



## CAEDA DIRECTIONS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

### Welcome Incubator Director DeAnna Adams

CAEDA has selected DeAnna Adams as the Director of the Casper Area Business Innovation Center (Innovation Center). Prior to her move to Casper, Ms. Adams was Director of the Mississippi e-Business Innovation Center, a high technology incubator in Jackson, Mississippi. She comes to the Casper project with a wealth of experience, knowledge, and ideas. The highly competitive selection process for a director began last fall with 37 applicants.

"We were very impressed with DeAnna's organizational skills, professional accomplishments and passion for incubators in general," said CAEDA Board Member Tim Kugler, who was involved with the hiring committee for the position. "We are so happy to have DeAnna here," said Laura Driscoll, Dean of Continuing Education & Community Partnerships, while introducing DeAnna to the media, CAEDA investors and others involved with the incubator project at a press conference on March 11, 2010.

DeAnna was a small business owner for over twenty years before she began working with incubators in 2003. She guided the growing Mississippi e-Business Innovation Center, located at the Jackson State University e-Center, through a million dollar, 30,000 square foot renovation. Since that incubator's inception, graduates of the program have created more than 500 jobs in their community. In addition, she has worked closely with four other incubator programs in Mississippi to help them become viable.

Throughout her career, DeAnna has received numerous awards, including being recognized as one of Mississippi's Fifty Leading Business Women and Waldoff's Department Store Woman of the Year. She worked with the Boys and Girls Club of America and the Bootstrap Program at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, which is a program to mentor at-risk youth. DeAnna is also



*DeAnna Adams*

highly involved with the National Business Incubator Association. She holds an Incubator Professionals Certificate from that organization, as well as being on the Board of Directors (see story on page 8).

DeAnna will be taking an active role in the planning and design of the facility, but stressed the importance of building relationships. "The key to a successful incubator and growing businesses is people. We need to build partnerships and to reach out to the community and let them know we are here to help." She added that a

certain educational level is not necessarily needed to succeed in business. "I've worked with everyone from GEDs to PhDs and it has more to do with passion than a degree."

When asked where she expected to find the entrepreneurs to fill the incubator, Ms. Adams responded, "When entrepreneurs become aware that there is a place where they can find the encouragement, resources, training, and office space they need to start and grow their businesses, they will find us!"

Ms. Adams also stated that the Casper area was ripe with possibilities for new start-ups; including medical devices and software from the medical community, partnerships between the robotics program and the manufacturing plants, new products and tools for the oil industry, designing new computer games, alternative energies including geothermal, wind, solar and infinite other possibilities. "I like to visit with people who have worked in an industry for a long period of time," stated Ms. Adams. "They are the ones who usually have an idea about how to do it better and come up with improved devices for their industry. On the other hand, students are wonderful entrepreneurs. They do not have any preconceived ideas how something should work. It is great fun to be involved with the entrepreneurial sector."

## CAEDA Supports the One Cent Campaign



*One Cent Campaign Coordinator Laura Daigle & Evansville Mayor Phil Hines.*

Recognizing the importance of the optional one cent tax to Natrona County's economic development, the CAEDA Board of Directors recently passed a resolution to support the One Cent Campaign.

"The One Cent is critical to the economic well-being of our community," said CAEDA board member Jim Porter. "Therefore we felt it was imperative to support the campaign efforts."

Through job creation, infrastructure improvements, public safety and vital community services, the One Cent is essential to economic development; helping to create an attractive climate for business growth, relocation and expansion. Funds from this tax go to supporting water bills, sewer treatment improvements, street improvements, snow removal, police and fire vehicles and much more. One Cent funds are used for capital improvement projects, but not day-to-day expenses like employee salaries.

The optional One Cent general purpose tax was put into effect in 1974, with the last vote being in 2006. "This One's for Us - Vote Yes" is the slogan

of the campaign and explains in a nutshell that all of the One Cent tax collected remains in the area. On the other hand, of the 4 cent statewide sales tax, only 1.2 cents returns to Natrona County. It is a vital funding source for every community in Natrona County, providing a substantial economic impact on the region. In 2008 over \$22 million was collected and redistributed throughout the county; Bar Nunn, Evansville, Mills, Midwest, Edgerton, Casper and Natrona County share the One Cent revenue based on population. Both residents and visitors who purchase a taxable item in Natrona County pay this tax.



*John Griffith of Groathouse Construction and Michelle Larsen at the One Cent event.*

Throughout the summer, CAEDA will be teaming up with the Casper Chamber of Commerce and others to spread the word about the benefits of the tax. A "One Cent Kick-Off" event was held at Jonah Bank on Tuesday, April 27th. Several speakers, including Evansville Mayor Phil Hines & campaign coordinator Laura Daigle, highlighted the various benefits of the One Cent for the local community. For additional information, please visit [www.onecentprocess.com](http://www.onecentprocess.com).

## CAEDA Board Update

Mr. Bill Sullivan retired from the CAEDA board earlier this year, but he continues to be active in the community and is serving on the Airport board. Mayor Bill Brauer and Chamber President Milt Green have recently joined the board, replacing their outgoing predecessors, Kenyne Schlager and Keith Cottam respectively.

A special thanks to Bill, Kenyne & Keith for their service to CAEDA!



## Eleutian Comes to Casper

Wyoming based Eleutian Technology recently announced the opening of a new teaching facility in Casper. The company selected the Granite Peak Business Center at McMurry Business Park for its operations and held an official grand-opening event in June.

Eleutian provides online language instruction for international businesses and educational institutions, primarily located in Korea, Japan, and China. The worldwide demand for English instruction is strong and Eleutian is working to meet this growing need through their software and innovative technology. Using interactive video conferencing, teachers here in Wyoming work directly with students in Asia in either one-on-one or in group settings.



*The ribbon cutting ceremony at the Eleutian Grand Opening.*

This spring, CAEDA worked with the Eleutian staff to find potential locations in the area for their new center. CAEDA also supported Eleutian's Pre-Hire Economic Development Grant application with the Department of Workforce Services. Thanks to the grant, Casper College and Eleutian have now partnered to provide free training to teaching candidates. Those who successfully complete the program receive a certificate of completion and qualify for two credits towards teacher recertification in the state of Wyoming, as well as being eligible for hire by Eleutian.

The Casper teaching center will begin with 120 employees, but will eventually expand to 200.



*Eleutian will be located in the Granite Peak Business Center.*

Approximately one quarter of the staff in Casper will be full time, and the company says it has been pleased with the caliber of applicants it has received so far. According to CEO Kent Holiday, "We're really excited about Casper... we've seen a great response to our advertising here." This will be the company's largest teaching center to date. Successful candidates for teaching positions with Eleutian must be current or retired certified K-12 teachers, college instructors or substitute teachers; they also need to be native English speakers and Wyoming residents. In addition to teaching credentials, Eleutian's instructors are required to complete a rigorous 33-hour training program that focuses on Asian culture and English as a second language before they begin teaching Eleutian's curriculum.



*Bob Jensen, CEO of the Wyoming Business Council located in Cheyenne, WY speaks at the Grand Opening.*

Other Eleutian facilities can be found in Ten Sleep, Powell, Lovell, Cody, Basin, Worland, Sheridan, and Dubois. The company is considering Rock Springs, Cheyenne and Laramie as future expansion locations. In addition to opening its Casper center, the company is in the process of constructing a new corporate headquarters facility in Cody. Eleutian was founded in 2006 and has grown steadily since its inception.

# CAEDA - Forward Casper Investors

## **Government Sector & Other Partners**

Casper Area Chamber of Commerce – [www.casperwyoming.org](http://www.casperwyoming.org)  
Casper Workforce Center – [www.wyomingworkforce.org](http://www.wyomingworkforce.org)  
City of Casper – [www.casperwy.gov](http://www.casperwy.gov)  
Natrona County – [www.natrona.net](http://www.natrona.net)  
Town of Evansville – [www.townofevansville.org](http://www.townofevansville.org)  
Town of Mills – [www.millswy.com](http://www.millswy.com)  
Wyoming Business Council – [www.wyomingbusiness.org](http://www.wyomingbusiness.org)  
Wyoming Contractor's Assn. – [www.wyomingcontractors.org](http://www.wyomingcontractors.org)

## **Energy/Mining**

Alpha Development – (307) 234.8925  
Black Hills Bentonite – [www.BHBentonite.com](http://www.BHBentonite.com)  
SST Energy Corporation – [www.sstenergy.com](http://www.sstenergy.com)  
Wold Oil Properties, Inc. – [www.woldoil.com](http://www.woldoil.com)

## **Construction**

71 Construction – [www.71construction.com](http://www.71construction.com)  
Casper Building Systems – (307) 235.5690  
Groathouse Construction – [www.groathouse.com](http://www.groathouse.com)  
Haselden Constructors – [www.haselden.com](http://www.haselden.com)  
McMurry Construction – [www.wnmcmurry.com](http://www.wnmcmurry.com)  
Pope Construction – (307) 472.3241

## **Manufacturing**

Automation & Electronics – [www.autoelect.com](http://www.autoelect.com)  
Enerflex/Toromont Energy – [www.toromontsystems.com](http://www.toromontsystems.com)  
EXCAL, Inc. – [www.excal-inc.com](http://www.excal-inc.com)  
Fabrication Technologies, Inc. – [www.fabtechinc.net](http://www.fabtechinc.net)  
J W Williams – [www.jwwilliams-flint.com](http://www.jwwilliams-flint.com)  
McMurry Ready Mix – [www.mcmurryreadymix.com](http://www.mcmurryreadymix.com)  
Pepper Tank & Contracting – [www.peppertank.com](http://www.peppertank.com)  
WESTECH/WOTCO – [www.wstch.com](http://www.wstch.com)

## **Retail/ Wholesale / Contracting**

Bailey's Plumbing & Heating – (307) 234.6568  
CK Mechanical – (307) 473.8448  
Crum Electric Supply – [www.crum.com](http://www.crum.com)  
Foss Toyota – [www.fossmotors.com](http://www.fossmotors.com)  
Greiner Ford Lincoln Mercury – [www.greinerford.com](http://www.greinerford.com)  
IKON Office Solutions – [www.ikon.com](http://www.ikon.com)  
Lathrop Equipment – [www.lathropequipment.com](http://www.lathropequipment.com)  
Michael's Fence – [www.michaelsfence.com](http://www.michaelsfence.com)  
Modern Electric – [www.modern-electric.com](http://www.modern-electric.com)  
Mountain States Lithographing – [www.mtstlitho.com](http://www.mtstlitho.com)  
Power Service, Inc. – [www.powerserviceinc.com](http://www.powerserviceinc.com)  
Wyoming Machinery – [www.wyomingcat.com](http://www.wyomingcat.com)  
Wyoming Steel & Recycling – [www.wysteel.com](http://www.wysteel.com)

## **Transportation**

C&Y Transportation – [www.c-ytransportation.com](http://www.c-ytransportation.com)  
Casper—Natrona County Int'l. Airport – [www.iflycasper.com](http://www.iflycasper.com)

## **Finance**

American National Bank – [www.anbbank.com](http://www.anbbank.com)

First Interstate Bank – [www.firstinterstatebank.com](http://www.firstinterstatebank.com)  
Hilltop National Bank – [www.HilltopNationalBank.com](http://www.HilltopNationalBank.com)  
Jonah Bank – [www.jonahbank.com](http://www.jonahbank.com)  
Merrill Lynch – [www.ml.com](http://www.ml.com)  
Platte Valley Bank – [www.pvbankwy.com](http://www.pvbankwy.com)  
Wells Fargo Bank – [www.wellsfargo.com](http://www.wellsfargo.com)

## **Health Care**

Casper Orthopedic Associates, P.C. – [www.wyoortho.com](http://www.wyoortho.com)  
Elkhorn Valley Rehabilitation Hospital – [evrh.ernesthealth.com](http://evrh.ernesthealth.com)  
Wyoming Medical Center – [www.wmcnet.org](http://www.wmcnet.org)

## **Real Estate**

BrokerOne – [www.broker1realestate.com](http://www.broker1realestate.com)  
Eastland Development – (307) 234.0583  
Granite Peak Development – [www.granitepeakdevelopmentllc.com](http://www.granitepeakdevelopmentllc.com)  
Phillips & Company – [www.phillips-company.com](http://www.phillips-company.com)  
Remax The Group – [www.wythegroup.com](http://www.wythegroup.com)

## **Professional Services**

American Title Agency – (307) 266.4672  
ARC Integrated Program Management - [www.arcimp.com](http://www.arcimp.com)  
Brown, Drew & Massey, LLP – [www.browndrew.com](http://www.browndrew.com)  
Bustard's Funeral Home – [www.bustardsfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.bustardsfuneraldirectors.com)  
Carpenter & Sons, Inc. – (307) 265.8895  
Elliott & Associates – (307) 234.2241  
Grooms & Harkins – [www.groomsandharkins.com](http://www.groomsandharkins.com)  
GSG Architecture – [www.gsgarchitecture.com](http://www.gsgarchitecture.com)  
Inberg-Miller – [www.inberg-miller.com](http://www.inberg-miller.com)  
Lenhart, Mason & Associates LLC – [www.wyocpa.com](http://www.wyocpa.com)  
Lincoln Financial Advisors – (307) 235.5822  
Lovelett, Skogen & Associates – [www.cpawyoming.com](http://www.cpawyoming.com)  
James W. "Tim" Monroe – (307) 234.3880  
Porter, Muirhead, Cornia & Howard, CPA – [www.pmch.com](http://www.pmch.com)  
SOS Staffing – [www.sosstaffing.com](http://www.sosstaffing.com)  
WLC – [www.wlcwyo.com](http://www.wlcwyo.com)  
World Wide Travel – [www.worldwidetvl.com](http://www.worldwidetvl.com)

## **Utilities**

Qwest – [www.qwest.com](http://www.qwest.com)  
Rocky Mountain Power – [www.rockymountainpower.net](http://www.rockymountainpower.net)  
SourceGas – [www.sourcegas.com](http://www.sourcegas.com)

## **Hospitality**

Casper Petroleum Club – [www.casperpetroleumclub.co](http://www.casperpetroleumclub.co)  
Timberline Hotel – [www.timberlinehotels.com](http://www.timberlinehotels.com)

## **Education**

Casper College – [www.caspercollege.edu](http://www.caspercollege.edu)  
Natrona County School District #1 – [www.natronaschools.org](http://www.natronaschools.org)

## **Media**

Casper Star-Tribune – [www.casperstartribune.net](http://www.casperstartribune.net)  
K2 Radio – [www.k2radio.com](http://www.k2radio.com)

## C/NCIA Applies to Expand Foreign Trade Zone

The Casper/Natrona County International Airport has submitted an application to the Foreign Trade Zone Board requesting authority to expand FTZ 157 to include land located adjacent to and northeast of the Airport to 6 Mile Road and Morgan Street. The proposed site includes land owned by Bishop Industrial Ranch, LLC,



*Wind turbine parts being unloaded at the Casper Logistics Hub, which would benefit from FTZ expansion.*

Casper Logistics Hub, and C/NCIA. The site will be used to provide logistics, warehousing, and distribution services to area businesses.

“Currently our FTZ is not being utilized. By expanding the zone to include the recent development around the Logistics Hub we expect the zone to become active,” stated Leah Henderson, Airport Projects and Programs Manager. Public comment is invited from interested parties. A copy of the application is available for public inspection at the Office of the Executive Secretary, Foreign Trade Zones Board, Room 2111, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230-0002, and in the “Reading Room” section of the Board’s website, which is accessible via [www.trade.gov/ftz](http://www.trade.gov/ftz). For information regarding Foreign Trade Zones and FTZ 157, visit the Airport’s website at [www.iflycasper.com](http://www.iflycasper.com).

## CAEDA Summer Quarterly Breakfast



*Lori Becker, Executive Director of the Casper Area Chamber of Commerce, speaks at the Quarterly Breakfast.*

CAEDA held its Summer Quarterly Breakfast on June 22, 2010. The guest speaker was Lori Becker, Executive Director of the Casper Area Chamber of Commerce. Becker spoke of how the Casper Area Chamber of Commerce aids our community through its five core goals. These goals include promoting the membership, promoting the community, creating a strong local business, representing business to the government, and providing networking opportunities.

She also reviewed the ways the Chamber helps to create a strong local economy - Casper Cash, the Business Challenge, the Business, Industry and Technology Expo, networking and training opportunities, and the One Cent Additional Tax Campaign.

After Becker spoke, Laura Daigle, the One Cent Campaign Coordinator, reviewed the campaign activities that will be taking place. In her presentation, she touched upon a few of the many programs and organizations that the One Cent Additional Tax has supported since it has been in existence.



*Laura Daigle discusses the One Cent Campaign.*

# NicFest 2010

CAEDA and the Chamber of Commerce joined forces to hand out balloons and information for the One Cent Tax Campaign. The

CAEDA Board of Directors and Staff would like to send out a special thank you for everyone who volunteered to man the booth!



- Terry Bay
- Lori Becker
- Keith Cottam
- Thomas Crawford
- Brandon & Laura Daigle
- Mindi Forsyth
- Milt Green
- Lisa Hubbard
- Tim Kugler
- Jennifer Langevin
- Michelle & Nick Larsen
- Jerry & Chris Lyons
- Tim & Joanne Monroe
- Tim Reed
- Kevin Sadler
- Karen Szewczyk
- Bob West



*Volunteers Joanne and Tim Monroe work as a team blowing up and tying balloons.*



# NicFest 2010



*Volunteer Keith Cottam makes a new friend while handing out balloons.*



*CAEDA Vice President of Economic Development Kim Rightmer hands out balloons.*



*Terry Bay, Senior Patient Advocate, stocks up on balloons.*



*One Cent Campaign Manager, Laura Daigle, and JoAnne & Tim Monroe man the booth.*

## DeAnna Adams Elected to Board of International Association

DeAnna Adams, Director of the Casper Area Business Innovation Center, has been elected to the board of directors of the National Business Incubation Association. Her three-year term begins October 1.

Business incubation programs like the Casper Area Business Innovation Center catalyze the process of starting and growing companies by providing entrepreneurs with the expertise, networks and tools they need to make their ventures successful. NBIA estimates that in 2005 alone, North American incubators assisted more than 27,000 start-up companies that provided full-time employment for more than 100,000 workers and generated annual revenue of more than \$17 billion. Ms. Adams' track record showed over five hundred jobs and a five million dollar economic impact resulting from the small business growth at the Mississippi e-Business Innovation Center during the immediate five years after construction was completed.

Adams has been an NBIA member since 2004 and has been a board member for one year, serving on the audit and membership committees and the publications task force. Based in Athens, Ohio, the National Business Incubation Association is the world's leading organization advancing business incubation and entrepreneurship and has member incubators located in sixty-six countries. Since 1985, NBIA has provided industry professionals with information, education, advocacy and networking resources to bring excellence to the process of assisting early-stage companies.

NBIA's board of directors, made up of representatives from leading business incubation programs from around the world, governs the organization. The group meets three times a year to discuss association business, including educational programming, finances, member recruitment/services and publications.

## CAEDA Introduces New Staff



*Noelle Wernsman*

Investor Relations and Communications staff member Noelle Wernsman recently joined the CAEDA team and has already proven herself to be a valuable asset to the office.

In June she received her Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Wyoming and is looking forward to being able to utilize her degree in this exciting field.

Noelle is delighted to be joining the CAEDA team, stating, "This is an amazing opportunity! I am so excited to be able to meet interesting people and learn more about the Casper community. I am really looking forward to all the new learning experiences this position will enable me to have!"

Karen Szewczyk is the newest member to join the CAEDA staff as the Administrative Manager. Karen has an Associate's Degree in Computer Science. Along with office administration, records management, and computer knowledge, she also possesses experience as a GIS Administrator, Project Manager, Project Design & Implementation Agent, and Grant Writer and Grant Administrator.

As assistant to the Wyoming Business Council regional director, Karen worked closely with CAEDA and found herself right at home

in her new position. "I am pleased to be included as part of the talented CAEDA staff and look forward to applying my past experience to aid with future Economic and Community Development in Casper and the surrounding areas."



*Karen Szewczyk*

## CAEDA's Robert Barnes is WEDA's President

The Wyoming Economic Development Association (WEDA) board election was held during the Association's recent Winter Economic Development Conference in Cheyenne. James Klessens of Forward Cody, and Bruce Brown, CPA, were elected by the general membership to serve on the WEDA Board of Directors. Effective immediately, they will both serve three-year terms, along with re-elected board members Robert Barnes of the Casper Area Economic Development Alliance and Randy Bruns of Cheyenne LEADS.



*Robert Barnes*

Robert Barnes was also elected President; Randy Bruns was elected Vice-President; and Leah Bruscino, WY Business Council North West Regional Director, was re-elected for a third term as Secretary-Treasurer. All will serve as part of the 13-member board of directors.

"This is an important time in Wyoming's economic cycle. Opportunities abound for businesses and communities who position themselves for growth and expansion. Communities must continue to invest in themselves in order to compete in our global economy. WEDA plays an important role in helping the State take advantage of opportunities through training, education, and building awareness.

Our members work every day delivering professional economic development services to our citizens." said Robert Barnes.

The following WEDA board members make up the remaining roster: Philippe Chino - Campbell County Economic Development Corporation; Linda Harris - North East Wyoming Economic Development Coalition (NEWEDC); and Craig Nelson - Rocky Mountain Power. Ex-officio members include Past-WEDA President Phil Christopherson, IDEA, Inc., Bob Jensen and Ben Avery, Wyoming Business Council;

Tim O'Donoghue, President - Wyoming Chamber of Commerce Executives; and Paula McCormick, WEDA Coordinator.

Established in 1985, WEDA is a non-profit professional association representing nearly 200 economic development members and organizations, in addition to thousands of Wyoming businesses, who support economic development through their local economic development groups. WEDA supports its members with the necessary tools used to create, retain and expand jobs; attract businesses, and develop a skilled workforce. For more information visit [www.wyomingeda.org](http://www.wyomingeda.org).

## Office Max Announces Closure

OfficeMax recently announced its Casper Call Center will be closing after more than a decade of operation. The closure is scheduled for July 30 and will impact 250 jobs. Workforce Services representatives said they plan to assist workers in finding new positions.

According to company spokesperson Jennifer Rook, "The decision to close the Casper Customer Contact Center was based on strategic considerations; including operating and infrastructure costs." Rook added, "This action is in no way a reflection of the performance of our Casper-based associates."

CAEDA helped to bring the business, then Boise Cascade Office Products, to Casper in the late 1990s. Due to a merger, the company became OfficeMax in 2004.



*Casper's OfficeMax Customer Service Call Center is located at 411 Landmark Drive.*

## Wind Energy in Wyoming



*Doug Mollet*

Wyoming has plenty of wind, but how to harness this variable power source can be a bit complicated. Doug Mollet and Leslie Blythe of Rocky Mountain Power explained the development

and economics of wind farms at the CAEDA Quarterly Breakfast on March 23, 2010. Doug is Director of Wind Operations and manages wind projects in 6 states. Leslie is the Customer & Community Manager, overseeing accounts throughout eastern Wyoming. Matt Golson, Director of Field Operations, also joined the team at the breakfast.

Unlike coal or oil products, wind is an unpredictable, variable, fuel source and cannot be stored away for future use. The wind is a by-product of solar heating and the resulting weather systems. "Studying weather patterns, local wind phenomena and storm tracks are critical to choosing wind farm locations," Doug explained. "If the wind velocity doubles, it increases power output by 8 times, so you can see finding the right spot is very important." Wind turbines operate between wind

speeds of 7-30mph and shut down at 60mph for safety.

Once a good site is located, many factors come into play before a wind farm can become a reality. All possible environmental impacts must be studied and mitigated. Doug cited one example where the team had to bait away the American Burying Beetle using frozen rats. "You encounter all sorts of interesting learning experiences in this line of work," he joked. Erosion control and reclamation are required for the environmental plan for each project.

Typically it takes 6-7 months for the construction of a wind farm. First the base of the tower is constructed with 335 yards/30 loads of concrete. It is 57ft. across and looks like a giant stop sign from the air.

Each wind tower comes in 3 sections, bolted from the inside. Each nacelle alone weights 51 tons. Once the sections are up, a worker takes 300 steps straight up the tower and secures the massive bolts from the inside. Another crew comes in and adjusts the blades so they are smooth and balanced. Once the GE turbine generator is up and running, the wind turbine is ready for operation.



*Leslie Blythe*

The construction phase presents some unique transportation and personnel challenges. Getting machinery and 9,000 truckloads of material to the farm can be tricky, as most locations are rather remote. Routing traffic through communities can be challenging, since oversized loads can cause big problems on smaller streets. Another issue is finding enough lodging and food for all the

construction personnel. At the project's peak, there are 350 people working on the site and this influx has a huge impact on nearby communities.

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There are also long term economic impacts of wind projects that continue after the construction of the project is finished. "There is one wind smith for every 8 turbines, plus management teams at each farm," said Leslie. "Besides keeping the turbines running, there are also on-going activities such as road maintenance, snow removal, pest control, that sort of thing." In addition, wind farms contribute to ongoing environmental studies and reclamation projects, generate lease income, and contribute to property taxes. In 2009 Rocky Mountain Power

paid \$3.2 million in Wyoming property taxes associated with wind generation projects, a 43% increase over the previous year according to Leslie.

Today Rocky Mountain Power has 9 company-owned and contracted wind generation sites in Wyoming. While transmission capacity out of the state continues to be an issue, things have come a long way in recent years. In fact, when Leslie & Alice Kraft (ARAJPB) worked on Wyoming's first wind project in the 1990s near Arlington, it took four years to complete! Projects are moving forward much more rapidly today.

## Wind Power 2010

In May, Dallas, TX hosted Windpower 2010, the largest wind conference and exhibition in the U.S. Organized by the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA). Sponsored by some of the biggest names in renewable energy, including GE Energy, Vestas, Gamesa, and Siemens, this show offered excellent opportunities to learn about the rapidly expanding wind industry.

It was estimated that more than 20,000 people attended the show. The exhibition consisted of approximately 1,400 displays by wind industry companies and businesses offering supporting services. Keynote speakers included former President George W. Bush and Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.).

Wyoming was again well represented at both the conference and exhibition. The Wyoming Business Council had a booth and a number of individuals from around the state helped man it.

For CAEDA, the wind turbine industry is a top economic development priority. Casper's manufacturing base is well suited to the industry – which offers extraordinary growth potential, job creation, industry diversification, and high wage levels.

Natrona County offers companies distinct advantages such as a strong, reliable source of wind, proximity to regional markets and supplies, available access to airport, rail and highway systems, and a skilled workforce.

Having a presence at Windpower 2010 enabled CAEDA to emphasize these benefits to a receptive target audience and learn more about an industry that will no doubt have a strong economic affect on Casper/Natrona County.



*Carol Stearns, Trade Show Coordinator for the Wyoming Business Council chats with a show attendee about the benefits of operating a business in Wyoming.*



*Jonathan W. Naughton, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Director of the Wind Energy Research Center at U.W. visits with Bob Jensen, Wyoming Business Council CEO.*



## Casper Area Economic Development Alliance, Inc.

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Casper WY 82601

[WWW.CASPERWORKS.BIZ](http://WWW.CASPERWORKS.BIZ)

## Casper College Hosts Construction Groundbreakings

*Special thanks to Lisa Icenogle, Casper College Information Coordinator, for the following photographs and information.*

Casper College celebrated three ground breaking ceremonies on Wednesday, May 5, 2010. Students, faculty, media and community members turned out to mark the official kick-off of the College's expansion projects.

The first ground breaking took place at the site of the new residence hall, which will house 450 students



*A group of Casper College students who live in the current residence halls broke ground at the location of the new facility while surrounded by guests.*

and replace the much smaller McIntire Hall. The Early Childhood Learning Center ground breaking followed; it will serve 54 children. Finally, Governor Dave Freudenthal broke ground at the Gateway Building, which will become a multipurpose campus hub, housing administration, workforce training, trades and technology classrooms and community education.



*Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal enjoyed working a backhoe as he broke the ground at the future location of the Gateway Building.*

*Photos by Matt Young, Casper College.*