TCS and Wyoming’s Department of Workforce Services Unveil New Statewide Unemployment Insurance System

CHEYENNE – Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), a leading global IT services, consulting and business solutions organization, and the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services (DWS) celebrated the launch of a new Unemployment Insurance system – WYUI – for the State of Wyoming. The WYUI solution is a fully modernized Unemployment Insurance system that will improve the way claimants interact with the state with a more user-friendly interface and expanded self-service capabilities.

TCS’ WYUI solution is a robust, scalable and repeatable platform with the ability to integrate and control multiple functional requirements, including online claims processing, payments, adjudication, and appeals. The WYUI implementation is also one of the first in the U.S. to be developed, tested and implemented in Microsoft Azure in such a short time frame, and within budget. Hosting the new system on Azure makes it more scalable than the previous system, and as the data housed in the system continues to grow, the system itself can be expanded.

TCS has already enabled several U.S. states to modernize their systems to support Unemployment Insurance programs, including Mississippi and Maine, as part of the ReEmployUSA Consortium. By partnering with Wyoming’s DWS, TCS has replaced a 34-year-old benefits and appeal legacy system with a modernized system, within a span of less than 20 months.

“What Wyoming has accomplished by teaming up with TCS has been incredible,” said Tobi Cates, Administrator for the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services. “By implementing a solution that other states can replicate, and at the same time, improving the experience of our claimants, we’ve demonstrated the power of innovative and forward-leaning partnerships. We’re excited about what we’ve been able to accomplish and about the future of this new system.”

“TCS’ utilization of digital technologies and unique implementation methodology have enabled the state of Wyoming to modernize their unemployment insurance system in a record time, significantly improving claimants experience, and creating a solution that can be replicated for other states,” said Debashis Ghosh, President, Public Services, TCS. “We look forward to continuing our partnership with the state of Wyoming to provide additional modernization and digital services in the years to come.”

The WYUI solution will enable claimants to perform many online, self-service functions, including the ability to file new claims, certify weekly claims, check the status of benefits payments, review account history, update contact information, make payments for overpaid weeks, and file an appeal, among other features. WYUI also will enable the DWS to exchange correspondences electronically with claimants.

Next year TCS will implement WYUI phase two, which will enable the employer community to perform online, self-service tax filing activities including the ability to file quarterly contribution and wage reports, upload wage detail, view employer ratings and benefit charge statements, maintain clients for employee leasing companies, set up payment plans, protest benefit charges, claim notices, and more.

Wyoming’s Top Safety and Workforce Efforts Recognized at 2018 Summit

CHEYENNE – Governor Matt Mead joined the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services (DWS) and its partners in honoring Wyoming employers or individuals demonstrating excellence in safety and workforce practices in June. Individuals and partnerships that advance workforce development in Wyoming’s communities were also recognized for their efforts.

The awards ceremony took place at the 2018 Wyoming Safety and Workforce Summit, a joint effort between DWS, the Wyoming OSHA Commission and the Wyoming Workforce Development Council. The Summit is an event held by the partners and speaks to both safety as way of life and the strengthening of Wyoming’s workforce.

Governor Mead signed a proclamation designating the week of June 18-22 Workplace Safety Week in Wyoming, and he emphasized the work of Wyoming Safety Alliances. “We have moved the needle on workplace safety but more work remains,” said Governor Mead. I thank the Safety Alliances, as well as Wyoming business owners and workers for their efforts year-round and I commend the award recipients for recognizing safety as a priority.”

Workers’ Compensation Officer/Owner Average Wage for 2018
$11,339.25/quarter; $3,779.75/month

Unemployment Insurance Taxable Wage Base for 2018
$24,700
CHEYENNE – Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), a leading global IT services and consulting firm, and Wyoming’s Department of Workforce Services (DWS) unveiled their new user interface (WYUI) framework during a ceremony at the 2018 Wyoming Safety and Workforce Summit. The WYUI framework, which was developed in collaboration with TCS and the WOGISA Safety and Health Services Division, is designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the state’s unemployment claims process.

WOGISA Vice President Lannie Fladeland assisted with the presentation of the WOGISA Stop Work Authority Award. “The Stop Work Authority Award recognizes an immediate and proactive mechanism to identify and prevent incidents and fatalities,” Fladeland said. “I applaud award recipient Joe Parrish of Mountain States Pressure Services. By calling for work to stop, Joe prevented what could well have been a fatal workplace accident.”

State Mine Inspector Terry Adcock assisted with the presentation of the Governor’s Safety Awards for Mining and Industry. “The recipients of the Governor’s Safety Awards for Mining provide an important opportunity to focus on an essential commitment made by Wyoming businesses – those that have made worker safety a high priority,” Adcock said.

Wyoming Workforce Development Council Chairman Jim Engel presented the Council’s Workforce Awards. “The Wyoming Workforce Development Council Workforce Awards are our chance to highlight workforce innovation and high-impact partnerships in Wyoming’s communities,” he said. “It is this innovation that helps to form the future of Wyoming’s workforce.”

The Governor’s Stop Work Authority Award
The Stop Work Authority Award recognizes an action that has taken place at a project or work site in Wyoming. The award honors an individual or group who engaged in a tangible action to stop the work or task due to a perceived, potential or actual hazardous condition.

Award Recipient:
• Joe Parrish, Mountain States Pressure Services, Inc.

The Governor’s Safety Awards for Mining and Industry
The Governor’s Safety Awards for Mining and Industry are presented annually to acknowledge an employer’s commitment to excellence in safety and health. The winners of the awards are chosen based on strong safety records, management and employee involvement in health and safety decisions and a robust hazard identification program, among other elements.

Award Recipients:
• Redi Services, LLC, Mine-Site Contractor – Small Employer
• GK Construction, Mine-Site Contractor – Large Employer
• Black Hills Energy, Wyodak Mine, Mining – Small Employer
• Thunder Basin Coal Company, Black Thunder Mine, Mining – Large Employer
• Redi Services, OSHA Award for Oil & Gas and Construction Industries – large employer
• Dale Weaver, Inc., OSHA Award for Oil & Gas and Construction Industries – small employer
• Automation & Electronics, Inc., OSHA Award for Public and General Industries – large employer
• Great Basin Enterprises, OSHA Award for Public and General Industries – small employer
• Life Care Center of Cheyenne, Workers’ Compensation Path to Safety Excellence Award – large employer
• Alternative Elder Living, Inc., Workers’ Compensation Path to Safety Excellence Award – small employer

The Wyoming Workforce Development Council Workforce Awards
These awards recognize companies that demonstrate excellence in their contribution to the workforce system, economic development and education in Wyoming.

Award recipients:
• Pizza Carello, Workforce Development Council’s Small Employer of the Year Award
• Laramie Adulting 101, Workforce Development Council’s Youth Partnership of the Year Award

For more information about the 2018 Wyoming Safety and Workforce Summit, visit wyomingworkforce.org.

Workforce Annual Report is available now
The Wyoming Department of Workforce Services (DWS) released the 2018 Wyoming Workforce Annual Report, produced by the Research & Planning section of DWS in partnership with the Wyoming Workforce Development Council. This report provides an overview of Wyoming’s economy, growing industries and workforce. Highlights from this year’s report include:

• Wyoming employment began growing again in the final few months of 2017 (see page 5)
• Natural resources & mining added 700 jobs in 2017, and professional & business services added 500 jobs (see page 5)
• New short-term projections indicate mining and leisure & hospitality will experience the greatest job growth from 2017 to 2019 (see page 38)
• In 2017, the annual wage for women working in Wyoming at any time was $28,822, or 63.7% of the $45,267 annual wage for men. In other words, women were paid 63.7 cents for every $1 paid to men (see page 27). Research & Planning is scheduled to release a legislatively mandated gender wage study in October that takes into consideration things like experience in labor force, industry of employment, & education.

To view the full report, please visit: https://bit.ly/2NmlNbl. For questions regarding the report, please contact the Agency’s communications team at dws-publicaffairs@wyo.gov or (307) 777-6513.