference promoting progressive advocacy and activism: “a student-led initiative at the University of Wyoming fostering a community of dialogue and action around issues of multiculturalism and diversity through the lens of social justice activism.” At one Toolbox Workshop, participants learn “**Lobbying!** Melanie Vigil is the Graduate Assistant for Community Engagement in the SLCE Office. Having a strong passion for LGBT advocacy, Melanie has lobbied, testified, and organized for important LGBT legislation both in the State of Wyoming and on a national level.” Ms. Vigil instructs participants “how to be an effective social justice advocate by learning how to write strategic letters/emails to elected officials, how to testify, and how to navigate difficult conversations with adversaries.” A second Toolbox Workshop is run by “LeeAnn Grapes[, who] is the Executive Director of the Laramie-based nonprofit Forward Wyoming. Forward Wyoming’s mission is to advocate for a better, stronger, and fairer state for all, and to give young people the tools they need to make a positive impact in their communities via grassroots organizing.” Ms. Grapes “co-founded Forward Wyoming [in 2014] to increase civic participation and voter turnout. She organized a successful ‘commit to vote’ campaign that produced over 1,000 pledges from community members, and her internship program, the Grassroots Institute, has educated more than 50 young people about effective activism.”

GMP Consciousness Workshops include *Identity Windows*, *Privilege*, *Roots and Shoots: Deconstructing the Cycle of Oppression*, and *Subordinate and Dominant Groups*.¹²⁹¹

SERVICE, LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (SLCE): COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: POKES VOTE

Pokes Votes registers students to vote, and follows up by bringing them to the voting booth.¹²⁹²

SERVICE, LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (SLCE): SERVICE LEARNING

SLCE’s Service-Learning provides Community Engagement Mini-Grant Awards, usually “between \$200 and \$700, [which] are available to fund the implementation of new community engagement or service-learning projects as well as the continuation of established projects in existing courses.” In 2010, eleven grants ranging from \$500 to \$1,500 were awarded to *Exploring Laramie’s Cultural and Natural History*; *Communities of Story Tellers*; *Partnering with the Community through Grant Writing*; *Campus Sustainability*; *The Keep Girls in School Project*; *Professional Writing in*

1291 University of Wyoming, Wyoming Union (Division of Student Affairs), “The Good Mule Project,” <http://www.uwyo.edu/union/slce/community-engagement/good-mule-project.html> ; University of Wyoming, Wyoming Union (Division of Student Affairs), “Keynote Speakers,” http://www.uwyo.edu/union/slce/community-engagement/speaker_bios.html#Good Mule Speakers.

1292 University of Wyoming, Wyoming Union (Division of Student Affairs), “Pokes Vote,” <http://www.uwyo.edu/union/slce/community-engagement/pokes-vote.html>.

the Community; Cultural Landscape Management on the Wind River Reservation; Pre-service Teachers as Resources to Families; Life Science Lessons for All; Emergency Preparedness at UW: Not Just an Academic Exercise; and Environmental Stewardship: First Year Experience.

SLCE also has worked with Colorado Campus Compact’s Engaged Faculty Institute (EFI), which provides “training and support for faculty who are currently, or hope to, implement service learning into their curriculum.” The EFI training program “provides an opportunity for cohorts of faculty and instructors to engage in dialogue about student-centered, experiential education that enhances classroom learning while addressing community needs. The seminar series is designed to introduce and provide best practices for service learning, and to guide participants as they integrate it into their classroom curriculum and pedagogy.”

SLCE now supports its own on-campus Engaged Faculty Learning Community: “SLCE and the Ellbogen Center for Teaching and Learning are teaming up to offer an exciting opportunity for 10 faculty members to participate in a faculty learning community (FLC) on service-learning.”¹²⁹³ The faculty participants do not appear to be recompensed, but they no longer have to travel to Colorado to learn how to incorporate service-learning into their courses.

SERVICE, LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (SLCE): RESOURCES

SLCE provides long lists of resources—organizations, conferences, awards, and professional development—for Students, Faculty, and Community Partners. These associate the University of Wyoming with the national programs that promote the New Civics—Campus Compact, The National Service Learning Conference, Mobilize.org, and so on.¹²⁹⁴

New Civics Courses

UW doesn’t itemize its service-learning or civic engagement courses, but several courses offered in Fall 2016 appear by their titles and descriptions to be exercises in New Civics. EDST 1101 *FYS: Citizen Factory* (24 students enrolled) introduces students “to active learning, inquiry of pressing issues, and individual and collaborative processing of ideas. Open to all, the course will appeal to any student with an interest in the public schools or schooling for democracy.”¹²⁹⁵

1293 University of Wyoming, Wyoming Union (Division of Student Affairs), “Service Learning,” <http://www.uwyo.edu/union/slce/community-engagement/service-learning.html>; University of Wyoming, Wyoming Union (Division of Student Affairs), “Community Engagement Mini-Grants,” http://www.uwyo.edu/union/slce/_files/community-engaged-scholars/community_engagement_mini-grant_2015_2016.pdf; University of Wyoming, News, “UW Faculty Members Awarded Service-Learning Project Grants,” <http://www.uwyo.edu/uw/news/2010/12/uw-faculty-members-awarded-service-learning-project-grants.html>.

1294 University of Wyoming, Wyoming Union (Division of Student Affairs), “Student Resources,” <http://www.uwyo.edu/union/slce/resources/student%20resources.html>; University of Wyoming, Wyoming Union (Division of Student Affairs), “Faculty/Staff Resources,” http://www.uwyo.edu/union/slce/resources/faculty_staff%20resources.html; University of Wyoming, Wyoming Union (Division of Student Affairs), “Community Partners Resources,” http://www.uwyo.edu/union/slce/resources/community_partners.html.

1295 University of Wyoming, Registrar, Fall 2016, “Educational Studies 766-3130,” http://www.uwyo.edu/registrar/class_schedules/fall2016/edst.html.



Citizen Factory presumably is the seed of a Public Achievement franchise at UW. CNSL 1101 *FYS: EPIC Leadership* (24 students enrolled) “is an innovative survey course providing students with a basic understanding of what it means to think and act like a leader no matter what their role is in an organization, group or community. It covers eighteen fundamental and timeless leadership principles that every effective leader should understand.”¹²⁹⁶ The Wyoming Leadership program offers the course CNSL 2000 *Intro to Student Leadership*.¹²⁹⁷ UWYO 3000 *Student Leadership in Supplemental Instruction* teaches students “peer leadership, best practices in supplemental instruction, and student reflection. Will strengthen leadership knowledge and skills and introduce effective methods for group facilitation and SI curriculum.”¹²⁹⁸ In Fall 2015, students could take UWYO 1101 *Ignite Your Passion: Creating Change Through Service and Action*, in which students provided “service in the local Laramie community,” acquired “a foundation for understanding the role of public scholarship, community engagement, and social action,” and learned to “examine and critique strategies for social and environmental change, while becoming familiar with the expectations and responsibilities for successful community engagement.”¹²⁹⁹

Such courses are the kernels for future New Civics programs. These four courses, for example, are framed to become the equivalent of CU-Boulder’s Public Achievement, INVST, Dialogues, and Leadership programs. UW’s New Civics advocates will build their bureaucratic infrastructure out of such classes.

New Civics classes at UW appear to be concentrated in the First Year Seminars¹³⁰⁰ and the University of Wyoming (UWYO)¹³⁰¹ classes. These programs should be taken to be components of the New Civics bureaucracy at UW.

Honors Program

UW’s Honors Program advertizes itself as providing “co-curricular opportunities,” “the breadth of knowledge needed by citizens,” and instruction in “how to become engaged citizens and to understand the ethnic and cultural diversity of America and the world.”¹³⁰² The 2014 External Review Report of the Honors Program also stated that “With the WHO [Wyoming Honors Organization]

1296 University of Wyoming, Registrar, Fall 2016, “Counselor Education 766-5649,” http://www.uwyo.edu/registrar/class_schedules/fall2016/cnsl.html.

1297 University of Wyoming, Service, Leadership, and Community Engagement, “Leadership Courses,” <http://www.uwyo.edu/union/slce/leadership/leadership-courses.html>.

1298 University of Wyoming, University Catalog, “University of Wyoming (UWYO),” http://www.uwyo.edu/registrar/university_catalog/uwyo.html#UWYO3000.

1299 University of Wyoming, “First-Year Seminar Fall 2015 Course Offerings,” http://www.uwyo.edu/cacs/_files/documents/fys%20fall%202015%20course%20descriptions.pdf.

1300 University of Wyoming, University Catalog, “First-year Seminars,” <http://www.uwyo.edu/unst/usp2015/fys-courses/#inline12>.

1301 University of Wyoming, University Catalog, “University of Wyoming (UWYO),” http://www.uwyo.edu/registrar/university_catalog/uwyo.html#UWYO3000.

1302 University of Wyoming, Office of the Registrar, “University Honors Program,” http://www.uwyo.edu/registrar/university_catalog/7mischnr.html.

community service activities and study abroad programs, the Honors Program has embraced the concept of participatory, experiential honors education. In addition, several honors courses incorporate hands-on, experiential elements.¹³⁰³ UW's Honor's Program has begun to integrate itself into the New Civics.

Study Abroad

UW's Study Abroad program includes a service-learning program in Kenya, which has been run out of UW-Casper since 2004.¹³⁰⁴ In the summer of 2016, the University offered the latest iteration of this service-learning study-abroad course, EDEL 4975/EDCI 5480: *International Cultural Immersion & Service Learning in Kenya*. Participating students "Help renovate Joy Children's Home, a residence and school to 210 children from very needy families. While there, you will interact with local families and cultures. Then you will make an impact during tree-planting activities in Karura Forest, an 'urban forest' and environmental jewel under threat from developers. By planting trees, you will stand in solidarity with Kenya's Green Belt Movement." The course syllabus added that students "will also examine ways in which the course will have influenced them as citizens of a "globalized" world."¹³⁰⁵

Previous service-learning study abroad classes in Kenya have included the 2013 Hillside Water Project (with some scholarships partly funded by the University of Wyoming's Dick and Lynne Cheney Study Abroad grant program),¹³⁰⁶ and the 2014 and 2015 Kenya Karati School Service Project.¹³⁰⁷

Social Justice Research Center

The University of Wyoming's Social Justice Research Center (SJRC) is not formally devoted to civics education, although its organizational rationale does include the claim that "that when any segment or community experiences injustice, democratic ideals are at risk. ... Social justice research attends to problems of oppression and generates strategies for working toward their resolution. " It is useful to look at it briefly, however, as a way of registering how much of what the University

1303 University of Wyoming, University of Wyoming Honors Program, "External Review Report, November 3-4, 2014," https://www.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs/_files/docs/honors_external_review-2014.pdf.

1304 University of Wyoming, Kenya Service Learning Study Abroad Summer 2015, "Kenya Service Learning Study Abroad Summer 2015," <http://www.uwyo.edu/edstudies/faculty-research-community-involvement/kenya-service-learning-study-abroad-summer-2015/>.

1305 University of Wyoming, International Studies: Kenya, "Summer 2016 Learning Through Service," <http://www.uwyo.edu/outreach/uwcasper/study-abroad-kenya/>; University of Wyoming, International Studies: Kenya, "2016 Kenya International Service Learning," http://www.uwyo.edu/outreach/uwcasper/_files/documents/2016-kenya-summary.docx; University of Wyoming, International Studies: Kenya, "2016 Kenya Summer Session Course Syllabus," http://www.uwyo.edu/outreach/uwcasper/_files/documents/2016_Kenya%20Syllabus.docx.

1306 University of Wyoming, News, "UW-Led Group Brings Water to Community in Kenya," <http://www.uwyo.edu/uw/news/2013/08/uw-led-group-brings-water-to-community-in-kenya.html>.

1307 University of Wyoming, College of Education, "Education faculty visit to Kenya continues existing projects, creates new international connections for UW students," <http://www.uwyo.edu/education/deans-office/college-news/2014/2014%20kenya%20trip.html>; University of Wyoming, Kenya Service Learning Study Abroad Summer 2015, "Kenya Service Learning Study Abroad Summer 2015," <http://www.uwyo.edu/edstudies/faculty-research-community-involvement/kenya-service-learning-study-abroad-summer-2015/>.

of Wyoming claims under its civics umbrella is also claimed by the SJRC as a means of forwarding social justice. The SJRC lists the Good Mule Project, the Office of Multicultural Affairs (which hosts the Multicultural Student Leadership Initiative), the Rainbow Resource Center (which hosts the Rainbow Leadership Series), and the Women's Center (which co-sponsors the Women's Leadership Conference).¹³⁰⁸ The University of Wyoming's organizational overlap registers the nationwide conflation of *civics* and *social justice*.

1308 University of Wyoming, Social Justice Research Center, "UW Organizations," <http://www.uwyo.edu/sjrc/uworganizations/index.html>; University of Wyoming, Social Justice Research Center, ["Home,"] <http://www.uwyo.edu/sjrc/index.html>; University of Wyoming, Social Justice Research Center, "What is Social Justice," <http://www.uwyo.edu/sjrc/whatisocialjustice/>.