



**Wyoming  
Hospital  
Association**

# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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## WHA Calendar:

<b>WHA CEO/ Trustee Spring Meeting Casper, WY</b>	5/19
<b>LeadingAge Wyoming Spring Meeting Casper, WY</b>	5/17- 5/18

## Other Events:

<b>HortySpringer Educational Opportunity Cody, WY</b>	4/20- 4/21
<b>AHA Annual Meeting Washington DC</b>	5/7- 5/10

## WWAMI School Ranks No. 1 in the Nation

The University of Washington School of Medicine (UWSOM) and Wyoming WWAMI announced the medical school again ranks No. 1 in the nation for primary care education in the U.S. News & World Report 'Best Graduate Schools,' 2018 edition.

This is the 23rd time in the 24 years of the U.S. News ranking category that it has held the No. 1 primary care position.

Additionally, both family medicine and rural medicine training continue with a No. 1 ranking for the 26th consecutive year. Other notable national rankings for UWSOM programs include No. 5 for pediatrics (children's healthcare), tied at No. 6 for internal medicine (adolescent through adult healthcare), No. 7 for geriatrics (elder healthcare), and No. 8 for drug and alcohol abuse training.

"We are so proud that the UW School of Medicine has retained its number one rankings in primary care, family medicine and rural medicine education," said Marivern Easton, Assistant Program Director, Wyoming WWAMI. "This honor speaks to the quality, expertise and commitment of the University of Wyoming faculty, our staff and students, and our talented

clinical partners throughout Wyoming.

The 20-year partnership between the University of Wyoming and the UW School of Medicine, and the support of our state legislators has contributed to the success of Wyoming WWAMI, and benefits the 20 first-year medical students who begin their training here each fall."

Wyoming WWAMI has 24 required clerkships (clinical training sites for 3rd and 4th year medical students) in 12 communities across the state, including Buffalo, Casper, Cheyenne, Cody, Douglas, Gillette, Jackson, Lander, Powell, Rock Springs, Sheridan, and Torrington.

In 2014 Wyoming joined UWSOM's Targeted Rural Underserved Track (TRUST) program which admits students with a specific interest in rural and underserved care, and matches them to rural communities where they participate in tailored curricular activities during all four years of medical school. TRUST communities in Wyoming include Douglas, Lander and Powell.

"The opportunity for Wyoming students to return to Wyoming during their 3rd and 4th years for clinical training with Wyoming physicians is the unique aspect of

the WWAMI program that has helped get graduates of the Wyoming program to return to the state to practice," said Larry E Kirven, MD, Assistant Clinical Dean for the Wyoming WWAMI program.

"Our unique partnerships with the states of Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho (WWAMI), established decades ago, provide varied and well-rounded clinical experiences for our students. Our partnerships are integral to our ongoing success," said Suzanne Allen, M.D., Vice Dean for Academic, Rural and Regional Affairs. "Our goal, through the WWAMI program, is to help provide our partner states with the physician workforce they need to meet the needs of their communities."

The UW School of Medicine serves as the only public allopathic medical school in Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho through its WWAMI program which provides medical education across the five-state region. The WWAMI program is a key element in UWSOM's nationally recognized success in teaching rural medicine, family medicine and primary care.



Alan Daugherty

*Don't forget to send us a story about your hospital so we can feature you in our Member Spotlight section!*



Nicole Hobbs

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## WPH Earns Pioneer Award for Prevention Efforts

West Park Hospital (WPH) in Cody has been given the Pioneer Award during the Governors Symposium on Suicide Awareness.

WPH is the first Wyoming hospital to mandate suicide prevention training for its entire staff.

Ashley Trudo, WPH Marketing and Public Relations Manager helped spearhead the process by training to become a QPR (Question,

Persuade, and Refer) trainer for suicide prevention.

She then led several mandatory trainings on the subject for WPH staff. The hour training helps people identify the warning signs of a suicide and how to respond.

“We had all the staff trained in a few months and still do the training through orientation for new employees,” she said. “We trained well over 800 employees.”

With training completed, Trudo said the hospital is focused on the next step in the process, which is sending a team to learn more about the Zero Suicide Initiative. The program provides a specific set of strategies and tools for suicide prevention in health and behavioral health care systems.



## Alan Daugherty Named CEO of SageWest Health Care

SageWest Health Care has announced that Alan Daugherty has been named the new chief executive officer (CEO) of the two-hospital system, effective April 3.

Daugherty most recently served as CEO of Parkview Regional Hospital (PRH) and Ennis Regional Medical Center (ERMC), two LifePoint Health facilities in east Texas.

“Alan is a proven lead-

er who has significant experience transforming and operating multi-hospital systems,” said Robert Klein, president of LifePoint’s Western Group, of which SageWest is a part.

“Throughout his tenure with LifePoint, he has proven his commitment to delivering high-quality, safe care close to home for the communities we serve, and I know that he will bring these attributes and so many more to the Riverton and

Lander communities.”

“Our board has been so impressed with Alan – particularly his depth of experience, attention to quality care, dedication to ensuring patient and physician satisfaction, and commitment to community,” said Mike Jones, chair of SageWest Health Care’s Board of Trustees. “We are confident that he is the right leader to fill this important role and help guide our health system forward.”

## JCHC Hires New Administrator

Johnson County Healthcare Center (JCHC) has hired a new administrator to take the place of long time administrator, Sandy Ward, who is retiring this spring.

The board of Trustees of the Johnson County Hospital District offered the position to Nicole A.

Hobbs, from Cody, Wyoming.

Nicole comes to Buffalo from West Park Hospital District where she is currently the Physician Services Officer. She manages 10 physician clinic departments and oversees an annual budget of 9.7 million dollars.

She has her MBA from Oregon State University, and has worked in healthcare management since 2010. Her outside interests include hiking, hunting and fishing.

Nicole and her husband are excited to move to Buffalo and begin the transition to leading JCHC into the future.