

Boilerplate Op-Ed, WWDC

Many members of my community know me through my connection to **(name of business and what you do there, and/or other organizations you belong to/support - especially ones that have anything to do with work, workforce, etc.)**; you may not know that I'm also a proud member of the **Wyoming Workforce Development Council (WWDC)**, a Governor-appointed state workforce board that provides strategic direction and policy guidance to the state's one-stop workforce centers.

WWDC partners with the state workforce system to ensure it supports robust regional and state economies and produces a high-quality, self-sufficient workforce. It provides strategic direction and policy guidance for the workforce centers across Wyoming, uses federal funds to support industry sector strategies and career pathways, and provides grants to Wyoming entities and sector partnerships for workforce development.

Through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), DWS provides a number of opportunities to job seekers to help prepare them for a successful working career. These opportunities can include assessment of skill levels, aptitudes, abilities, interests, and service needs; work experience assistance; occupational skills training; on-the-job training; and training in high-demand, high-growth occupations that pay a self-sufficient wage.

Both the WWDC and DWS work together closely; while WWDC provides strategic direction and policy guidance to the Wyoming workforce centers, DWS administers the programs to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and services and to match employees with the skilled workers they need. This is done through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program.

The WWDC envisions a Wyoming where every employee and job seeker has an opportunity to secure purposeful and rewarding work, and where employers can access a prepared workforce to help grow the state's economy. This includes facilitating NextGen Sector Partnerships, where businesses take the lead on issues that face their industry sector. Government, education, and other institutions sit on the sidelines, ready to support businesses in their initiatives to solve sector-wide problems.

I'm proud of the work WWDC does for Wyoming, and I'm committed to doing my part. One of the things I appreciate most **about / about my time with WWDC is _____**. **(Here Board Member will insert a who/what/when/where/why testimonial about WWDC)**.

If you run into me at the market, at the library, at the next chamber meeting, come say hello. I'm passionate about my work with WWDC, and I'd love to tell you all about it. You can also learn more about our work by visiting our website at wyowdc.wyo.gov.

Need short by-line and photo of author.