

AESD Dispatch*



**Dispatch: "The sending of a message with promptness and efficiency."*

Fall 2004

A Message from our AESD President



President Gordon Griggs

The AESD Executive Board has met twice since the last *Dispatch* was published. In August we had a good discussion about the two upcoming ballot measures, and whether the AESD should adopt a public position on them. The clear consensus was that the AESD should neither endorse nor oppose either Referendum 55 or Initiative 884. It was recognized that individual ESDs, and individual board members, have every right to get involved in campaigns as they see fit. It was simply felt that the AESD, as a statewide organization, had little to gain from adopting a public position on polarizing political issues.

No matter how the election turns out, there is plenty of work ahead of us to prepare for the next legislative session. At our September AESD Executive Board meeting, Norm Wisner helped us understand the public education component of the Governor's Priorities of Government (POG) initiative, the OSPI budget request for the 2005 legislative session, and some of the opportunities that may be available to ESDs in the next session. We have started working on a plan to articulate, publicize, and promote our own legislative priorities with our elected representatives, including the new Governor.

I encourage each ESD Board to discuss the potential opportunities and pitfalls that may face us when the new legislature convenes in Olympia next January. Please equip your

AESD representative with a clear understanding of your high priority concerns, so they can be included in our discussion at the next Executive Board meeting in November.

Finally, I would like to suggest that you individually contact your state senators and representatives sometime after the election, but before January, to let them know what a fantastic job all nine ESDs are doing to serve the students and local school districts throughout the state. We have every reason in the world to be proud of our educational leadership and contributions, and no reason whatsoever to keep quiet about them.

Gordon graduated from Seattle's Roosevelt H.S. in 1969, has a Communications Degree from WSU ('74), and earned a degree from Antioch School of Law in Washington, D.C. ('78).

Gordon was Administrative Law Judge, WA State Office of Administrative Hearings, for 19 years. He is the Senior (managing) Administrative Law Judge for his agency's Everett field office.

Gordon has been married 25 years to Valerie Stevens, Regional Manager at the Sno-Isle Public Library System. In their spare time they travel, hike, bike, and ski, and are currently learning to kayak. Their son Galen is a junior at the University of Puget Sound, majoring in Economics.

Gordon has been an ESD 189 Board member since 1994, providing an opportunity for him to show gratitude and give back to the educational community for the excellent public education he received from Seattle S.D. This volunteer work also brings much needed balance and perspective to his life and he is proud of the contributions made by the ESDs in support of public education.

New ESD Board Members Selected



Randy Johnston, new board member at North Central ESD.

Randy Johnston of East Wenatchee was recently selected to fill the District Six ESD Board position previously held by Brad Hawkins.

Randy grew up in Cashmere, attending Cashmere schools grades K-12, and graduated from Cashmere High School in 1977. He graduated from Wenatchee Valley College in 1979, then went on to receive his B.A. degree in Marketing and Distributive Education from Central Washington University in 1982.

Randy has worked as a substitute teacher, sales manager for Columbia Distributing in Wenatchee, salesman for Prudential Insurance, Assistant Vice President of Investments at U.S. Bancorp Piper Jaffray, and is currently Vice-President at Partners Investment, Inc.

Randy's wife Maria was born in Guatemala, Mexico, grew up in the Wenatchee Valley, and was the first Hispanic Apple Blossom Princess at Wenatchee High. Their five children range from the age of nearly 3 years to 23.

Randy's community involvement includes church, Kiwanis, Bank of America Performing Arts Center and youth sports.

Randy stated, "I have always had a desire to help create opportunities for people to better themselves and their families through the educational proc-

ess . . . working as a Board member for the ESD will enable me to become an integral part of their team. Together we can accomplish our goals for north central Washington's education system."



ESD 112's new board member Steve Wrightson.

After interviewing nearly a half-dozen applicants for Educational Service District 112's open District 3 Board position, the six members of the ESD Board of Directors selected Hockinson resident Steven (Steve) Wrightson. Wrightson replaces Dean Sutherland who recently resigned from the Board when he moved out of District 3.

Wrightson, Fire Chief of Clark County District 3 for the last fifteen years, has a long-time passion for education – at one point considering teaching as a profession – but instead parlayed a seasonal job of firefighting with the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service into a thirty-year career in fire service.

Wrightson, his wife and three daughters have lived, participated in sports and activities, and volunteered in the Hockinson community for a number of years. They have two daughters still at home – both of whom attend Hockinson schools. Wrightson also serves on the Hockinson Schools Instructional Materials Committee.

AESD Dispatch is a newsletter for directors of ESDs in Washington State, published quarterly during the year, circulation 100.

Executive Board

ESD 189 Gordon Griggs, President (425) 742-9843 ESD 171 Ed Daling (509) 745-8847
ESD 101 Gail Kuehne (509) 634-4357
ESD 105 Maggie Perez (509) 457-4402
ESD 112 Ann Campbell (509) 364-3468
ESD 113 Howard Coble (360) 943-6652
ESD 114 Jean Wasson, Past President (360) 779-5158
ESD 121 Ken Seng (253) 833-1584
ESD 123 Brad Gingerich (509) 843-3651

Editor Eldene Wall
NCESD eldene@ncesd.org
AESD

221 College Street N.E.,
Olympia, WA 98516-5313

News from Washington State ESDs

ESD 101's Center for School to Work has been awarded a pair of grants exceeding \$1.2 million to fund youth employment and training initiatives in the Spokane region.

The first is a \$641,007 AmeriCorps national service grant from the federal Corporation for National and Community Service. The grant will fund 42 full-time and 33 part-time positions on the Spokane Service Team constructing affordable housing and other non-profit capital improvement projects. The jobs are open to young people ages 18 to 25.

Participants are trained in carpentry, roofing, plumbing, landscaping and other specialty areas. Participants also receive, as appropriate, GED preparation, high school credit retrieval and life skills training. Those completing the program receive a cash award for future education, and full-time participants receive an additional living allowance.

ESD 112: Staff from six Southwest Washington school districts will benefit from increased professional development opportunities in math and science thanks to a grant awarded to Educational Service District 112 and Washington State University Vancouver.

The grant is one of four awarded by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction worth a total of \$1.2 million to further enhance the teaching skills and knowledge of science and mathematics educators in Washington State.

The WSUV-ESD 112 grant for \$346,894 will benefit teachers in Klickitat, Goldendale, Washougal, Evergreen, Kalama and North Thurston. The grant's focus is on professional development for science and mathematics teachers in grades six through 12 with an end goal of improving scientific and mathematical literacy for students enrolled in these partner districts.

Each of the selected partnerships features an alliance of higher education institutions and the K-12 school system working together to create high quality professional development opportunities for science and mathematics teachers that will lead to increased student achievement.

The Mathematics and Science Partnership grant program developed from the federal *No Child Left Behind* education legislation. The awards are for the first year of a three-year grant. Continued funding of these grants depends upon an annual appropriation from Congress.

ESD 113's Corps of Discovery Consortium (CODC) has received a five-year 21st Century Learning Center grant for after-

school and summer programs. The consortium, consisting of ESD 113 as the lead partner and eight rural districts (Boistfort, Centralia, Mary M. Knight, Morton, Onalaska, South Bend, Taholah and White Pass), will receive \$731,536 per year.

The consortium will offer tutoring; academic enrichment; drug and alcohol use prevention and personal safety; conflict resolution, bullying and peer mediation; parenting workshops; family activities; and service learning projects.

All sites will implement the PCS Academy of Robotics & Engineering, a curriculum that uses LEGO™s to teach math, science, engineering, technology and architecture. Students will also be involved in academic competitions.

Mini-grants will be offered to teachers for programs that strengthen the connection between after-school activities and the classroom.

For information: Pam O'Brien, youth programs director, at pobrien@esd113.k12.wa.us or (360) 586-2958.

OESD 114: The Olympic ESD 114 *Pathways to Success* program was awarded a Title IV Community Service Grant of \$90,000.

Pathways is a youth workforce development program that assists economically disadvantaged, at-risk youth to acquire the skills they need to build their futures through education, job training and career development. The foundation of *Pathways* is to assist at-risk youth to establish positive relationships with employers, leading to long-term success in the workforce and productive roles in the community.

The current funding will enable *Pathways* to expand its scope by targeting youth who, under current funding, would fall through the cracks due to economic or other factors.

The new *Pathways Transition Program* expands the current program, which served 279 Kitsap County youth last year. The program cultivates a strong sense of confidence by providing opportunities for youth to take greater responsibility and make appropriate choices regarding issues that impact their lives. This encourages them to become more respectful of others, skilled in teamwork, effective group decision-makers, and contributing members of the community. Such capabilities are developed through

community service learning and leadership skill-building opportunities, linkage to adult mentoring, and assuming an active role in shaping their futures.

ESD 123: Educational Service District 123 is proud to announce a new Liaison Program. Last spring we heard from superintendents throughout the region about the importance of having good communication between ESD 123 and the school systems.

The Liaison Program will provide a member of the leadership team to serve as a link to each of the 23 school systems. The liaison will be the primary point of contact for each school system and will help facilitate communication between us and local districts. This important connection will allow the ESD to tailor services to better meet the needs of the districts.

The liaison will not replace any established relationships between the school systems and the ESD staff. A few of the outcomes expected from this exciting new program will include utilizing untapped resources, developing a mutual understanding and respect and maximizing assets. ESD 123 hopes to gain a greater understanding of school systems' uniqueness and the importance that school systems hold in their communities.

ESD 171: North Central Educational Service District was recently awarded a grant to establish after school and summer programs for 3rd through 7th grade students in seven school districts (Brewster, Bridgeport, Entiat, Lake Chelan, Manson, Orondo and Pateros) in North Central Washington. The grant award provides \$743,000 for the 2004-2005 school year and is renewable for five years. This highly competitive grant is part of the Federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers program and was awarded by the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

The seven districts will receive the grant and have joined together in this effort to form the Columbia River Consortium. These districts are eligible for funding because they serve student populations that are limited English proficient, migratory, and heavily impacted by poverty.

The project goal is to assist students in mastering reading and math skills.

Lesley Van Over, Project Director, is encouraged that several regional and local community organizations participated in grant development and will

work with the schools to develop activities and programs for students.

NWESD 189: The NWESD 189 has received a \$987,171 federal grant to support early literacy efforts in Snohomish, Whatcom, Skagit, Island and San Juan counties. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded the grant through its Administration for Children and Families.

The funds will be used to enact Northwest Early Learning: Phase One, a program designed to increase early literacy and learning. The aims of this project include strengthening teaching staff in areas of literacy, helping parents to create an environment conducive to education, and increasing access to early childhood educational programs.

This represents the first step for the NWESD 189 into the early childhood arena. We are excited about the prospects and about learning from the other ESDs who are already offering great support in this arena.

Puget Sound ESD operates several programs that support low-income families with young children, including Early Head Start, Head Start and the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP). These programs have two main goals in working with families facing multiple challenges: strengthened families and socially competent children who are ready for school.

Our staff have assessed specific outcomes for the past four school years to measure the effectiveness of these programs. Here are some highlights of the 2003-04 data:

Children's skills in **literacy and mathematics** increased at statistically significant rates for all subgroups of children: girl or boy, 3 or 4 years of age, English or non-English speaking, "full-day" or "part-day" program.

Children's **social and emotional competence** – an essential foundation for interpersonal relationships, learning and school success – significantly increased and behavior concerns significantly decreased.

Family support and health increased by the end of the school year: 95% of families were connected to an ongoing source of medical care and 87% were connected to an ongoing source of dental care; 92% of children's immunizations were complete and ready for kindergarten; and 89% of children who needed dental treatment for tooth decay had received treatment by May.

More extensive information is available in the evaluation report, which we would be happy to share with you, legislators, the media, and anyone we can get to listen!