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30 YEARS OF WIND ~ 10 YEARS OF ECHO

Wyoming Institute for Disabilities University of Wyoming

This year, the University of Wyoming (UW) celebrates 30 years of Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) and 10 years of ECHO. WIND is an academic unit in the college of Health Sciences and a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). WIND works to assist individuals with developmental and other disabilities, their families, professionals, and UW students through education, training, community services, and early intervention. As WIND celebrates its 30th anniversary, they want to hear your stories about the evolution and impact of the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities. If you want to share how WIND has impacted your work, visit <https://www.uwyo.edu/wind/30years/wind30index.html>.

To celebrate the 30th year anniversary, WIND will host educator, advocate, and filmmaker Jim Warne. Jim is a member of the Oglala Lakota (Sioux) Nation. Jim earned a BS from Arizona State University, a MS from San Diego State University, and was drafted by the Cincinnati Bengals. He acted in several movies and T.V. shows and wrote and produced an award winning documentary film. He wrote over \$50M in grants and contracts for various universities and Tribal Nations. In addition to owning his own business, Jim is the Community Engagement Director at the University of South Dakota Center for Disabilities and a USD Pediatrics Instructor. WIND will host a Community Evening Event on Monday, October 7th and a Film Screening with Jim E. Warne, M.S., on Tuesday, October 8th.



UPCOMING CONFERENCES

August 6-8, 2024

Peer Advocacy Conference **Peers United: Creating a Spark**

Best Western Downtown; Casper, WY

The keynote speaker this year is comedian and disability advocate Michael Beers. Conference topics will include disability history, power of grass-roots advocacy, self-exploration, sharing your story, leadership opportunities, and identifying your supports. There will also be fun activities like Advocacy through Art and a viewing of the movie Crip Camp. Registration is free for individuals with a disability and \$50 for government employees, service providers, and other professionals. Travel stipends may be available for individuals with a disability. Complete your registration online at <https://www.wilr.org/>.

September 18-20, 2024

Developmental Disabilities Conference

Red Lion Hotel and Conference Center; Cheyenne, WY

The WDDC is the largest developmental disability conference in the state of Wyoming and covers a variety of topics related to disabilities such as advocacy, employment, education, best practices, and other critical issues. The conference brings together a wide range of people and is a great opportunity to network, learn new things, and reconnect. Register online at <https://wgccd.wyo.gov/>.

September 21, 2024

PIC Annual Conference

Little America Hotel & Resort Conference Center; Cheyenne, WY

This exciting event is the perfect opportunity for parents, students, caretakers, and teachers, to connect, learn, and share experiences related to special education. With guest speaker, Kate Swenson, and interactive sessions, you'll gain valuable insights and practical tips to navigate the joys and challenges of parenting children from birth -- adulthood! Discover new resources, network with fellow parents, and leave feeling inspired and empowered. Registration is \$25 per person and is available online at <https://www.wpic.org/>.



Primary Election

Tuesday, August 20, 2024



Learn

Voting Access & Disability

July 23, 2024
10:30am - 12:00pm

- Voting as a Fundamental Right
- Know How to Vote in Wyoming
- Understand the Power of the Disability Vote
- Access & Overcoming Barriers to Voting

Offered by Wyoming Independent Living via Zoom. Register at <https://www.eventcreate.com/e/voting-access-disability>.

Get Help

P&A Voter Hotline

1-877-249-6167
August 20, 2024
7:00am — 7:00pm

- Hotline for Voters with Disabilities
- Free Assistance Available

Call Protection & Advocacy System, Inc. with questions about voter registration, accessibility, voting equipment, guardianship, or other issues that might affect your right to vote.



WHAT'S NEW

The **Wyoming Aging and Disability Resource Center** (ADRC) is a program of Wyoming 211 and is funded in part by the Wyoming Department of Family Services and the Wyoming Department of Health. Wyoming's ADRC is a one-stop call center providing information on local services for older adults, people with disabilities, and family caregivers in Wyoming.

The mission of the Wyoming ADRC is to empower older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers to successfully navigate their quality of life and independence with the tools and knowledge needed to choose the best path for themselves. Wyoming ADRC streamlines access to supports and services through a "No Wrong Door" system to ensure they receive the "right service at the right time." Whether individuals need to assess existing or anticipated long-term care needs, the friendly, professional staff will guide individuals through available options. Based on their needs, ADRC provides comprehensive information on public and private programs, service providers, health insurance options, and a wide range of community resources. Information and referral provided by ADRC navigators is free of charge to all Wyoming residents.

Services Available

Benefits

An ADRC navigator can assist with applying for and managing benefits. Navigators help adults who have questions and issues with benefits such as Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, Food Stamps and health insurance. They can also screen for eligibility and help apply for benefits if an individual is unable to do so on their own.

Options Counseling

ADRC Navigators also provide a person-centered, interactive, decision-support process that is more in depth than just providing a list of service providers or programs. Options Counseling may be offered to individuals who have:

- Limited ability to communicate
- Barriers advocating for yourself
- Limited support system
- Limited capacity to act on information provided
- New or advancing health conditions
- Life altering event or situation
- Significant changes in circumstances
- Limited financial resources to fund needed services

Information and Assistance

ADRC Navigators provide unbiased, objective information and assistance about a wide variety of topics.

Caregiver Support

Wyoming ADRC navigators are available to help explore options to meet current needs or create a plan for the future.

Resource Center

The Wyoming ADRC website is designed to help connect older adults and people with disabilities to a variety of helpful information and services. The easy-to-use search engine is based on type of service, location or keywords. The database of resources is unbiased, tailored specifically to Wyoming residents, and always growing.

Contact the ADRC

Live support is available M-Th 8-6 and F 8-5
Dial 211 or 307-757-0222 or 888-425-7138
Email adrcnavigator@wyoming211.org
Visit <https://adrcwyoming.org/>

What do *you* think?

Take WATR's Device Research Survey

WATR is Wyoming's Assistive Technology Act program and a resource for all assistive technology (AT) needs in Wyoming. AT may be a device or solution that enhances an individual's ability to live, play, or work independently. AT can take the form of a device, tool, or adaptation that supports a person when participating in everyday activities and settings.

WATR's Assistive Technology Device Loan Center offers a wide variety of AT for Wyoming residents interested in borrowing a device to meet the needs of communication, daily living, learning, vision or hearing. Loan periods are typically six weeks and offer individuals the opportunity to trial devices so they can make an informed decision prior to a purchase.

If you have borrowed from the WATR device loan program in the past or are new to the program, WATR is interested in learning what types of devices you might request from the loan program in the future; possibly devices that enhance accessibility and productivity like screen readers, adaptive keyboards, ergonomic mice or tools for education, daily living, mobility, vision, or hearing purposes. Please participate in the online device research survey to assist the WATR team in planning device purchases for the device loan program. Your input is incredibly valuable. To access the online survey, visit <https://redcap.uwyo.edu/surveys/?s=C78DWD4AKE9N8C3D>.

Source: <https://www.uwyo.edu/wind/watr/loans.html>

UW WIND AND ECHO

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UW's Project ECHO is a training and capacity building program intended to support inter-professional connection and best practice implementation across Wyoming. UW ECHO networks utilize social learning models to expand knowledge and skills. Each ECHO session includes presentations, live support for problems of practice, and collective virtual resource sharing. The focus is to build expertise on health, education, family, and disability service topics. The first UW ECHO in Assistive Technology session was held on March 21, 2014, and was the first ECHO program to translate the ECHO model (developed in 2003) from healthcare to education. Since that time UW ECHO has expanded its learning topics across education, health, family, and disability supports. If you are interested in sharing how ECHO has impacted your work, please visit <https://www.uwyo.edu/wind/echo/index.html> to submit your story.

Source: <https://www.uwyo.edu/wind/index.html>; <https://www.uwyo.edu/wind/echo/index.html>



MISSION STATEMENT

To establish, expand, protect, and enforce the human and civil rights of persons with disabilities through administrative, legal, and other appropriate remedies.

CONTACT US

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