



# Teachers of Tomorrow E-News

for future educators in Washington State

Welcome to the second Teachers of Tomorrow E-News. This monthly electronic newsletter is created by Whatcom Community College's Teachers of Tomorrow Club. The goal of this newsletter is to inform and inspire future educators across Washington State.



## Teaching Equity Conference

*Highline Community College, April 30*

On April 30, Central Washington University, Highline Community College, The Center of Excellence for Careers in

Education, WEA, Kent School District, and The Foundation For Early Learning sponsored an education conference for future teachers looking to increase their understanding of how to effectively work in today's diverse classrooms AND people of color wanting to explore careers in education. Attendees attended informative workshop sessions that highlighted major issues impacting today's schools. Workshops on cultural competence, state requirements, job placements, funding and many more were available to conference participants.

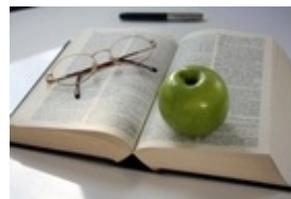
The conference planners shared how our nation is becoming more multicultural and multilingual, but the teaching force is not reflecting this change in our schools. The National Education Association shares why the ethnic and racial background of teachers matters:

- Studies show that students of color often do better with teachers of the same race because the teachers and students may have similar experience and backgrounds.



## Hope Required

Jeffrey Duncan-Andrade was the keynote speaker at the Teaching Equity Conference. His inspirational and informative presentation was the highlight of the day. He made the point that effective teaching depends most heavily on one thing: deep and caring relationships. He shared how the saying "students don't care what you know until they know that you care" is supported by numerous studies about effective teaching. In his lecture, he drew from Tupac Shakur's powerful metaphor of the rose that grows from concrete, as well as research in fields such as public health, social work, and psychology. He explored the concept of hope as essential for all teachers, especially those teaching in urban settings. To view one of his lectures , [click here](#).



Quote of the month:

*"We must implore our colleagues to recognize that our damaged petals, and those of our students, are not what need to be reformed out of us; they are what need to be celebrated about us. Each time we convey this - the true value of the painful path - we are building critical hope in the person next to us who wonders if they, too, can make it through the crack."*

- All students need teachers of color to serve as role models. Teachers bring their experiences and backgrounds to the classroom and help prepare children to live in a multicultural society.
- Teachers of color can also use their experiences and knowledge to bring new ideas to their schools and help other teachers gain skills to teach students of diverse backgrounds.
- Teachers of diverse social and cultural backgrounds help to preserve their culture and to ensure that all students learn about the many cultures that have helped build and shape our country.



## Third Annual

### Starting Strong Institute

Spokane Convention Center, August 11 & 12

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Early Learning, Thrive by Five Washington, and Northeast ESD #101 are excited to announce the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Starting Strong Institute. The institute brings together the early learning world and the K-12 system to better meet the needs of our youngest learners. Starting Strong brings together parents, providers, preschool teachers, kindergarten teachers and school leadership each year to continue the dialogue about enhancing learning and transitions from prekindergarten through Grade 3. [Click here](#) for information about registration.

-Jeffrey M. R. Duncan-Andrade, [Note to Educators: Hope Required When Growing Roses in Concrete](#) (2009), pg. 11.



Attending the Teaching Equity Conference from Whatcom Community College's Teachers of Tomorrow Club were Brittany Henning, Jeffrey Finkbonner, Aubrey Kornelis, Brianna Naber and Chris Schwitter. They helped to promote this e-newsletter so that more students, professors and professionals across Washington State can subscribe to this new e-newsletter.

Now we have an electronic sign-up for this newsletter. [Click here](#) to get on our mailing list!

Do you have an idea of something we should include in a future Teachers of Tomorrow E-News? E-mail us at [roxann.rose@wwu.edu](mailto:roxann.rose@wwu.edu) with the topic of "ToT E-News".



## Teacher Movie of the Month

Each month a Whatcom Community College future educator will recommend a movie about a teacher. This month, Jonah Mawae recommends the 2007 movie,

### Freedom Writers:

*"Starring Hillary Swank, this movie centers around a first year teacher, Mrs. Erin Gruwell, usually referred to as Mrs. G. Mrs. G is a young, eager teacher who leaves a pretty comfortable life to teach at an inner city school. Her eagerness soon turns to concern when she sees her students. Mrs. G's students are mostly "gang bangers" who must be forced to class, and when in class want to do anything but learn. The movie basically follows Mrs. G throughout 2 years, showing how she is able to build strong and lasting relationships with her students. She is able to do this because she is able to show her students how much she cares through her actions. She sacrifices her time, her money, and eventually even her marriage for these kids. It takes a while, but eventually the students begin to love her as much as she loves them. She teaches them how to raise themselves out of their current situations, almost all involving a mixture of gang violence, poverty, and more. Watching this movie really fueled my desire to become a teacher. I think that this movie showed that one individual can make a huge impact, no matter what the circumstances. Mrs. G never let anything stop her and showed that a great teacher can inspire any student to work hard and excel not only in school, but life in general."*

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