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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Renton High School students take on teaching roles**

*More than 20 students join program to become teachers in high-needs subject areas*



Renton High School senior Quincy Robinson (right) helps 4<sup>th</sup>-graders Brandon Saari (middle) and Guy Washington research words during summer school.

July 18, 2008—Quincy Robinson always wanted to teach young children. He had spent time with kids at bible study and offering music lessons, but now he wanted to try his hand in the classroom. He quickly found out, that it was he who had much more to learn.

Robinson, along with about 20 other Renton High School students recently helped teach summer school to children at Campbell Hill and Renton Park elementary schools through the Renton High School Teacher Academy, a



Renton High School senior Alexandria Davis (right) gets teaching tips from veteran 2<sup>nd</sup>-grade teacher Scheila Pikes.

program that encourages Renton High students to pursue teaching careers in the Renton School District.

The program is collaboration between the district and Central Washington University (CWU) and is paid for by a Recruiting Washington Teachers grant, a state-funded program, administered by the state's Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB), to recruit high school students into the teaching profession.

The high school students were recruited by their teachers into the program based their interests, love of learning and wiliness to help others succeed.

As part of the academy, the students recently attended teacher education workshops at Central Washington University and visited with the deans of Renton Technical College and CWU. The students toured the campuses, experienced some of college life, and learned about financial aid. The students will also take a year-long course at CWU called Careers in Education, beginning this fall.

Robinson said before the program he didn't think much about the work teachers do to help students.

"When I was younger, I thought teachers weren't human. I thought that they just went about this work automatically," Robinson said. "But now, in my classes and through this program, I see they have so much personality and they really help students grow into someone wonderful."

"Through this program," Robinson continued, "I've learned that children have very different learning abilities and need targeted strategies to help them learn. Teaching seems so much more complicated and involved and fun to me now."

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