

JOEL K. DVORAK, Ed.D.

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Personal Mission Statement

I live my life as a grower of people. In my family, community, and profession I seek to leave a legacy of love, learning, and leadership. My principles, clarity of purpose, and ability to see possibilities keep me grounded and balanced on my life's journey.

Professional Objective

As a leader, my goal is to build the systems and culture that ensure each learner reaches his or her potential and has many positive options at graduation.

Personal Qualifications

- A proven educational leader with integrity, energy, vision, passion, grace, trustworthy behavior, courage, and true competence.
- A student focused leader with a strong academic background, a clear understanding of teaching and learning, and the ability to build learning systems.
- A strong leader with a proven record of building high functioning teams that collaborate, are problem solvers, and make sound decisions.
- An articulate communicator with excellent interpersonal skills who can make and defend difficult decisions.
- A visionary leader who can build consensus and support for district goals that move the organization forward in a continuous improvement model.
- A motivational leader who has the passion and drive to inspire himself and others to excellence.
- A strategic planner with the skill to develop exemplary educational programs and focus district resources where they make the biggest difference for learners.
- An effective problem-solver who can work with all stakeholders to find innovative and functional solutions.
- A community leader that brings constituents together to build partnerships that make the educational community a strong partner in the greater community.

Education

- **Doctor of Education** **University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY** **2003**
Major: Educational Leadership
Dissertation: A Study of the Deterrent Effect of Random Drug Testing Student Athletes on the Drug Use of High School Students.
- **Masters of Arts** **University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY** **1993**
Major: Educational Administration
- **Bachelor of Science** **Mayville State College, Mayville, ND** **1980**
Major: Composite Science
Minors: Math and Coaching

Work History

- 2013 – present

Wyoming Department of Education, Cheyenne, Wyoming
Consultant: directed the UW-ECHO Projects in Educational Leadership and School Leadership; coached school boards, superintendents and principals on best practices in leadership; built and facilitated the Collaborative Council in the strategic planning and deployment of the Wyoming Statewide System of Support, designed and led the WDE Educational Leadership Network, Ed. Testing Services Rater
- 2017 – present

University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming
Teaching Professor and Director of the Wyoming Center for Educational Leadership (WyCEL): teach doctorate level courses in educational leadership; constitute and lead the WyCEL Advisory Committee; network educational leaders to share best practices.
- 2003-2013

Natrona County School District #1, Casper, Wyoming
Superintendent. Lead the district on a journey of systemic, continuous improvement and build a culture of excellence for all.
Associate Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment: Lead Natrona County Schools towards higher achievement for all students through school improvement planning, administrator professional development, assessment system design, and curriculum development.
- 1997-2003

Johnson County School District #1, Buffalo, Wyoming
Associate Superintendent: Director of curriculum, instruction, assessment, and federal programs; administrator of The Learning Center (alternative high school) and district crisis manager.
High School Principal: duties included evaluating all staff, leading school improvement, creating and leading community-wide juvenile justice committee.
- 1991-1997

Sheridan County School District #1, Ranchester, Wyoming
Big Horn Middle School/High School Principal: duties included evaluating all staff, district curriculum leadership.
Big Horn Schools K-12 Assistant Principal: duties included evaluating staff, coordinating K-12 programs.
- 1983-1991

Sheridan County School District #2, Sheridan, Wyoming
Teacher/coach: taught physics, chemistry, and biology; head boys' basketball coach, and head boys'/girls' tennis coach.
- 1981-1983

St. Mary's High School, Bismarck, North Dakota
Teacher/coach: taught physics, biology and math; head boys'/girls' tennis coach and asst. boys' basketball coach.
- 1980-1981

Lakeville High School, Lakeville, Minnesota
Teacher/coach: taught physics, biology, math; tennis coach.

Current Certifications

- Superintendent (Wyoming, North Dakota, Colorado)
- Principal K-12 (Wyoming, North Dakota, Colorado)
- Teacher of Biology, General Science, and Math (Wyoming)

Accomplishments

- Developed and Implemented Strategic Plan for the Statewide System of Support for Wyoming Department of Education (WDE);
- Formed the Wyoming Center for Ed. Leadership Advisory Council to lead WyCEL into the future;
- Developed and Implemented the Wyoming Educational Leadership Network for WDE;
- Built leadership coaching networks across Wyoming;
- Raised third-grade students' reading at/above grade level from 64% (2008) to 81% (2012);
- Raised state assessment results at all grade levels;
- Built and implemented a District Strategic Plan within a framework of continuous improvement;
- Implemented a Baldrige-based continuous improvement system to execute the strategic plan;
- Designed and began to implement an academy-based secondary learning framework;
- Secured over \$250 million from the Wyoming Legislature to build/renovate three high schools;
- Built and occupied six new schools by July 2013 (four elementary, one middle school, one K-8 school);
- Created and implemented new evaluation models for administrators, teachers, other certified and classified employees;
- Implemented a class size of seventeen students to one teacher in grades K-3;
- Implemented a District Data Review Process for every school K-12;
- Became \$1.2 million leaner in personnel at Central Services including two fewer Cabinet members;
- Cut the district's operational budget by approximately \$1.5 million each of the past three years;
- Successfully earned full District Accreditation through AdvancED;
- Led the planning, development, and implementation of a Body of Evidence Graduation System that met statutory requirements for graduation;
- Implemented a District Data Review Process to bring more accountability for results to every elementary, middle, and high school in the district;
- Created strong partnerships with Casper College and the University of Wyoming/Casper College through my work as the Executive Director of BOCES;
- Led the Wyoming Assessment Activities Consortium as its president as they developed rich hands-on assessments of state standards;
- Led the Data Informed District Initiative to improve the use of data to evaluate and strengthen the district instructional and operational processes, student achievement, and resource allocation;
- Expanded Summer School opportunities to grades K-8 to close the achievement gap for at-risk students.

Honors/Affiliations/Community Service

- Board Member: Joey's Foundation, 2014-2018
- Board Member: First United Methodist Church of Sheridan, Staff/Parish Relations Committee and Vitality Team, 2013-present; Member, 2013-present, 1992-1995
- Finalist: Wyoming Superintendent of the Year, 2011 and 2012
- Member: Rotary International, 2009-2013 and 1997-2003
- Team Captain: American Cancer Society Relay for Life, 2004
- Member: Casper Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, 2004-2008

Honors/Affiliations/Community Service (Continued)

- Executive Director: Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), 2004-2008
- Speaker: University of Wyoming College of Education Commencement, 2003
- Member: Casper Area Economic Development Alliance Board, 2003-2008
- President: Wyoming Assessment Activities Consortium, 2002-2008
- Member: Wyoming Leaders of Change Cadre, 2002-2008
- Volunteer Coach: Youth Traveling Basketball, 2001-2008
- President: Wyoming High School Activities Association Board 2000-2001, member since 1997
- Member: Wyoming Association of School Administrators, 2000-present
- Chairman: Cloud Peak School to Career Initiative, 1999-2001
- Volunteer: March of Dimes Walk America, 1999 and 1995-1997
- Chairman: Johnson County Juvenile Justice Committee, 1998-2003
- Volunteer: Meals on Wheels, 1997-2003
- Member: American Society for Curriculum Development (ASCD), 1991-present
- Member: National Association of Secondary Principals, 1991-2000
- Coach of the Year: Wyoming Tennis Coaches Association, 1990, 1987, 1986.

References

Mr. D. Stephen Degenfelder
Former Board Chairman
4491 Sunrise Drive
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(307) 262-9475 (c)

Mr. Kevin Mitchell, Executive Director
Wyoming Association of School Administrators
wasawyklm@gmail.com
(307) 272-5105 (c)

Mrs. Rita Walsh, Board Member
Natrona County School District #1
136 E. 15th Street
Casper, WY 82601
(307) 235-3587 (h)
(307) 262-8303 (c)

Mrs. Elizabeth Horsch, Board Member
Natrona County School District #1
4425 Coates Road
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(307) 235-5895 (h)
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Mr. Dave Applegate, Board Member
Natrona County School District #1
1360 Bretton Drive
Casper, WY 82609
(307) 684-7336 (h)

Mr. Steve Hopkins, Superintendent
Natrona County School District #1
970 N. Glenn Rd.
Casper, WY 82601
307-253-5200 (w)
307-262-6616 (c)

Mr. Mick Wiest, Teacher/PLC Coordinator
2014 Wyoming Teacher of the Year
Sheridan School District #2
Sheridan, WY 82801
(307) 461-7188 (c)

Mr. Walt Wilcox, President
Wyoming State Board of Education
970 N. Glenn Rd.
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