

Jim Drever is a Laramie, Wyoming native. Although Wyoming is home, Jim spent several years abroad studying and working in places like Japan, Switzerland, Scotland, and Germany. Jim earned an undergraduate degree in Geology, a valuable tool to have hiking and traveling in Wyoming, but Jim found he preferred the dynamic challenges in the business environment and sought to address those interests in graduate school earning an MBA from the University of Wyoming in 2003 with the distinction of being the Department of Management and Marketing's Outstanding Graduate Student.

Jim's career includes working as the Marketing Director at a local software company and as a Business Consultant in his spare time before joining the Wyoming SBDC Network. Jim serves clients in Albany and Carbon Counties in Wyoming with general business topics and clients statewide with issues related to Business Ethics and Cybersecurity. Jim holds a certificate in Teaching Business Ethics from the Anderson School of Management at the University of New Mexico and is a certified Cybersecurity Specialist (CISO) allowing him to help clients develop plans, assess their systems/networks, test their own developed applications and services, and help them when their systems have been compromised. Jim also holds Intermediate Certification in assisting businesses with import/export through the SBA.

Jim is Co-Leader of the Wyoming SBDC tech team where his BS from UW and experience in information technology helps provide a solid foundation in addition to training and experience working with Wyoming tech companies.

When Jim is not helping clients, in his spare time he also works as a volunteer firefighter and a volunteer ski patrol at Snowy Range Ski Area. He enjoys the outdoors, reading, traveling, and pursuing a lifetime of learning.

#### Overview:

We are happy to present Jim Drever as Wyoming's State Star! In addition to his statewide service as the cybersecurity guru for SBDC clients, Jim is scheduled to share his knowledge with other SBDC advisors from across the nation at the September 2022 annual conference. Additionally, Jim is a certified Ethical Hacker and a certified Cybersecurity Specialist (CISO) helping clients develop plans, assess their systems/networks, test their own developed applications and services, and help them when their systems have been compromised. Jim's knowledge and expertise are greatly needed as small businesses often lack the resources to manage the threats on their own. Jim is a trusted resource on which they can rely.

But that is only one of his many roles, Jim is the Regional Director for Albany and Carbon Counties in Wyoming. In both counties, he is a steadfast advisor and champion of his clients. During the pandemic, he helped many of his clients apply for federal PPP and EIDL funds to keep them in business. One such company, Aspen House Restaurant in Rawlins, was able to keep all their employees and pivot their business to stay afloat during the pandemic. Jim nominated Lena Dirck, owner of the Aspen House Restaurant for the SBA Wyoming's Small Business Person of the Year, which she won. While PPP and EIDL applications kept Jim busy, he still had time to work with local economic development personnel to help set up an innovation center in partnership with Impact307, another business resource entity, in Rawlins, WY, which opened in June 2022.

Jim is an innovative thinker and always looking for new ways to reach potential clients. In Albany County, he is hosting office hours in the Innovation Wrykshop, a makerspace in the University of Wyoming College of Engineering and Applied Sciences building. Jim meets with clients to help them access the business potential of their makerspace creations. He also presented at several business roundtables for Wyrkshop attendees with colleagues from the Impact307, the incubator space on the UW campus; he also holds office hours at the incubator. While Jim hosts Start Your Own Business classes in his respective counties, he is also an in-demand presenter on campus; this year he presented for a Molecular Biology class and College of Business entrepreneurship class.

Jim is a great example of the collaborative teamwork that is needed in Wyoming. His partnering with other economic development professionals and academic units shows his commitment to the success of our clients. He also sets a shining example for other staff members on how we can strive to reach out to new audiences and inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs. Last but certainly not least, Jim always does all this with a smile.