

Senior Interview Day History

The initial idea of having seniors participate in mock interviews began in 1979 when Wamego High School's Mrs. Dawson thought her business class students needed practical knowledge and experience preparing for job interviews. This was after she heard that a young woman had showed up for a job interview at the Balderson plant (now Caterpillar) with rollers in her hair. For several years only the students in senior business class participated.

Dr. Norris Wika, superintendent during the 1980s, was a strong supporter of the program and proposed to the Board of Education that they recommend all Wamego senior students participated in Senior Interview Day as a requirement for graduation.

Many business people in the community have been committed to participating in the program for many years. One of those business persons was the former editor of the *Wamego Times*, Mr. Hod Dendurent. He served as an interviewer every year until his death in 1983. In 1984, the senior interview day program was named the Hod Dendurent Interview Day in his memory.

Mrs. Dawson organized the Hod Dendurent Interview Day for 15 years. For the next 7, Mrs. Judy Hess, Wamego Business Instructor, organized the event. Mrs. Janet Sylvester organized it until 2013, and she is credited for adding the etiquette luncheon to the event in 2002 because she knew students would attend banquet dinners for scholarships or interview over lunch. WHS Counselor Jina Kugler and Wamego Technology Center Director Jana Lindley have co-coordinated the event since 2014, and it continues to be a graduation requirement for all WHS Seniors.