



The Washington Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

WACTE members are the
22 Schools or Colleges of
Teacher Education at more than
65 locations throughout the state
of Washington:

Antioch University (Seattle)

Argosy University (Seattle)

Central Washington University
(Ellensburg, Lynwood, Lakewood,
Moses Lake, Wenatchee, Des
Moines, Yakima)

City University

(Bellevue, Everett, Seattle,
Renton, Tacoma, Vancouver, Port
Hadlock, Port Angeles, Centralia,
Mt. Vernon)

Eastern Washington University
(Cheney, Spokane)

Gonzaga University (Spokane)

Heritage University

(Toppenish, Yakima, Seattle,
Moses Lake, Omak,
Tri-Cities, Wenatchee)

Lesley University (Bellingham,
Clarkston, Everett, Hoquiam, Kent,
Mt Vernon, Olympia, Port Angeles,
Port Orchard, Seattle, Spokane,
Tacoma, Tri Cities, Vancouver,
Wenatchee, Yakima)

Northwest University (Kirkland)

Pacific Lutheran University
(Tacoma)

Seattle Pacific University

Seattle University

St. Martin's University

(Lacey, Ft. Lewis, McChord AFB)

The Evergreen State College
(Olympia)

University of Puget Sound
(Tacoma)

University of Washington
(Seattle)

University of Washington
(Tacoma)

University of Washington
(Bothell)

Walla Walla College

Washington State University
(Pullman, Spokane, Tri-Cities,
Vancouver)

Whitworth University (Spokane)

Western Washington University
(Bellingham, Bremerton, Everett,
Oak Harbor, Seattle)

November 17, 2008

TO: Members of the Task Force on Basic Education Finance

FROM: Patricia A. Wasley
President, WACTE

I am writing on behalf of WACTE to express our appreciation for the thoughtful efforts you have made to address the critical funding issues in basic education in our state.

The issue of teacher education and certification is also critical to the long term success of our state's K-12 education system. Given the state's need to address the basic finance system supporting the common schools, and the looming deficit faced by lawmakers as they convene in January, we recommend you to consider teacher preparation and certification as a separate subject. WACTE seeks to work collaboratively to improve teacher preparation, strengthen professional development in the first years of teaching, and establish accountability for student learning outcomes. This is work that merits research and expert input and as such should be considered independently from the scope of your existing charge.

WACTE member institutions are working to develop and implement a system of evidence that employs valid and reliable instruments to ensure that our graduates have the tools they need to improve student learning outcomes. We are engaged closely with both the Professional Educators Standards Board as well as the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to ensure a holistic perspective to work.

We urge you to focus on a solution for K-12 finance now, separately from other elements of our K-12 system that may need examination. Innovation and redesign of teacher preparation warrants a thorough examination of what we have, what we need, and what resources are necessary to make such changes work. WACTE would welcome a partnership to address these matters.