

International Education News

Washington State Coalition for International Education

September 8, 2007

Dear Reader,

Wow, the Summer is over and we are into the month of September! In May we launched a new version of the Washington State Coalition for International Education newsletter and announced the awarding of the Longview Foundation State Innovations grant to the Coalition. With this issue we'd like to welcome you back and share with you a bit of news about some of the subprojects that are part of this year's grant.

As part of an effort to keep each other informed, we will be conducting a survey in the near future asking for your ideas and feedback for how to make this newsletter most useful.

Meanwhile we'd like to encourage you to share information about your organization and events, including photos. We'll see what we can do to include them in our upcoming issues.

As you read this issue, if you have questions or suggestions, contact our editor, Aysha Haq at intledwa@gmail.com.

Spotlight: Bridges to Understanding

The Washington State Coalition for International Education is comprised of a long list of organizations doing inspiring, innovative work to infuse global perspectives into the lives of our students. Bridges to Understanding is one such organization.

Founded by Phil Borges, internationally acclaimed photographer and teacher (*pictured to the right with a Peruvian youth during an international workshop*) Bridges to Understanding offers photography and digital storytelling workshops in Seattle, India, South Africa, Peru, and Guatemala. The organization enables children from a variety of geographical and cultural backgrounds to share their cultures and issues in their communities using digital storytelling, live video conferencing, in-person student exchanges, and teacher-led text-based communication.



"Imagine taking a vacation that immediately gives back to a community and allows you to quickly be immersed in the culture and

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Get Involved

Help build even stronger grassroots advocacy for internationalizing education K-12 (K-20 even!). We encourage you, your friends, and your colleagues to sign on to the advocacy@internationaleadwa.org listserv by completing the [Get Involved Form](#).

We've seen many developments in the last year that indicate that international education is becoming a greater part of the legislative agenda.

One very recent example is: the Washington State PTA Legislative Committee has submitted the World Languages & International Competency issue advocating for an increase in world language and international sign language study and support for learning about world economy, cultures, geography, and history in all grades.

By process of caucus and debate they will choose their priority issues for the legislative session. The PTA Legislative Assembly will be held October 5-6, 2007 in Seattle.

To get more information, please go to [Issues Info](#).

people of a Capetown South African township, a Peruvian village, or Tibetan youth in the hometown of the Dalai Lama? And, while there you also learn new skills in photography, mentoring youth, and create multi-media movies from the perspective of the local youth you work with. If this sounds like your kind of adventure travel experience, then Bridges to Understanding is the organization for you," says Bridges Executive Director, Greg Tuke.

Bridges provides an active learning environment where students from radically different backgrounds can learn directly from, rather than, about each other. The program connects middle school students in the developed world with their contemporaries in indigenous communities. On the Bridges' website students can engage one another, ask questions about each others' lives, and ultimately develop mental flexibility and empathy.

Projects and exchanges center on the following content areas: "Understanding Culture and Traditions," "Causes of Conflict and Resolution," and "Creating Sustainable Environments." This year Bridges will focus on Climate Change, and help students to address the question, "How is climate change an opportunity for us?" In addition, Bridges advises teachers in how to encourage global perspectives within their pre-existing curricula.

Bridges will develop a Washington State model for teacher development to be used as the school-wide prototype for schools throughout the United States.

Part of the work of developing this model is included as a subproject in this year's State Innovations grant. Bridges has begun working with cadre of premier lead teachers in international education to produce "Lead Teachers Guide" on infusing direct online global learning across international boundaries. Teachers will then present workshops at statewide venues to disseminate learning and expand global learning perspectives within school communities.

To find out how to take one of the Bridges local workshops, or travel for an international workshop, visit their website:
www.bridgesweb.org.

News from the Chinese Language Core Team

The Chinese Language Core Team, International Education Washington, spearheading the "Expanding Chinese Language Capacity" Initiative and key organizers of the WA Chinese Language Teachers' Network (CLTN) would like to invite you to attend the 2007 CLTN Fall Meeting and Pedagogy Workshop.

The day will include exciting news about the development of Chinese language initiatives in the state and a pedagogy workshop, led by Dr. Haiyan Fu, author of *Chinese Essentials: What and How*.

Saturday, September 22
9:30-5:30pm
University of Puget Sound in Tacoma

Please encourage your colleagues, your school/program representatives, and other individuals who are interested in the quality expansion of Chinese language capacity in our state to attend. To learn more, visit [Expanding Chinese Language Capacity](#)

Register Now for Capitol Forum



The Capitol Forum program, developed by Brown University in Rhode Island and offered in Washington State since 2004, engages high school social studies students and teachers in deliberation about our

nation's future in the changing international environment. The program begins in the fall and involves students both within their social studies classroom and beyond the classroom, when they attend the Capitol Forum with 100 other high school students in Olympia in March.

This year's Washington State Capitol Forum on America's Future is funded in part by the 2007 State Innovations grant from Longview Foundation. We are recruiting up to 20 high school teachers to participate in this year's program. Teachers can choose to attend the Fall Introductory Workshop on September 15 in Lakewood, on October 4 at the World Affairs Council Global Classroom program on Iraq, or on October 13 at the Washington State Council for Social Studies Conference. The Winter Pre-Forum workshop is on January 12, 2008 and the Capitol Forum in Olympia is on March 27, 2008.

The team registration fee is \$100 (for five students). Teachers receive free clock hours and three sets of curriculum materials from the Choices program at Brown University. For more information, visit [Washington Capitol Forum](#). Register online now at: [Washington Capitol Forum Registration](#).

Calendar & Announcements

For full details, visit the [Calendar](#) and [Announcements](#) pages on our website.

- Sept. 11-Nov. 6: [World Affairs Council](#) events, Seattle
- Sept. 15: Capitol Forum Fall Introductory Workshop, Tacoma
- Sept. 22: Meeting of CLTN and Chinese Language Workshop, Tacoma
- Oct. 4: The U.S. Role in Iraq: What Teachers Need to Know, Seattle
- Oct. 11-13: WA Assoc. for Language Teaching conference, Wenatchee
- Oct. 13: WA State Council for Social Studies In-Service, Seattle
- Oct. 16: Fueling the Future: Peace or Conflict? Focus on Nigeria, Seattle
- Oct. 27: WA State Assoc. for Multicultural Ed. conference, Seattle

Additional Announcements

- [Facing the Future](#) Offers Global Issues Workshops for Teachers
- Free Interactive Lesson Plans Available from [Choices](#): The U.S. in Iraq: Confronting Policy Alternatives - Free From Teaching With the News

Starter Kits Available Online

Download [starter kits](#) to help you imagine and implement an online exchange integrating a curricular topic with one of the International Education and Resource Network (www.learn.org) collaborative projects.

- [Quick Links](#)
- [About the Coalition](#)
- [Coalition Contacts](#)
- [Get Involved](#)
- [Resources](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

The Washington State Coalition for International Education was formed in 2003 out of a focus group on international education. Today we are a volunteer run, grassroots affiliation of over 300 individuals and organizations committed to preparing all students for today's interconnected world. [Contact us.](#)

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