



# Wyoming is the place to be

New WHRN director wants to recruit and support the best healthcare providers

BY CAROLINE HICKERSON, WYOMING HEALTH RESOURCES NETWORK EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR




One of my favorite sayings about Wyoming is that it is one big city with long roads. After spending a summer driving across the state meeting various stakeholders in clinics in every corner, nothing has felt more true. Throughout my travels I have met the most caring people devoted to helping their communities. It has been an absolute honor these last few months as the new director for the Wyoming Health Resources Network (WHRN) to ask, “What do you need and how can I help?” In five short months, WHRN has worked to place 18 healthcare professionals around the state, has hosted several networking events including a WWAMI dinner, a Nursing Day luncheon and a University of Wyoming family resident dinner. In response to feedback from stakeholders, WHRN has upgraded its website to list job opportunities as well as create a form for employers to list the openings they have. Another common request in my travels around the state was for assistance with grant applications and administration. In the near future, WHRN has hired a full-time grant writing specialist to help organizations around the state with their grant writing needs.

When I am not busy networking with professionals in the state, I am communicating with healthcare professionals around the country who have an interest in making Wyoming their home. Acting as an ambassador for Wyoming and promoting all that we have to offer is one of my favorite aspects of this position. I am able to draw on my experiences from growing up in Gillette, and from driving across the state to ski at resorts; White Pine, Hogadon, Grand Targhee, and Snowy Range. It didn’t hurt that I married a boy from Rock Springs who showed me the beauty of the Red Desert or that I worked for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department traveling back roads—like the one from Laramie to Douglas—that have absolutely breathtaking views. Knowing this state and all the gifts it has to offer is essential for someone working to recruit the best healthcare providers. Just recently I recruited a PA from Louisiana who emailed me after his drive across the state to tell me how much he loved seeing the speedgoats on his travels. I convinced him that Wyoming was the place to be and after meeting with the amazing people here in Wyoming, he knew it was too.

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It has been an incredible pleasure to step into this role and help increase the recruiting and retention efforts for healthcare professionals across Wyoming. Future projects for WHRN include a nationally advertised career fair located in Wyoming as well as increased outreach to promote healthcare careers with

eighth to 12th grade students across the state. I invite you to follow WHRN on Facebook or LinkedIn to hear our latest updates. Additionally, if I have not yet had the opportunity to meet you, please reach out or plan to meet me at any of the upcoming healthcare related conferences or events. I look forward to promoting our amazing state and being your partner in creating a healthier Wyoming. 



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