

*The 3rd Annual
Parent Leadership Training
Institute of Wyoming*

The Parent Leadership Training Institute of Wyoming is a civic leadership training course sponsored, in part, by the Wyoming Department of Health.

The PLTI enables parents to become leading advocates for children and change agents for the next generation.

The core values of the PLTI are respect, validation, and a belief that when the tools of democracy are understood, the public will actively engage in civic life.



*The Wyoming State
Capitol Building*



“The Star-Spangled Banner”—Charla Ricciardi, PLTI State Director

The Pledge of Allegiance—Mary Brown, Laramie County Facilitator

Blessing—The Wind River Indian Reservation

Welcome & Letters of Congratulations—Hot Springs County

Congressman Cynthia Lummis

Senator Mike Enzi

Katie Schum, Field Assistant to Senator Barrasso

Reflections from Graduates-

Ana Mosser, Hot Springs County Graduate

Sarah Chapman, Laramie County Graduate

Patrick Harris, Wind River Indian Reservation Graduate

A Leader’s Journey: What One Parent Can Do—Cassie Norskog,

Hot Springs County Graduate

Laramie County Guest Speaker—Crystal Stratton, Communication Instructor,

Laramie County Community College

Wind River Indian Reservation Guest Speaker—Sergio A. Maldonado, Sr.,

Diversity Coordinator/Instructor, Central Wyoming College

Guest Speaker—Wyoming Senate President, Senator Jim Anderson

Presentation of Certificates & Gift—Charla Ricciardi, PLTI State Director;

Anne Siebert, PLTI State Coordinator

Final Remarks & Special Thanks—Lee Clabots, Deputy Director, Wyoming

Department of Health

Benediction—Chuck Griffin, Executive Pastor, Restoration Fellowship

International.

A reception will directly follow the ceremony in the Capitol Hall.

Please join the parent leaders as they celebrate their accomplishment!

family members who have passed on. We all have children and grandchildren and we want to have a safe, fun place to play. This park is a dream to be fulfilled by those who live here, our children will be actively involved in upkeep, teaching them respect and responsibility.

Dee Williams—I am organizing groups of volunteers to assist elders in the community with needs such as cleaning their yard, preparing meals, etc.

The PLTI of Wyoming is located in the following sites across Wyoming:

The PLTI of Hot Springs County

Carol Pickett, Site Coordinator

Email: cpickett@wyoming.com

The PLTI of Laramie County

Dawn Hamilton, Assistant Site Coordinator

Email: dawnm_hamilton@yahoo.com

The PLTI of the Wind River Indian Reservation

Reinette Tendore & Adrienne Vetter, Site Coordinators

Email: windriverplti@gmail.com

To Contact the PLTI of Wyoming:

Charla Ricciardi, PLTI State Director

307.777.3733, charla.ricciardi@wyo.gov

Anne Siebert, PLTI State Coordinator.

307.777.6474, anne.siebert@wyo.gov

PLTI 2012 Graduates Community Projects

Clarisse Harris—Baskets of Goodness for You and Me Through being the volunteer site coordinator for Bountiful Baskets Co-op and having a site drop, I want to increase Native American families access to fresh fruits and vegetables as a major part of a balanced diet.

Lucy Harris—My project is focused on ways I can help parents and extended family feel welcomed at the Arapahoe elementary school.

Pat Harris—Warriors - little braves I feel the need for a structured learning base for the boys in our community. We as Native Americans have a history of being independent individuals but have grown away from inner strength and caring, which is viewed today as being weak. I have a son who is being taught it is good to care and love everything. The following are all important: having respect for others and their things and space, learning self-worth, not always looking to what the other person has and wanting it, being accepting of the differences in people and ways of life, and having the courage to speak up when wronged or seeing something wrong being done. I am working to create a Warrior Camp group which will focus on these values. All participants must have an adult as a partner for support and assistance with any projects or activities. This is a family based project.

J. Donn Little—Grandfathers: Tell Me the Sacredness of Life This community project will address and meet the needs of generations. We will bring together young men who are questioning their purpose in life as well as seeking their identity in relation to Mother Earth, their culture, heritage, traditions and customary lifeways. Grandfathers from each community will meet with young and teenage boys between the fourth and eighth grades at the schools and give presentations on topics such as: purpose in life, identity as tribal people, goals, positive life ways, Native language, ceremony, music, and roles.

Sara Robinson—Rez Ball Camp 2012 Rez Ball Camp 2012 are one-day basketball skill/drill camps in our small communities. The camp is designed to focus on young people in the community. Age groups invited to the camp are young people going into grades 4-6 and grades 7-9. A camp may be requested that works with younger players or high school aged players.

Lynette St. Clair—Zah Nah vain - Zah nih soon gund! Looking Good, Feeling Good! The Power of Mind, Body, and Spirit Women are the backbone of their families and in fulfilling that role they must shoulder the burden of the familial unit. In many instances, women are so busy taking care of others, they fail to take care of themselves. I will coordinate an event that will highlight the role of women as caregivers and afford them the opportunity to unwind, refresh, and recharge. The day will be spent with presenters

Mary Shakespeare—The Aura in Which Brings Back the Old Charm of Beadworking One quiet afternoon of beading in a small group to regain the charm of years back, whether it be stories, language or common sharing.

Billie Spoonhunter—Red Crow Community Memorial Park -- A Safe, Fun Place This is a project which has very deep emotional ties to community and

Hot Springs County

Lisa Blakesley—Advancing Nutrition Now A significant personal health challenge has inspired me to plan a course of action that incorporates nutritional steps that can also benefit our youth. The goals are: to obtain and maintain desirable behaviors; improve undesirable behaviors and in turn, their effects; impact established health challenges; and aid in the prevention of potential health issues.

Candice Correa—Community Mural Project My project is to beautify the town of Thermopolis. I will accomplish this by: recruiting young and experienced artists, seeking additional support and resources, painting a mural on a prominent wall within the town limits. Through this we will bring the community together as well as create pride and unity.

Amber Galovich—Changing Myself CAN Change My Community My project is to educate myself on local, state, and national levels. I believe through my increased knowledge I will become more involved. One person can make a big difference when they choose to become more informed.

Nancy Jensen—Preserving Thermopolis History for Our Children I am preserving our area's informative historical markers which depict Thermopolis' important and informative points of interest. I will update billboards, add benches, trees, monuments, and restore current historical markers.

Ana Mosser—Gifted Kid Awareness: Understanding Their Perspective

The main goal of this project is to promote and increase the understanding of gifted and talented kids, their needs, and how to support their learning among public and private school communities in Hot Springs County and around the state. I have founded the "Enrichment Support Association" for our parents and community. I am fundraising an amount of \$13,000 to cover the costs of the speakers' presentations and the purchase of books.

Cassie Norskog—Recycling Coalition My community project is to help increase the available recycling opportunities in our community. I have developed a pamphlet and brought together area businesses to support recycling efforts at a 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament.

Jan Olshaiser—Give Me Space to Grow and Learn My project is obtaining electricity in a storage unit and two car garage for the Children's Resource Center. The garage will be used for an extended motor skills room for children ranging from 3-5 years old. Movement is an important part of all development.

Phil Scheel—Short Term Childcare Network The Network will increase parent awareness of services currently being provided by trained babysitters, and to connect those parents seeking babysitting services with people who are trained to provide childcare. PLTI has given me the tools to accomplish this goal.

Jody White—Ignite a Passion for Music I am passionate about music and want to encourage our youth to utilize music as an outlet.

Karen Wedor—Court Appointed Child Advocate (CASA) I would like to begin the process of bringing CASA to Hot Springs County. I believe if more children and families could be involved in CASA our county would have an increased success rate with at risk children and families.

Call Whitaker—Single Dads in the Community My project is to form a single fathers support group. I have seen a number of single fathers who need a support program that is tailored to their needs. I believe with a support group single fathers and their children can thrive together!

Laramie County

Theresa Bellflower—Going from Monolingual to Bilingual: Total French Immersion School In today's world the languages of business are: English, Mandarin Chinese, French, and Arabic. Once a child learns one language, it is easier for him/her to learn additional languages, making them more marketable by the time he/she graduates high school. I am working to begin an Immersion School in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Sarah Chapman—Every Minute Counts I believe that education is the only viable path to success for our children. When compared to other education systems around the world, the United States education continues to fall below that of similar nations. While there are many reasons for this I feel that a first step is to make sure school time is education time. Children need to have a dedicated percentage of their school day devoted to instruction.

JJ Calton—CheyWYDrive With strategic marketing the Cheyenne Transit Authority can not only increase the number of riders but increase money brought into the Authority through advertising on and in the busses. I am researching ways to make the Cheyenne bus system more user friendly.

Rich Calton—CheyWYLook We live in a day and age when we have tamed the lightning (electricity) to communicate and store vast amounts of information. Yet many people don't have access to computers and the internet Hence we still need and will use printed ink and paper to share information about local resources.

Jason Delo—Employment Law for Employees Based on years of my experience in fielding labor law questions this project centers on the premise that employees and those about to enter the workforce are unfamiliar with the legal landscape regarding employment in Wyoming. When an employee understands Labor laws an employee can attain better financial results for themselves, their children, and generations to come. The ultimate hope of the project is to generate greater interest in the laws affecting employees in the State so employees can become their own advocates for change in the workplace.

Rose Hawthorne—Lights and Walks with Ease I have experienced Allison Road and the difficulties it provides for pedestrians and vehicles, especially when the road has been affected by precipitation and its effects. I feel that my project of obtaining lights along Allison Road will make it safe for everyone to walk without worrying about injuries from passing vehicles.

Tiffany Kailey—Foster Care Support Picnic I am working with foster families to host a picnic this summer. Food and activities will be provided to foster rela-

tionships between and among foster families. I wish to bring together families to provide an outlet for ongoing support to each other.

Ruth Keller—Bond with Me Baby! Teenage parents need a lot of support! They do not need someone to parent for them; they need someone to teach them how to be a parent. Parenting starts with a secure parent child attachment. I will be providing a curriculum to help young parents learn how to bond with their children.

Angela Milatzo-Reiff—Words Hurt I am someone who is always looking for new ways to make the world a better place for kids. It saddens me to see our children committing suicide over things that can be prevented. Therefore I am starting a teen anti-bullying social group. It will be a safe and fun way for teens in the community to learn skills, make new friends, and be part of a *No Name Calling Week Initiative*. I want to let our kids know they play a big role in our community, and have people who genuinely care!

Lindsey Power—Bradley's Group As a mom of a child with Dyslexia I found there weren't any real resources in our community for children with Dyslexia. I decided to create a resource that was fun and educational. Bradley's Group will meet on Mondays starting September 10th from 6 to 7pm at First Christian Church. We will do activities and play games that are fun and educational. It is free of charge.

Kay Thomas—Sewing with Grandma I wish to teach youngsters how to sew on a button, how to read a pattern, and maybe make their own clothing. I feel this is an essential lost art among younger generations. Our younger generations can gain basic essential skills at the same time they develop pride in a simple, completed project! I will hold six classes at the Laramie County Library beginning on May 8, 2012.

Mercedes Tolle—Movie Madness: Sensory Safe Films for Families with Special Needs The purpose of my project is to create an opportunity for children and families with special needs to relax and have fun without any guilt or pressure to be something they are not. I would like to let them know that they are a valued community asset, and include them as much as possible within the community. I am working to establish, with the local theatres, movie showings that would offer a suitable atmosphere of acceptance (For example dimmed lights or a lower volume) for children who are otherwise unable to enjoy a regular movie showing.

The Wind River Indian Reservation

Lori Brown—Cancer Awareness Pow-wow Gathering Honoring Our People The theme will be "Dancing and Drumming in Honor of Cancer Survivors." I have decided to honor both male and female survivors of all types of cancer, that way no one is left out. We will gather for three days - which will include social dancing, honor songs, and a feast.

Cassandra Burnett—I am going to volunteer with a group who is forming to address positive opportunities and activities for our youth in our community.