Public schools have a shortage of bilingual teachers, and Highline Public Schools has partnered with Woodring to do something about it. The Woodring Highline Bilingual Teaching Fellows program identifies bilingual professionals working in the district, such as classroom aides and tutors, and then trains them to become certified teachers.

“The reason why Highline Public Schools grew this program was to really raise local teachers who could eventually stay here for the long run,” said Jonathan
Ruiz Velasco, who graduated from the program in June. Ruiz Velasco went from a bilingual tutor to a sixth-grade teacher at Mount View Elementary in White Center. He instructs students in both Spanish and English.

An $8,000 scholarship covers most of the tuition for the trainees, who continue working as paraprofessionals while taking evening and weekend classes in their districts. Ruiz Velasco is among a group of 16 bilingual graduates who are now teaching in the district. Another 14 are in training and are scheduled to graduate in 2020.

More information on the Bilingual Teaching Fellows Program

Extended interview with Jonathan Ruiz Velasco

Video and article source:

Congratulations to Woodring's Fulbright Winners!

Fulbright winner Kimberly Christensen poses with her students during her time in Mongolia teaching for TESOL
Both Fulbright Award finalists from Woodring College of Education are now Fulbright winners! Congratulations to Elementary Education graduate Celeste Hufford (bottom) and TESOL graduate Kimberly Christensen (top right).

Christensen’s Fulbright will take her to the Czech Republic where she will work as an ETA (English Teaching Assistant) at a nursing school in Hradec Králové. Hufford will be an ETA in Germany where she will stay for one academic year. Her focus will be assisting elementary and secondary German students with language acquisition. She will also teach small-group and whole-class lessons about the U.S. and American culture.

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program provides grants for individually designed study/research projects or for English Teaching Assistant Programs in a foreign country for one academic year. During their grants, students will meet, work, live with and learn from the people of the host country, sharing daily experiences.

If you're interested in the Fulbright program, contact Western Fellowships Office Director Dr. Tom Moore at (360) 650-4074.

Read more at Western Today
TESOL Partners with Taiwanese English Teachers

Woodring College of Education is happy to be partnered with National Taiwanese Normal University to train TESOL teachers!

As part of the program, English teachers from rural Taiwanese elementary and middle schools receive ministry of education scholarships to come to WWU for a five week teaching course in the summer. This year, Woodring welcomed 19 teachers from Taiwan. The guests participated in TESOL classes as well as specialized workshops and activities, and explored the Bellingham area on group field trips. They also collaborated with TESOL students to create online lessons for the Cloud Project, an online teaching partnership.

WWU TESOL students and graduates, along with some local elementary school teachers are also working with NTNU more directly. A group visited the Taiwanese university and helped teach English over the spring and summer. Two TESOL students—Betsy Brier and Steven Bader—actually stayed on at their partner schools to complete practicum experiences. This fall, the WWU contingent (8 TESOL students/graduates and 2 local elementary teachers) will teach weekly Cloud Project English lessons via online conferencing tools in the
classrooms of their Taiwanese partners. Finally, this winter break they will travel to Taiwan again to visit their classrooms and participate in a teaching conference at which the Taiwanese partners will present their 'teacher research' findings from their experience with Western.

We are very excited about this program as it continues to develop and are grateful to all the staff, faculty, and students on both sides of this partnership.

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**Outstanding Alum: Jennie de Mello e Souza**

Woodring would like to congratulate Jennie de Mello e Souza on her graduation from the Everett MIT program in June and her new position teaching visual art at Redmond High School!

Along with her teaching career, de Mello e Souza is also an incredibly talented artist. She studied with internationally known illustrator Dulce Nascimento and received a certificate in Natural Science Illustration from the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris. Her work is featured in galleries across the country, and she taught scientific illustration for WWU at Shannon Point when she first entered our program. Her fascinating artistic career was recently detailed in an Edmonds newspaper article.

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**WWU Faculty Receives $1.6 Million National**
Science Foundation Grant to Study Teacher Education

Both scientists and teachers need to understand science deeply; however, unlike scientists, teachers need specialized content knowledge to do the work of teaching science—things like linking instructional activities to particular concepts or learning goals, identifying demonstrations or representations that more powerfully illustrate particular ideas, and anticipating concepts that might be particularly challenging for students. This is referred to as Content Knowledge for Teaching (CKT).

The project will work to develop and understand the value of assessments that can measure and build elementary teachers’ CKT. It is a collaboration with the Educational Testing Service (ETS). The team at Western, led by Woodring’s Debi Hanuscin, will develop research-based instructional materials for use in teacher education and study their impact on teacher candidates’ CKT. These materials are intended for use here at Western, but also by teacher education programs throughout the country.

Woodring Programs Receive New Accreditation

Council for Exceptional Children
Woodring College of Education is proud to announce new accreditation for several of our programs!

The Special Education Program plus Elementary Education Program (SPEL) in the Department of Special Education and Education Leadership has received CEC (Council for Exceptional Children) National Recognition.

The Early Childhood Education Program (BA, Birth to Grade 3, P-3) has received national recognition from CAEP (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation) and NCATE (National Association for the Education of Young Children).

Congratulations to the wonderful faculty, staff, and students in these departments and thank you for your commitment to quality education!

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**Nooksack Tribe Contracting After School Tutors**

The Nooksack Indian Tribe is looking to contract a reading instructor or reading coach for their After School Program, a youth program that provides homework help. They also need general tutors. Tutors will provide homework, weaknesses, and information regarding their student’s needs. They are looking for professionals who can improve any and all academic areas; retired
educators and unemployed teachers would be ideal candidates. These are contract work positions.

The tribe currently works with Woodring's teacher prep students but is looking for someone with more consistent hours.

If you're interested, please contact Donia Edwards at dedwards@nooksack-nsn.gov.

Have good news to feature in the next newsletter? Send information and photos to woodring@wwu.edu