

## **WYOMING'S CODE OF BEHAVIOR**

by Bob Young

You may have read the headline: Wyoming has become the first state to adopt an official code of behavior. A new law makes ethical behavior a part of Wyoming law (and that in one of the wildest parts of what was the Wild West). The official behavioral guidelines will be taught as a four-week unit to Wyoming's high school students. The curriculum is meant to foster what state leaders consider a way to help students develop the personal characteristics essential for a successful life.

Wyoming governor, Dave Freudenthal, signed the code of behavior into law. The legislation, sponsored by state senator Jim Anderson, was adapted from Jim Owen's book, *Cowboy Ethics: What Wall Street Can Learn From the Code of the West*. Wyoming is the first state to define values its residents are to pursue in an established set of guidelines. The ethics code carries no criminal penalties and will not replace any civil codes.

With the end of the school year approaching, it seems these are good guidelines to share with our graduates, and also for us adults to consider.

1. Live each day with courage.
2. Take pride in your work.
3. Always finish what you start.
4. Do what has to be done.
5. Be tough but fair.
6. When you make a promise, keep it.
7. Ride for the brand.
8. Talk less and say more.
9. Remember that some things are for sale.
10. Know where to draw the line.