



## CAEDA Directions Economic Development Newsletter

### Local Banks Support Casper Incubator

Wells Fargo, First Interstate Bank, and Hilltop National Bank all announced financial contributions to the business incubator. The incubator will provide programs, facilities, and services to help start-up and early-stage companies grow and succeed.

Support for the Casper Area Business Innovation Center continues to grow and thanks to successful fundraising, the project has made great strides toward meeting its goal of \$10.5 million. First Interstate Bank pledged \$30,000 to the project, Wells Fargo and Hilltop National Bank each pledged \$25,000. Other contributors include the Wal-Mart Foundation, the Wyoming Business Council, the Amoco Reuse Agreement Joint Powers Board, the Economic Development Joint Powers Board, Casper College, and the Casper Area Economic Development Alliance (CAEDA). So far fund raising efforts have secured \$8.8 million.

Developing financially stable and successful companies will help to expand and diversify the local economy, create jobs, and keep ambitious, well-educated young people in

Wyoming by providing more dynamic employment opportunities. "It is vitally important that Casper has a competitive advantage for economic growth and stability," said Tim Kugler, president of Wells Fargo in Casper. "It is even more important in these times of economic decline and uncertainty. Incubators are proven to be a competitive advantage and this is the right project for Casper to implement for economic growth. Wells Fargo's involvement is about the economic health of Casper—as Casper thrives so will our business. We are proud to be an active supporter of the incubator project."



*Dr. Walter Nolte, President of Casper College, State Senator Kit Jennings and Natrona County Commissioner Matt Keating discuss the project at an Incubator Task Force meeting recently.*



Casper College and CAEDA jointly oversee the incubator project and both organizations are pleased with the local support they have received. "The support we have received for this project demonstrates the community's commitment to diversifying and strengthening the local economy. The Innovation Center is an investment in our future and having three local banks make this investment in these tough economic times is phenomenal," said Laura Driscoll, Dean of Continuing Education and Community Partnerships at Casper College. Mike Huston, President of First Interstate Bank in Casper, also emphasized that an incubator brings great potential to the community. "First Interstate is proud to support the Innovation Center, as it is an important vehicle to attract and grow small business. We applaud the efforts of CAEDA and Casper College for their encouragement of new entrepreneurs and for their commitment to the redevelopment of the Platte River Commons."

#### CAEDA's Staff

**Robert Barnes, CECD—President & CEO**

**Kimberlie Rightmer—Economic Development Coordinator**

**Jennifer Scott—Community Services Coordinator**

**CJ Swenson—Administrative Assistant**

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## Economic Forecast Luncheon Held in Casper

By Jennifer Scott, CAEDA

CAEDA's President, Robert Barnes, took part in the Wyoming Business Report's "Economic Forecast Luncheon" on February 19 at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Casper. Over 300 people turned out for the event. Dr. Brent Hathaway, Dean of the University of Wyoming College of Business served as event moderator. Other participating panelists were Dr. Robert Godby, Chair of the University of Wyoming Department of Economic and Finance; Buck McVeigh of the Wyoming Department of Administration and Information Economic Analysis Division; Mark Zaback, President of Jonah Bank; and Mick McMurry, President of Nerd Gas.

Robert discussed building a strong, sustainable economy for Casper. Sustainability is defined as finding and maintaining a consistent balance between economy, community and environment where "everyone benefits by being on the same team." Supporting innovation, building a high quality workforce and investing in infrastructure puts Casper in a position of competitive advantage to meet opportunities as they arise. Focusing on certain targeted industries, including energy, health care, materials handling, turbine manufacturing and creative media, will also help the community attain the right mix of businesses that can better weather economic ups-and-downs.

Other topics covered by the panel included national and state economic data, the health of Wyoming's banks, business challenges, and opportunities in the area. The national outlook is rather grim. "The theme for our times is how volatile things are," said Rob Godby while discussing the recent drop on Wall Street, the housing market, manufacturing, retail sales and employment. This recession is different because it has led to a decline in output and loss of jobs around the globe, and it will likely be felt for some time. Since consumer spending drives 72% of the total GDP in the US, an increase in consumer confidence is needed to help turn around the recession. The next 3 to 4 months are critical to recovery; either bringing a turnaround or a further decline.

Wyoming is in a much better position than many states because it is not facing a budget shortfall and is still enjoying a low unemployment rate according to Buck McVeigh of the Economic Analysis Division. However he warned that "Wyoming is not immune to the national recession." The mining and energy sectors are slowing down due to the collapse of the commodities market. This will certainly have a negative impact since 66% of Wyoming's revenues are generated by energy and mineral production. In addition, Wyoming has a relatively low proportion of jobs in education, health care, manufacturing, and professional business sectors and this could hinder the state when the national economy recovers. On a more positive note, the state's banks are in good shape, according to Mark Zaback "banks in Wyoming are well capitalized." Casper businessman Mick McMurry also reminded the audience that "there is hope...we have been through tough times in the past."

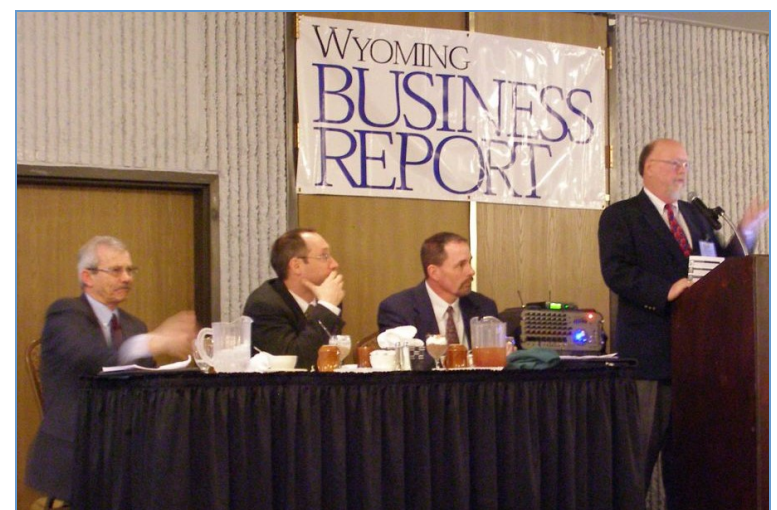


Mick McMurry speaking at luncheon,  
Buck McVeigh looks on.

Photo courtesy of Wyoming Business Report

ECONOMIC FORECASTS	
↓	<b>GDP growth</b> -2% in '09, contraction
↓	<b>Interest rates</b> Prime at 3.25% in '09, 10-year T-notes yielding 3%
↓	<b>Inflation</b> Declining in coming months
↑	<b>Unemployment</b> Rising to 9% in '09
↓	<b>Crude oil</b> <span style="float: right;">NEW</span> Averaging \$57/barrel in '09
↓	<b>Housing sales</b> <span style="float: right;">NEW</span> Declining until second half of '09
↓	<b>Retail sales growth</b> <span style="float: right;">NEW</span> A drop of over 1% in '09
↓	<b>Trade deficit</b> <span style="float: right;">NEW</span> \$450 billion, 3.2% of GDP in '09
Complete economic outlook at <a href="http://kiplingerbiz.com/outlooks">kiplingerbiz.com/outlooks</a>	

Statistic taken from *The Kiplinger Letter*—  
February 13, 2009 edition



Below: Dennis Curran (right) of the Wyoming Business Report introduces panelists (l to r) Mark Zaback, Rob Godby & Buck McVeigh.

Photo courtesy of Wyoming Business Report

## New Faces Join the CAEDA Team

By Jennifer Scott & CJ Swenson, CAEDA

The new CAEDA Executive Committee were announced at the January 9, 2009 board meeting. Dr. Walter Nolte, President of Casper College, will be Chairman for 2009. Named Vice Chairman was local business consultant, Tim Monroe. The Secretary position will be filled by Chris Lorenzen, Chief of Business Development at Wyoming Medical Center. Jim Porter, CPA and President of Porter, Muirhead, Cornia & Howard will serve as Treasurer. These new executive officers bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the positions.

Several other leaders have also joined the CAEDA team this year: Kenyne Schlager, Mayor - City of Casper; Keith Cottam, Casper Area Chamber of Commerce; and Bruce Brown, Wyoming Contractors Association McMurry Training Center. Departing board members were also recognized for their dedication and involvement over the last year. Past Chairman Nathan Bekke, Casper Star-Tribune; Kevin Saddler, Casper Area Chamber of Commerce; and Paul Bertoglio, City of Casper have completed their terms.

New Administrative Assistant CJ Swenson joined the CAEDA staff just prior to the holidays and has already proven himself a great asset to the office. A recent college graduate, CJ spent several years pondering human existence while at Seattle Pacific University where he studied Philosophy and Economics. While in Seattle, he put some of his learning to good use and gained valuable experience in office administration as the Chief Finance Officer for the Associated Students of Seattle Pacific.

CJ recently returned to Casper, his hometown, to rejoin family and friends. Often found visiting local coffee shops, CJ spends his time reading, writing and briefly bantering with the regulars. When he is not in the office or at a coffee shop, he is with family or friends doing what he does at the coffee shop. CJ is glad to be back in Casper and to be with CAEDA. "I'm enjoying living once again in this thriving western city", he recently commented. "It is great to have the opportunity to spend my time constructively and to learn so much new information." Please welcome CJ at the next CAEDA event or when stopping by the office.



Top to Bottom: Bruce Brown, Keith Cottam, Kenyne Schlager and CJ Swenson

## Wyoming Airports Top 1 Million Passengers in '08

Wyoming airports saw a record amount of passengers in 2008, breaking the 1 million mark for the first time ever. Maine, North Dakota, Vermont and Wyoming were the only four states in the nation to see positive passenger numbers, while rest of the country experienced a serious downturn in travel and air service due to the economy.

Although some airports in the state saw a drop from the previous year, overall the passenger counts remained high. Rock Springs saw the biggest increase in air travelers, up nearly 14% from 2007. Jackson continues to be the State's busiest airport, with Casper remaining second.

### Total Passengers Statewide

2008 - 1,032,164

2007 - 975,277

<u>Airport</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Change from 07</u>
Jackson	603,967	+11.6%
Casper	146,813	-4.5%
Gillette	55,167	+9.3%
Cody	51,841	-2.7%
Rock Springs	49,572	+13.9%
Sheridan	35,557	-13.9%
Riverton	34,046	+9.3%
Cheyenne	29,945	-11.0%
Laramie	19,165	-0.9%
Worland	6,091	-18.5%

Source: Wyoming Business Report, February 2009

# 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 - (307) 234.6530  
 Town of Mills - (307) 234.6679  
 Wyoming Business Council-[www.wyomingbusiness.org](http://www.wyomingbusiness.org)  
 Wyoming Contractor's Assn. - [www.wyomingcontractors.org](http://www.wyomingcontractors.org)

## Mining

Alpha Development- (307) 234.8925  
 Black Hills Bentonite - [www.BHBentonite.com](http://www.BHBentonite.com)  
 Grey Wolf Drilling Co. - [www.greywolfdriilling.com](http://www.greywolfdriilling.com)  
 Sinclair Casper Refining Company - [www.sinclairoil.com](http://www.sinclairoil.com)  
 SST 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)  
 Caspar Building Systems - (307) 235.5690  
 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)  
 EXCAL, Inc. - (307) 237.0920  
 Fabrication Technologies, Inc. - [www.fabtechinc.net](http://www.fabtechinc.net)  
 J W Williams - [www.jwilliams-flint.com](http://www.jwilliams-flint.com)  
 Magnablend - [www.magnablend.com](http://www.magnablend.com)  
 McMurry Ready Mix -[www.mcmurryreadymix.com](http://www.mcmurryreadymix.com)  
 Pepper Tank & Contracting - [www.peppertank.com](http://www.peppertank.com)  
 Toromont Energy Systems - [www.toromontsystems.com](http://www.toromontsystems.com)  
 WESTECH/WOTCO—[www.wstch.com](http://www.wstch.com)

## Wholesale Trade / Contracting

A&G Enterprises - (307) 265.8135  
 Bailly's Plumbing & Heating - (307) 234.6568  
 Casper Winlectric -(307) 235.5222  
 Crum Electric Supply - [www.crum.com](http://www.crum.com)  
 Michael's Fence - [www.michaelsfence.com](http://www.michaelsfence.com)  
 Modern Electric - [www.modern-electric.com](http://www.modern-electric.com)  
 Power Service, Inc.- [www.powerserviceinc.com](http://www.powerserviceinc.com)  
 Wyoming Steel & Recycling—<http://www.wysteel.com/>

## Retail Trade

Atlas Reproduction - [www.atlasreproduction.com](http://www.atlasreproduction.com)  
 Big Wyoming - [www.bigwyoming.com](http://www.bigwyoming.com)  
 Coliseum Motors - [www.coliseummotors.com](http://www.coliseummotors.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)  
 Mountain States Lithographing - [www.mtstlitho.com](http://www.mtstlitho.com)  
 Peterbilt of Wyoming - [www.peterbiltofwyoming.com](http://www.peterbiltofwyoming.com)  
 Wyoming Machinery - [www.wyomingcat.com](http://www.wyomingcat.com)

## Transportation

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

## Finance

American National Bank - [www.anbbank.com](http://www.anbbank.com)  
 Bank of the West - [www.bankofthewest.com](http://www.bankofthewest.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)  
 Wells Fargo Bank -[www.wellsfargo.com](http://www.wellsfargo.com)

## Health Care

Casper Orthopedic Associates, P.C. - [www.wyoortho.com](http://www.wyoortho.com)  
 Wyoming Behavioral Institute -[www.wbihelp.com](http://www.wbihelp.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.mcmurrybusinesspark.com](http://www.mcmurrybusinesspark.com)  
 Phillips & Company - [www.phillips-company.com](http://www.phillips-company.com)  
 Remax The Group - [www.wythegroup.com/index.htm](http://www.wythegroup.com/index.htm)

## Professional Services

American Title Agency - (307) 266.4672  
 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  
 GSG Architecture - [www.gsgarchitecture.com](http://www.gsgarchitecture.com)  
 Bill Hawks - (307) 235.2557  
 Inberg-Miller - [www.inberg-miller.com](http://www.inberg-miller.com)  
 Killmer and Associates, PC - [www.killmerco.com](http://www.killmerco.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)  
 World Wide Travel - [www.worldwidetvl.com](http://www.worldwidetvl.com)  
 Worthington, Lenhart & Carpenter - [www.wlcwyo.com](http://www.wlcwyo.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)  
 Parkway Plaza - [www.parkwayplaza.net](http://www.parkwayplaza.net)  
 Ramada Plaza Riverside - [www.casper-ramada.com](http://www.casper-ramada.com)  
 Timberline Hospitalities - [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)  
 KCWY 13 Television - [www.kcwyl3.com](http://www.kcwyl3.com)

## Joan Evans, Director of Wyoming's Workforce Services to speak at CAEDA Breakfast

CAEDA is pleased to announce that Joan K. Evans, Director of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, will be the featured speaker at the next Quarterly Breakfast on March 24, 2009.

Joan was appointed director of the agency in December 2006 by Governor Dave Freudenthal. The Department of Workforce Services is the State's newest agency, and is dedicated to developing a demand-driven workforce, responsive to private-sector worker and employer needs. Under the leadership of Joan Evans, the Department of Workforce Services provides employment and training, business and vocational rehabilitation services throughout Wyoming.

Joan came to the Department from the Carbon County Higher Education Center in Rawlins where she served as Director since 2004. Prior to her becoming director, she served as the Assistant Director for 13 years. The Carbon County Higher Education Center serves both adults and high school students. The Center is community-funded, providing adult basic education and vocational programs and is an outreach center for Western Wyoming Community College.

Prior to her service at Carbon County Higher Education Center, she served as a business manager for Carbon County School District No. 1 and has been an adjunct faculty member at Western Wyoming Community College since 1989.

Evans holds a bachelor's degree in finance and a master's degree in adult education from the University of Wyoming. She has served as a member on the Wyoming Workforce Development Council, the Carbon County Economic Development Council and the Wyoming Government Investment Fund Board of Trustees, among other organizations. She has received numerous personal and professional commendations.

### Save the Date!

**CAEDA Spring Quarterly Breakfast**

**Tuesday, March 24, 2009**

**7:00am**

**Casper Petroleum Club**

**Featuring**

**Special Guest Speaker**

**Joan K. Evans**

**Director of the**

**State of Wyoming**

**Department of Workforce Services**

**Call 307-577-7011  
to reserve your seat today!**



Joan Evans

## Casper College Receives Grant to Improve Economic Opportunity

*By Lisa Icenogle, Casper College*

Casper College is one of only 20 colleges and technical schools nationwide selected by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) to participate in the Wal-Mart Workforce and Economic Opportunity Initiative. Each college will receive an \$86,000 grant to partner with its local workforce development community to improve the community's economic prosperity and help people live better. The award recipients were announced in Washington, D.C., following completion of a highly competitive application and evaluation process.

"This generous gift from the Wal-Mart Workforce and Economic Opportunity Initiative will go toward the start up funding needed for the Casper Area Business Innovation Center. When opened, this business incubator will be debt free and will be ready to attract young businesses," said Robert Barnes, president and CEO of CAEDA.

"As Casper College continues to look for innovative ways to serve the people of Natrona County and this state, partnerships, such as this one with CAEDA, Economic Development Joint Powers Board, the Amoco Reuse Agreement Joint Powers Board, and others, are greatly assisted with this grant, which will help us reach our goal of opening a quality facility for new business owners debt free," said Walter Nolte, president of Casper College.

The Casper Area Business Innovation Center business incubator will provide tenant businesses with hands-on management assistance, help in accessing financing, and networking opportunities.

AACC President George R. Boggs expressed particular appreciation for Wal-Mart's vision in launching an initiative that targets many isolated, rural communities. When operational, programs will serve as models for the more than 800 rural institutions comprising two-thirds of AACC's close to 1,200 college membership.

"We congratulate these colleges and look forward to the initiative's impact to revitalize communities and regions," Boggs said. "With Wal-Mart's support, this network of pilot projects will provide innovative and sustainable partnerships that expand the capacity of community colleges to spur economic growth."

"Wal-Mart is proud to support programs that strengthen communities and provide opportunities so that people can live better," said Margaret McKenna, president of the Wal-Mart Foundation. "Wal-Mart's partnership with AACC identifies institutions committed to enhancing the economic development of local communities by encouraging local businesses, higher education and community organizations to work together to improve their community's level of competition; especially in the current economy."

The 19 additional winners are: Yavapai College (Ariz.), Arkansas Northeastern Community College (Ark.), College of the Siskiyous (Calif.), San Diego Community College District (Calif.), Lamar Community College (Colo.), Brevard Community College (Fla.), Miami Dade College (Fla.), Kankakee Community College (Ill.), Henderson Community College (Ky.), Cape Cod Community College (Mass.), Mesabi Range Community and Technical College (Minn.), Northeast Community College (Neb.), Cumberland County College (N.J.), Umpqua Community College (Ore.), Technical College of the Lowcountry (S.C.), Western Texas College (Texas), Northern Virginia Community College (Va.), Clover Park Technical College (Wash.), and Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (Wis.)

The Wal-Mart Workforce and Economic Opportunity Initiative is administered by AACC's Center for Workforce and Economic Development. The Center will provide technical assistance and support through a partnership with the National Center on Education and the Economy [www.aacc.nche.edu](http://www.aacc.nche.edu).



*Casper College*

## CAEDA's Robert Barnes Named Next WEDA President

*By Jennifer Scott, CAEDA*

CAEDA's President and CEO Robert Barnes was recently named the President-Elect of the Wyoming Economic Development Association (WEDA). "WEDA is an organization growing in both leadership and vision," Robert said. "Economic development in Wyoming has a great deal of upside potential. I enjoy being part of this very energetic and professional team."

Formed in 1985 as a non-profit professional group, the association seeks to build a strong, diversified economy at both the local and state levels. WEDA promotes economic development through lobbying efforts, educational tools and public relations, in addition to providing networking and training opportunities for its members through its conferences and professional development scholarships.



WEDA acts a liaison between local and state economic development efforts and works directly with private businesses around the state, community economic development organizations such as CAEDA, chambers of commerce, government and the Wyoming Business Council. These partnerships focus on developing a strong economic infrastructure that includes workforce training, transportation, and housing, as well as business retention, expansion and recruitment. These programs all support WEDA's mission to "provide leadership and support to foster economic development in Wyoming."

Robert will be serving with Board President Phil Christopherson of IDEA in Riverton and Secretary-Treasurer Leah Bruscano of Wyoming Business Council NW Region in Powell. Additional board members are Brad Sutherland of Green River Futures; Ruth Benson of Campbell County Economic Development Corporation; Craig Nelson of Rocky Mountain Power in Rock Springs; Lorraine Quarberg of the Thermopolis-Hot Spring Economic Development; Philippe Chino of Forward Sheridan; Linda Harris of the Northeast Wyoming Economic Development Coalition; Ben Avery of the Wyoming Business Council; Jackie Bredthauer of the Niobrara Chamber of Commerce in Lusk; Bob Jensen of the Wyoming Business Council in Cheyenne; and WEDA Coordinator Paula McCormick.

## An Incubator Success Story: Firehole Technologies

*By Gaye Stockman, CECD, Laramie Economic Alliance*

As planning for the Casper Business Innovation Center moves forward, it is encouraging to see the other incubator in the region experiencing success. Dedicated in 2006, the Wyoming Technology Business Center (WTBC) in Laramie is beginning to graduate businesses, including the dynamic Firehole Technologies, into the community.

Firehole Technologies, a supplier of computer-aided design software for composite materials to the aerospace, defense, automotive, and energy industries, has recently graduated from the Wyoming Technology Business Center (WTBC) and announced their decision to stay and expand into downtown Laramie, WY. Firehole will be relocating to a larger facility to accommodate its recent growth.



*Jason Gies of Firehole*

"This is a really exciting time for the company," says Jerad Stack, CEO of Firehole Technologies. "Since we moved into the WTBC 2 years ago, our growth has exceeded our expectations. Now, we are well positioned to enable a host of industries trying to make their products lighter, stronger, safer and more fuel efficient." Firehole's software enables the design of composite structures without the numerous expensive testing cycles traditionally deployed, allowing for a faster time-to-market and more reliable designs.

"We see significant growth in our future, and Laramie is the ideal place for us to grow. We have a long history of working with the University of Wyoming and having UW here gives us access to great technical talent. Laramie is also home to a number of other software companies, and there is some synergy that can come from that," he said.



**CASPER AREA ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE, INC.**

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View this and other  
documents  
at [www.casperworks.biz](http://www.casperworks.biz)

## **AIRPORT RECEIVES “ABOVE AND BEYOND” AWARD**

*By Tyri Squyres, Allegiant Air*

(Las Vegas)—Casper/Natrona County International Airport (C/NCIA) is flying high after being recognized by Allegiant Air for going “*Above and Beyond*” at the second annual Allegiant Air Airport Conference held in Las Vegas. C/NCIA was one of only five airports recognized for outstanding achievements at a special awards dinner held Feb. 11.

Glenn Januska, airport manager of C/NCIA was in attendance and received the award from Maurice J. Gallagher, Jr., Allegiant Travel Company president and CEO. “I would like to congratulate Natrona County International Airport and thank them for the support they have shown us,” said Maurice J. Gallagher, Jr. “The airport management team and community leaders have been a pleasure to work with and we look forward to a successful, long lasting relationship.”

C/NCIA was recognized for outstanding efforts to assist in the establishment of new low-cost air service to the Casper community. The airport secured the equipment and ground handling services with a \$50,000 grant from CAEDA and the Economic Development Joint Powers Board. Allegiant began service from Casper to Las Vegas Sept. 19, 2008.

“We're honored to have been recognized for the work we did to support Allegiant's service in the Casper market,” said Glenn Januska. “We have a lot of partners who have worked hard to make Allegiant’s Las Vegas service successful, and this recognition is deservedly extended to them as well.”

The Allegiant Air Airport Conference is a collection of invited airports currently served by Allegiant Air and airports that would like Allegiant’s low-cost, nonstop service in their respective areas. Airports have the opportunity to meet with Allegiant representatives and attend workshops that cover a variety of airport related topics. More than 200 airports were in attendance for the conference that was held at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino, Feb. 10 through 12.

