

**CWC Faculty Association
Board of Trustees Report
January 2026**

Expedition Science/GIST:

BIOL 1080 Field Trip to Grand Teton National Park:

- Students in BIOL 1080 traveled to Grand Teton National Park to learn about land management, ecosystems, adaptations, and biodiversity. Along the trip we visited the Dubois Fish Hatchery, Big Horn Sheep Museum, Museum of Wildlife Art, and several locations along Togwotee Pass and in the National Park.



ATE Innovators Conference:

- Jacki & Mara traveled to DC for the ATE Innovators Conference. While there, we made connections with other GIS professors across the state and USA, and learned about how we can more effectively use our ATE grant to support our students.
- *Image - Jacki & Mara meet with Greg Smith (Professor of Archeology & GIS at Northwest College, WY).*



GIS Classes:

- In light of our ATE grant objectives, we are revising GIS curriculum to better match local industry needs & partners. A few classroom based projects students are working on this semester include:
 - Mapping partnership with WY PBS
 - More GIS curriculum that will support the Trail Building program
 - Continuation of ongoing research on alpine ecosystems and watersheds

Environmental GIST Program Updates:

- We have reinvigorated and brought back to life the Environmental GIST Program, which includes a Cert II, Cert I, & AAS degree which combine course work in physical, life, and geospatial sciences with the hands-on skills needed to work in an outdoor field. The goal of this program is to support students who are looking for a Cert or AAS degree that will help them gain employment in wildland firefighting, public lands management, avalanche forecasting, or other field based sciences.
 - This program involves more non-GIS science courses than our existing Expedition Science and GIS programs, and provides more hands-on training in outdoor/field skills than our existing GIS program.

Highlighting Student Work:

Bridget Willson: StoryMap showcasing Temperature Data collected in the summer
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b909881b5b124ba39eca1a5108d9bbf2>

Richie Kowalske: Project highlighting changes in the Wind River Glaciers over time:
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b8088483be834da5b42f224c0eb9b69f>

Mathematics:

AMATYC Conference

The CWC mathematics department (Mike Bostick, Kate Patterson, Melena Osborne, and Brian Shultz) attended the [American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges \(AMATYC\) 51st annual conference](https://amatyc.org/annual-conference) in Reno, NV, November 12-16, 2025. The conference provided a forum to discuss issues facing community college mathematics. The CWC math department connected with math faculty from other Wyoming community colleges (Casper, Gillette, Rock Springs, Torrington) to discuss statewide issues, and with math faculty from around the country to discuss national issues. Highlights include sessions about embedded tutoring, corequisite classes, AI in mathematics education, differentiated learning, technology in mathematics education, and alternative assessments. Special thanks to Student Affairs for providing funding to attend this conference.

Education and Research

Math faculty Mike Bostick graduated from the University of Wyoming with a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction: Mathematics Education in December 2025. He is accepted to present his dissertation research *Mathematics Momentum to Community College Calculus Success* at the [American Educational Research Association \(AERA\) national conference](#) in Los Angeles, CA, in April 2026. Congratulations Dr. Bostick!