

2007 Washington State Excellence in Teacher Preparation Award

History and Purpose of Award

Annually, individuals and/or Professional Education Advisory Boards (PEABs) at approved higher education preparation programs may submit an application to the Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) nominating a higher education teacher educator for the Excellence in Teacher Preparation Award. Criteria considered and addressed in each nomination are:

- role in implementing innovations in the nominee's preparation programs;
- demonstrated leadership; contributions to the field;
- demonstrated excellence in teaching;
- communication with policymakers, stakeholders and practitioners; and
- contribution to preparing teachers to implement state learning goals.

The recipient is awarded a certificate and \$2,500 for the Professional Education Advisory Board for their institution.

Below is information on this year's recipient and nominees. The accomplishments described are impressive and the excellence of each nominee most evident, but it should be noted that it is a summary and does not capture all that was described in the full 8-10 page nomination application submitted for each nominee.

This Year's Recipient – Dr. Dawn Shinew, Associate Professor, College of Education, Washington State University

The Professional Educator Standards Board received three outstanding nominations for this year's award. The selection committee reviewed all applications and selected Dr. Dawn Shinew, Associate Professor with the College of Education at Washington State University. In her nine years with WSU, Dr. Shinew has significantly impacted teacher preparation, in particular bringing about an increased focus on the importance of connections between teacher educators and educators in the field.

Among the areas of Dr. Shinew's leadership within the college of education, as well as her research, has been her focus on teacher professional dispositions. Research strongly indicates that a fundamental characteristic of effective teachers of low-income students of color is respect for, knowledge of, and relationship with the home communities of students. Yet, teacher education programs sometimes fail to consider appropriate standards of behavior for multi-ethnic, multi-racial communities –

particularly those communities with high numbers of students living in poverty. It has been within this larger social, political and economic context that the vision of professional dispositions was developed. Under Dr. Shinew's direction, the elementary education program at WSU was recognized for the AACTE Best Practice Award in Professional Ethics and Moral Dispositions. Among her numerous publications, Dr. Shinew co-authored an article entitled "Partnerships at a Distance: Redesigning a Teacher Education Program to Prepare Educators for Diverse, High-Need Classrooms."

Dr. Shinew is an active researcher and lead on numerous grant programs, including co-principal investigator on the \$9.67 million CO-Teach Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The success of Co-Teach (Collaboration for Teacher Education Accountable to Children with High Needs) as a partnership between WSU and over two dozen high-need schools throughout Washington bears out in the retention rates of its graduates and serves as a model for preparation of teachers to serve in high-need schools.

Dr. Shinew is considered a leader among her colleagues, with students, and in the university and local communities. She chairs multiple faculty committees, advises and mentors large numbers of students and is a highly active member of her community, which provides her with opportunities to hear and be involved directly with issues important to teacher preparation.

Dr. Shinew is an excellent teacher at both the undergraduate and graduate level, consistently receiving outstanding evaluations from her students and fellow faculty. She is described as bringing "contagious energy, enthusiasm and passion" to her classroom and that she has "the highest respect from preservice teachers and faculty alike."

The Professional Educator Standards Board is pleased to have the opportunity to recognize Dr. Shinew's outstanding contributions.

Outstanding Nominees

All nominees for this year's award were outstanding and worthy of the award. The Professional Educator Standards Board views this annual event as more than an opportunity to select and acknowledge one recipient. It is also an opportunity to highlight outstanding practices in Washington's teacher preparation programs, which are evident from the descriptions of the other nominees.

Dr. Cap Peck and Dr. Bill McDiarmid, University of Washington, Seattle

Among their extensive individual lists of accomplishments, Dr.'s Peck and McDiarmid together have been crucial to the leadership of a visionary initiative at the UW Seattle entitled "Teachers for a New Era" (TNE). This bold and comprehensive renewal of UW's teacher education program includes:

- new data systems that will provide invaluable information about program and candidate effectiveness and guide continuous program renewal;
- partnerships with high-need schools;
- coursework and clinical experience in ELL and special education for all program graduates; and
- a new pathway into education careers for undergraduates, focusing in particular on underrepresented groups.

TNE is funded by the Carnegie Corporation and other foundations. University of Washington was one of only 11 institutions to receive this prestigious grant, established with the goal of developing model “state-of-the-art teacher preparation programs”. With regard to the role of Drs. Peck and McDiarmid in TNE, the nomination from University of Washington emphasizes that “it is impossible to overestimate their individual and combined contributions to the TNE teacher-education renewal project”

Dr. Peck and Dr. McDiarmid are both experienced academics and administrators who understand how to integrate the values and functions of a research university with the very practical demands of teacher education. Implementation of a teacher-education renewal plan as comprehensive as TNE takes exceptional leadership. Through their efforts, both Bill and Cap have greatly strengthened relationship and communication with faculty in the College of Arts and Science, students, school partners, school districts, community representatives, and policy makers at all levels.

The Professional Educator Standards Board is enthusiastic about the progress and potential of the TNE project and its implications for statewide policy and practice and is grateful for the contributions of these two outstanding scholars. In addition, we greatly value our positive working relationship with both Dr. Peck and Dr. McDiarmid.

Dr. Margo Long, Associate Professor, School of Education, Whitworth University

In the State of Washington, the name Margo Long is synonymous with education of gifted and talented children. An expert at the national level as well, Dr. Long has conducted hundreds of workshops, in-service development programs, and presentations to schools, districts, parent and community groups, local and state policymakers and national audiences on teaching the gifted child. Her influence in this field is immeasurable. She has greatly shaped the definition of gifted children. Dr. Long reminds her colleagues that “teaching all children” includes those gifted children in our classrooms and that these children also are exceptional learners. As a result, special education faculty members at Whitworth work closely with Dr. Long to include strategies for gifted children in our course about teaching exceptional learners.

Dr. Long was the first faculty member on the Whitworth campus to develop an on-line course, increasing access for in-service teachers to receive training in the area of gifted

education. Dr. Long also worked with ESD 101 to create a televised course for teachers in the area of gifted education. In 1979 Dr. Long established the Center for Gifted Education at Whitworth University to provide in-service training for educators, consultant services for schools and districts and to broadly disseminate informational resources of value to parents and educators.

Dr. Long developed Whitworth's master's degree program in gifted education. As a teacher, Dr. Long consistently receives stellar evaluations from her students. She is described as knowledgeable, engaging, humorous, and demanding. She is a valued mentor to current and former students, and to new faculty in the School of Education.

Dr. Long has been active in Washington State's Advisory Board for Gifted and Talented and provided testimony to the Professional Educator Standards Board advocating for the creation of a specialty endorsement for gifted education for the state. Dr. Long's work and commitment to gifted education has helped to shape the Standards Board's new policies related to specialty endorsements.