The Quarterly Connection 2012 Quarter 4

DWS Hires Business Liaison
The Wyoming Department of Workforce Services has hired Bill Schepeler as Business Liaison, a new position in the department. The role of the Business Liaison is to work directly with Wyoming businesses and oversee the department’s Employer Information Seminars around the state, which focus on accessing employer services, Occupational Safety and Health Administration consultations, training programs, unemployment insurance tax information, labor standards and information on other programs the department offers. The next Employer Information Seminar will be held in Cheyenne in March. For updates, check the DWS website at dws-sc.wyo.gov/Employer Seminars/. The new position will also aid the department in customer support efforts by providing a gateway for businesses to access the department. Schepeler, a University of Wyoming graduate, most recently served as vice president of the Wyoming Technology Business Center, a technology-business incubator at the University of Wyoming. Additionally, he has worked with hundreds of small business clients in his previous role as business counselor to Wyoming Small Business Development Centers. "Bill's background in the private sector and his knowledge of the Wyoming business community will certainly lend to the Department of Workforce Services' effort to give great customer service and provide tools and resources for businesses to more easily navigate regulatory obligations," said Director of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services Joan Evans. If you have a business question please call Bill at (307) 777-8717 or email him at bill.schepeler@wyo.gov.

Wyoming Safety Improvement Fund
Recent legislation established funding for public and private employers to enhance workplace health and safety training, and safety equipment purchases beyond normal regulatory requirements. Through this program workplace safety contracts of up to $10,000 are available with a 10% match. To obtain more information on the Workplace Safety Improvement Fund, please contact Carolyn Grieve at carolyn.grieve@wyo.gov, (307) 777-3452, or Donald Ashley, donald.ashley@wyo.gov, (307) 777-5961. Or, an online application may be found at www.wyomingworkforce.org under EMPLOYER RESOURCES.

Reports MUST be filed on WIRE (online) or Division - provided Original Forms
To obtain blank reporting forms (Summary and/or Employee Wage Listings) contact us by calling 307-235-3217, faxing a request to 307-235-3278 or visiting our website at www.wyomingworkforce.org To file on WIRE please go to: https://doe.state.wy.us/wire
When filing by WIRE you have the option to make all payments by EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) or by check. Please make all checks payable to "Department of Workforce Services" for all UI and Workers' Compensation payments. When paying by EFT, employers have the option to complete the report first and then specify the EFT payment date. EFT payments can also be made towards any outstanding balances that the employer may have. If you have questions please contact 307-235-3217.
Worker's Compensation Experience Modification Rating Information
The Wyoming Division of Workers Compensation Division has converted to a new computer system that has brought some changes that effect how information is presented to you the employer about your account. One change is how an employer's Experience Modification (EMR) is presented. You will notice on any correspondence that you receive showing your EMR now will read as a "factor" instead of a percentage. To convert the new EMR factor to a percentage as displayed in prior EMR & Rate statements, please use the following formula: (New EMR factor - 1.0) x 100 = EMR as a percentage.

**The EMR calculation itself has not changed.

Emergency Unemployment Compensation 2008 (EUC) Program
The EUC program, established by the Supplemental Appropriations Act signed into law on June 30, 2008, is slated to end December 28, 2012. The program is a federally-funded, temporary extension of unemployment compensation for unemployed individuals who have collected all regular state benefits for which they are eligible. EUC benefits are not charged to employers' accounts. Wyoming currently has one tier of benefits, for a maximum extension of 14 weeks. The last week benefits can be paid for, however, is the week ending December 29, 2012. Local Workforce Centers are providing EUC claimants with re-employment orientation sessions, skills assessments, information on career opportunities, and work search reviews to facilitate re-employment.

Are you in need of a Certificate of Good Standing?
For Certificates on your Unemployment Insurance account go to:
https://doe.state.wy.us/cert/
For Certificates on your Workers Compensation account go to:
https://wconline.wyo.gov/web/#
For additional Workers Compensation Certificate Instructions go to:

Changes to your business
For any changes please notify us by completing the "Wyoming Employer's Notice of Change"

Name /Identification Number/Address Changes
Closure of business or No Employees
Bankruptcy or Ownership Changes
To obtain the form please go to:
Or call us at 307-235-3217

What's that wage data?
Research & Planning (R&P), a section of the Department of Workforce Services, in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), has conducted an Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Wage Survey since 1996. The program produces occupational employment and wage estimates that have many uses, such as helping employers determine if they are offering competitive wages. Employment and training organizations (such as community colleges), vocational counselors, and individuals use wage data to help students make informed career decisions. In Wyoming, the survey samples and contacts approximately 1,000 establishments by mail and phone in May and November each year. Data are used to estimate occupational employment and wage rates for Unemployment Insurance (UI) covered wage and salary jobs in non-farm establishments. For more information, see R&P’s Occupations, Earnings, and Wages page at http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/oes.htm.